**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background of the Study**

Conserve Energy Future (2018) observed that most people are very used to the sounds they hear every day including the intake of loud music, noise from the television, noise from people talking on their phones, noise during traffic and even noise of pets barking in the middle of the night which have all come together to become a part of the urban culture becoming a disturbance.

Sehgal (2015) defines noise as sound that is excessive and injurious to health. It is that level of noise that is disturbing, irritating and annoying to human beings. Noise has become part of modern life. People are exposed to noise almost everywhere. In Nigeria for instance, it seems that everywhere you go, it is difficult to escape noise. When you are on the road, the sound of moving vehicles and their horns is so devastating; the sounds that one hears in market places, in bus stations, in religious centers, during ceremonies, in parties combine to make it almost impossible for people to escape exposure to noise in modern day Nigeria.

Most people do not seem to know that exposure to noise pollution can be very hazardous to human health. Researchers have observed that noise has a way of affecting the body. Conserve Energy Future (2018) enumerated some effects of noise pollution as follows:

* Hearing problems: Constant exposure to loud levels of noise can easily result to damage of our ear drums.
* Health Issues: Excessive noise pollution in working areas such as offices, construction sites, bars and even in our homes can influence psychological health. It shows that the occurrence of aggressive behavior, disturbance of sleep, constant stress, fatigue and hypertension can be linked to excessive noise levels.
* Sleeping disorders: Loud noise can certainly hamper peoples’ sleeping pattern and may lead to irritation and uncomfortable situations.
* Cardiovascular Issues like blood pressure, stress related heart problems have been linked with exposure to noise pollution.
* Trouble Communicating: High decibel noise can cause communication problems and may not allow people communicate freely/ effectively.
* Effect on Wildlife: Animals develop a better sense of hearing than us since their survival depends on it. So it will be a problem when there is noise since they are more dependent on sound.

In recent times, noise pollution has become more dangerous than other forms of pollution. Oyedepo (2013) emphasized that noise is getting more severe and widespread than ever before, stressing that it will continue to increase in magnitude and severity because of population growth, urbanization and the associated growth in the use of increasingly powerful, varied and highly mobile sources of noise. He also added that it will continue to grow because of sustained growth in highway rail and air traffic which remain major sources of environmental noise.

According to Ocheri (2003) noted that researchers have observed that as the population of a country grows/increases with attendant pressure on the environment especially in the wake of improved technologies; environmental abuse and pollution is heightened with corresponding effects on lives of people and other living organisms. Ocheri tried to explain that this pollution is unavoidable due to certain reasons stated earlier because as long as there are humans in this world, noise will be inevitable.

Noise is on the increase in our society today. People are daily exposed to loud noise for several hours of the day. Most people do not know that noise can be harmful beyond being a nuisance or disturbance. It appears that there is not much information geared towards sensitizing the masses on the dangers of exposure to noise pollution and on how to avoid such exposures. If the masses will be sensitized on any issue of importance, the role of the media cannot be over-emphasized. What the media does not talk about may not be taken seriously by the people. People usually rely heavily on the mass media for information on important issues. Dennis and Meril (1999) explained that media play a crucial role in the socialization and education of members of the society in which it operate. They also explained that the media affect us in many ways including acting as a major socializing influence, a carrier of culture, a source of information, education and so on.

Several contemporary studies in health communication have found that health information in newspapers affects the health behaviors of people, especially newspaper readers. Paul and Singh (2016) stated that newspapers have immense potential for generating health awareness on diverse issues such as environmental pollution. Nnaji (2012) observes that the press being the watchdog of the society is expected to draw attention to environmental issues like environmental pollution. If there are steps to take in order for noise pollution to be eradicated or reduced or to protect human beings from the negative impacts of exposure to noise pollution, the newspaper should be the first step at informing the public on what noise could do.

**1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Exposure to noise pollution is detrimental not only to the individual but to the society as a whole. Yet, noise pollution is on the increase in our modern society. It is a serious threat to our national sanctity and individual health. From the background of the study, it was observed that it has formed the urban culture, Nigerians are used to the noise they hear, not knowing the health implications it has. It is a serious issue that has serious negative implications for human health. If noise pollution is such a serious health issue, it is expected that the media as an educating agent in the society should be able to educate the masses on the effects of noise, they should be at the fore in championing public enlightenment that would mobilize the masses to make efforts that would reduce exposure to noise pollution in the environment. This study seeks to find out if the Nigerian newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution and also to evaluate the coverage of issues relating to noise pollution in Nigerian newspapers from January 1 to June 30, 2017.

**1.3 Objective of the Study**

The general objective of this research work is to examine and evaluate the coverage of danger of noise pollution in the Nigerian newspapers.

The specific objectives include:

1. To find out if Nigerian newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution.
2. To ascertain if Nigerian newspapers give adequate coverage to information on noise pollution and its effect on human health.
3. To determine the relevance (in terms of placement in pages) that Nigerian newspapers attach to information relating to noise pollution.
4. To determine how Nigerian newspapers present coverage (in terms of story types) to information relating to noise pollution.
5. To ascertain if stakeholders make use of Nigerian newspapers in campaigns about noise pollution and its effects on human health.

**1.4 Research Questions**

Some research question which the research work will answer and address in the course of this study.

1. Do Nigerian newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution?
2. To what extent do Nigerian newspapers give adequate coverage to information on noise pollution and its effect on human health?
3. What relevance (in terms of placement in pages) do Nigerian newspapers attach to information relating to noise pollution?
4. How do Nigerian newspapers present coverage of information (in terms of story types) relating to noise pollution?
5. To what extent do stakeholders make use of Nigerian newspapers in campaigns about noise pollution and its effects on human health?

**1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study was specifically limited to Nigerian Newspaper coverage on noise pollution between January to June 2017. However four national newspapers were purposefully selected for the study. These are: The Guardian, Vanguard, Daily Sun and Punch Newspaper. The selection of these national dailies is anchored on their wide circulation and readership**.** *The Nation, Guardian and Vanguard* are national newspapers widely read by the elites, while the *Daily Sun* is a sensational newspaper read nationwide. Amannah (2016)

**1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study is significant in different ways. It will be an eye opener to governmental and non-governmental organizations who are stakeholders in matters relating to the environment and public health on the extent to which Nigerian newspapers have been used for creating awareness about noise pollution and its negative impact on human health.

The study will also contribute to existing literature on the use of newspaper for awareness creation on important public health matters like noise pollution.

**1.7 Operational Definition of Significant terms**

**Newspaper:** This refers to printed material that contains daily sun reports for the consumption of the reading public.

**Newspaper Coverage**: This refers to attention given to issues relating to noise pollution by newspapers.

**Noise:** This refers to sound that is loud or unpleasant or that causes disturbance

**Noise Pollution:** This refers to distortion in the environment which makes it unhealthy for human beings and which results from noise.

**Health:** This refers to a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing

**CHAPTER TWO**

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1 **Introduction(NOT NECESSARY)**

This chapter deals with the review of literature related to this study. Relevant concepts and related studies were reviewed. Theoretical framework for the study was also reviewed.

**2.2 Review of concepts**

**2.2.1 Noise pollution**

According to Encyclopedia Britannica: noise is defined as any undesired sound. Chambers 21st Century Dictionary defines noise as a sound, a harsh disagreeable sound, or such sound. It defines noise pollution as excessive or annoying degree of noise in a particular area, e.g from traffic or aero plane engines. While the second definition is that noise pollution is an act in which displeasing human or machine created sound that disrupts the activity of balance of human or animal life is introduced to the environment. It can equally be described as an unwanted sound dumped into the environment without regard to the adverse effects it may have. Merriam Webster dictionary simply defined noise pollution as an annoying or harmful noise in an environment. Business Dictionary also defined noise pollution as a form and level of environmental sound that is generally considered likely to annoy, distract or even harm other people. Noise pollution can also be defined as a propagation of noise with harmful impact on the activity of human or animal life. UK Essays (2013) defined noise pollution as a type of energy pollution in which distracting, irritating or damaging sounds are freely audible. It stated that noise pollution contaminants are not physical particles, but rather waves that interfere with naturally-occurring waves of a similar type in the same environment. It further explained that sounds are considered noise pollution if they adversely affect wildlife, human activity, or causes human harm, even if the sound does not occur on a regular basis.

David and Lobina (2015) defined noise pollution as any form of noise usually resulting from man’s activities and that has either a prolonged or short duration but is perceived by the hearers as disturbing and also has the potential of causing short or long term negative effects on the affected person’s complete state of wellbeing.

**2.2.2 Sources of noise pollution**

Major causes or sources of noise pollution according to Puja (2014) includes the following:

* **Industrial Sources:** He noted that the progress in technology which is known as industrialization has resulted in creating noise pollution. Textile mills, printing presses, engineering establishments and metal works etc contribute heavily towards noise pollution. He further explained that the industrial zones are not separated from the residential zones of the city especially in the case of small scale industries. And as they operate, they cause annoyance, discomfort and irritation to the residents exposed to the noise that is inevitably produced by them.
* **Transport vehicles:** Puja (2014) stated that automobile revolution in urban areas has proved to be a big source of noise pollution. He added that the increasing traffic has given rise to traffic jams in congested areas where the repeated hooting of horns by impatient drivers pierces the ears of all road users. Examples of the vehicles that constitute noise pollution are heavy trucks, buses, trains, jet planes, motor cycles, scooters, mopeds, jeeps etc.
* **Household:** He also stated that household is a source of many indoor noises such as the banging of doors, noise of playing children, crying of infants, moving of furniture, loud conversation of the inhabitants etc. He added that there are also entertainment equipment’s like radio, record players, and television even domestic gadgets like the mixer grinder, pressure cookers, desert coolers, air-conditioners, exhaust fans, vacuum cleaners, sewing and washing machines; another is generator which are all indoor sources of noise pollution.
* **Public Address System:** He described the use of the public address system as a source of noise. The reason for using public address system might be for a religious function, birth, death, marriage, elections, demonstration or just commercial advertising.
* **Agricultural Machines:** Tractors, thrashers, harvesters, tube wells, powered tillers etc have all made agriculture highly mechanical but at the same time highly noisy. Inorderwords, running of farm machines constitute noise.
* **Defence Equipment:** He stated that a lot of noise pollution is added to the atmosphere by artillery, tanks, launching of rockets, explosions, exercising of military airplanes and shooting practices. He also added that the screams of jet engines and sonic booms have a deafening impact on the ear and in extreme cases have been known to shatter the window panes and old dilapidated buildings. In times of war, these things occur too.
* **Miscellaneous Sources:** He listed some other sources of noise pollution like the automobile repair shop, construction works, bulldozing, stone crushing etc.

**2.2.3 Effects of noise pollution**

Puja (2014) identified three important effects of noise pollution which are discussed below:

* **Physical effects:** He stated that the physical manifestation of noise pollution is the effect on hearing ability. Repeated exposure to noise may result in temporary or permanent shifting of the hearing threshold of a person depending on the level and duration of exposure.
* **Physiological Effects:** The physiological manifestations of noise pollution are several as mentioned below:

1. Headache by dilating blood vessels of the brain
2. Increase in the rate of heart beat
3. Narrowing of arteries
4. Fluctuations in the arterial blood pressure by increasing the level of cholesterol in the blood.
5. Decrease in heart output
6. Pain in the heart
7. Digestive spasms through anxiety and dilation of the pupil of the eye thereby causing eye strain.
8. Impairment of night vision
9. Decrease in the rate of colour perception
10. Lowering of concentration and effect on memory
11. Muscular strain and nervous breakdown

* **Psychological Effect:**

1. Depression and fatigue which considerably reduces the efficiency of a person
2. Insomnia as a result of lack of undisturbed and refreshing sleep
3. Straining of senses and annoyance as a result of slow but persistent noise from motor cycles, alarm clocks, call bells, telephone rings etc.
4. Affecting of psychomotor performance of a person by a sudden loud sound
5. Emotional disturbance

**2.2.4 Reports/coverage of noise pollution in Nigeria**

**A report on Noise Pollution in Port Harcourt –** Valentine, Margret, Iyeneomie (2010)

The research presented here is based on a survey carried out within the Port Harcourt metropolis. More than 200 respondents were interviewed. The study represents a cross-section of different age groups, sex, geography, educational levels, and income levels across the residents of the metropolis.

Port Harcourt city was chosen for the study because of its population, and reflects both the modern and traditional infrastructure (roads, localities, buildings, etc.). Moreover the residents represent a cross-section of the Nigerian culture. The data was collected using a structured questionnaire blended with suitable open-ended questions. The analysis was carried out with help of percentages and cross-classifications on sources of noise, effects of noise, reaction to noise, and suggestions to control noise in terms of age as well as sex.

The study showed that a very large proportion of the respondents in age groups ranging from 18-51 years and above are affected by noise emanating from generators. Similar results are obtained with noise from road traffic and loudspeakers. Relatively small proportions (i.e. 53% across various age groups) of respondents acknowledge the effects of noise generated from neighborhoods. An almost equal proportion of respondents (i.e. 54%) across different age groups agree that noise generated from religious activities affect them.

The study also examined how sources of noise affect male and female population differently. It observed that women are more affected by noise pollution from religious activities with 61% and social activities with 58% than the men, while in the other sources like the road traffic, air traffic and generators, there is no remarkable difference in percentage of male and female population. But in sources like loudspeakers the men were shown to be affected more with 83% than the women.

Nagi et al. (1993) found that the noise level produced by household equipment and appliances sometimes reaches up to 97 dB which is more than double the acceptable (45 dB) noise level. This excessive noise may cause annoyance, speech interference, sleep disturbance, mental stress, headache, and lack of concentration. Similarly, Singh (1984) found that workers exposed to high noise levels have a high incidence of circulatory problems, cardiac diseases, hypertension, peptic ulcers, and neurosensory and motor impairments.

It was found that noise interferes with many aspects across the age groups mentioned earlier. A majority of the respondents exposed to noise report occurrence of sleep disturbance, annoyance, and hearing problems. Generally the growing age group bears more effect of noise pollution.

The study observed that the perception of the effect of noise on male and female varies. A good percentage of the male population feels the adverse effect of noise pollution more than their female counterparts. The reasons for these differences may be because females are more tolerating, patient, and accommodating, and also because more men are exposed to industrial noise than women.

People within the ages of 19 to 35 years do not border on quarrelling, complaining to the police, or even requesting for the sources of noise to be reduced or stopped. Small proportions people studied seek redress through legal means, while those up to 18 years of age quarrel and retaliation seems popular among them.

Generators, automobiles, and public address systems (loudspeakers) turn out to be the major sources of noise pollution identified in the study. Loudspeakers and generators are frequently used for religious and social functions. As a society, our history is filled with failures to recognize the agent that cause disease; once the causes have been recognized, we respond reluctantly, slowly, and often inadequately.

Despite the evidence about the many medical, social, and economic effects of noise, as a society, we continue to suffer from the same inertia; the reluctance to change or make appropriate action on tobacco, lead, mercury and asbestos. Now we seem unable to make the connection between noise and disease, despite the evidence, and despite the fact, which the study have recognized, our societies are becoming increasingly more polluted with noise.

Noise represents an important public health problem that can lead to hearing loss, sleep disruption, cardiovascular disease, social handicaps, reduce productivity, impaired teaching and learning, absenteeism, increased drug use, and accidents. It can impair the ability to enjoy one’s property and leisure time and increases the frequency of antisocial behavior. Noise adversely affects general health and well-being in the same way as does chronic stress. It adversely affects future generations by degrading residential, social, and learning environments with corresponding economic losses.

Local control of noise has not been successful in most places. The study recommended improved methods of local control that should include public education, enlightened legislation, and active enforcement of noise ordinances adding that government and NGO‟s can play a significant role in the process.

**Report on noise pollution level in Abuja Municipal Council -** Ibekwe, T. et al (2016)

This is a cross-sectional community based study of the environmental equivalent noise levels within the Abuja municipal council conducted between January 2014 and January 2016. The study areas included residents, business districts and markets within the city mapped through the Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS).

Abuja municipality is a fast growing city. The official population according to 2006 census stood at 776, 298, the rapid migration of internally displaced citizens as a result of insurgency and terrorism in the North-East, and daily migration of people into the city for business is believed to have doubled this figure.

The mobile phone sound meter software system which is displayed below was used in taking the measurements of the Equivalent sound levels (Leq) in decibels dB(A) for the study. The validity of the mobile phone sound meter software system was confirmed through synchronized series of measurements on three different phone models against the Extech 407730 digital sound level meter, serial number Z310135 (an A type integrated sound level meter). The use of mobile phones app have been shown to correlate with Sound Level Meter and validated for environmental sound level measurement.

**Figure 1:** Shows the mobile phone sound meter AppsAn external file that holds a picture, illustration, etc.
Object name is AIPM-14-58_F1.jpg

The environmental equivalent noise levels were measured at different randomly selected spots and averages taken within the same locality in the day time (9 am - Noon) and at night hours (9pm - Midnight). Three different phone models used here was for comparison and to obtain synchronous values averaged at different locations. The phones were held 1.5 meters above ground levels around each spot/source for ¼ of an hour before readings were taken to ensure good area coverage, stability and uniformity in measurements. The measurements were performed on work days (Monday to Friday) only, excluding weekends; public holidays and festive days since human activities in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja fluctuate within these periods and may not reflect the true picture. Only day time readings were obtained from the markets because the premises remained closed by 6pm with zero activities till next day.

The day-night average noise levels was calculated using the "Ldn, Lden, CNEL-Community Noise Calculator" (Noise Meter Incorporated). Results were evaluated by the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 16 and presented in simple descriptive format. The standard reference for analyzing the level of severity of the values obtained was based on the acceptable safety environmental noise levels of the WHO.

Markets, Business areas and Residential areas comprises of the four major official markets in Abuja municipality which are Jabi, Garki, Utako, and Wuse. The business areas include places engaged in activities like motor and recreational-parks, hospital spots, office areas and institutions. These are zones associated with heavy human movements and activities especially during the day.

It was shown that the environmental noise levels around the Jabi market/park areas were found to be highly unsatisfactory than noise level in other markets in Abuja. The day time noise levels at market and motor park areas of the Abuja municipality were generally high and mostly unsatisfactory ranging from 73 to 92dB(A). The Jabi Park/Market was the nosiest part of the municipality mainly due to the very high human and vehicular activities within this confine. Literally all inter-city and long distance vehicles including heavy-duty trucks and luxurious buses have their terminals at Jabi. In addition, a very busy market (the Jabi market) is domiciled there in. These factors are well-established sources of environmental pollution globally.

Under business districts the day and night noise levels within the business districts of Abuja municipality was shown were it observed that night noise levels were satisfactory unlike the day which was very high. Essentially the day time values in most of the areas were unsatisfactory whereas the night values in all the districts were within acceptable values.

According to the OSHA and WHO permissible noise levels, workers within such environments [noise levels of 92dB(A)] must not expend over 5.2 working hours per day. On the contrary, the motor-park workers here in Abuja spend within the range of 10-12 hours daily with the antecedent deleterious consequences. It is worthy of note that some of the workers spent decades within this noxious environment without screening or hearing conservative programs in place.

The residential areas consisted of those living in homes with minimal business activities. The noise levels in those areas were very low. The day time noise values recorded in most of the residential areas including Garki Areas 2-11; Central District Area; Kubwa and Maitama [range 68-81dB(A)], are beyond the recommended average 55dB(A) by WHO and deserve urgent attention. A close study of these settings revealed a progressive encroachment and unauthorized conversion of many residential areas into business outlets; even parts of Maitama district have experienced proliferation of financial institutions with the consequent increase in human and vehicular traffic. Some of the Consulates and foreign Embassies have refused to utilize the area mapped out for them within the central business district and are stuck to these residential homes, thus generating noise on a daily basis. However, Asokoro, Aso drive, Wuse II and Gwarimpa conform within the normal residential day time environmental levels. These areas though highbrow like Maitama, do not have its corresponding levels of day time sound levels due to less level of encroachment.

The average of 75dB(A) recorded in the markets within the municipality does not appear overtly hazardous. This is because hearing impairment is not expected to occur at LA(eq), 8h 75dB(A) or below even in cases of prolonged occupational noise. However, this is still unsatisfactory since noise of such magnitude inhibits full intelligibility in listeners with normal hearing and could predispose to other psycho-physical anomalies according to individual susceptibilities and noise exposed years. The bad situation is further compounded by the siting of some residential areas and schools close to the Jabi motor park and the Garki market places within the city. The chronic noise emanating from these sources could constitute obvious health hazard of different classes and magnitude including cardiovascular disorders. Sorensens et al noted that a 10dB increase in chronic exposition of noise in humans increases the risk of cardiovascular accident (CVA) by 14% and systolic blood pressure appreciation by 0.26mmHg.16

Generally, the night sound levels in Abuja are fairly good in contrast to the overall day time levels. This is encouraging and enhances good rest after prolonged exposure to the day time noise pollution. To this end, a strict adherence to the recommended maximum 8 hours exposure to fairly high noise in work place and good rest at homes shall offer protection to the inhabitants following the current findings.

Finally, the day night average of 77.1dB (A) recorded at the residential areas also calls for need on regulation and protection of these areas from illegal business premises and potential noise generating spots. This value represents the impact of traffic on road, air and general industry on the local population. The noise level around the business areas and motor-parks in Abuja municipality has reached an unsatisfactory threshold and needs urgent attention.

The successful utilization of the mobile phone in the execution of this study is a further demonstration of its validity in monitoring environmental noise.

The study concluded that the day noise levels in Abuja municipality are above the tolerable recommended values by WHO and therefore urgently calls for awareness, regulation via intense health campaign and legislation. The method of measurement and monitoring of the environmental noise level using mobile phones is efficient and should be encouraged considering its people oriented and great awareness potential among the community members.

**2.2.5 Public awakening and education an effective control measure to noise pollution;**

Oyedepo (2013) said that due to the ignorance of Nigerians on the fact that there exist a close nexus between noise pollution and sustainable city, little or no attention is paid to the control of noise pollution in Nigeria.

He noted the importance of public awakening as a very essential tool for the control and prevention of environmental noise pollution. In Nigeria, most of the persons lack an idea about the ways in which noise pollution could be controlled. Very few scientists are aware of the problem and its control. Masses are still ignorant of the grave effects of noise pollution.

Oyedepo (2012) stated that since noise results from the citizens’ behavior (driver, music player, hawker etc) information and education campaigns usually produce good results in the long term adding that people can be educated through radio, TV, and most especially newspapers about noise pollution. Public vehicles drivers should be educated not to horn unnecessarily on the roads, avoid quarrelling amongst each other and so on.

In other words, he said that authorities should pass laws to check the excesses of the sources of high noise levels while other professionals such as town planners, architects, and environmental engineers should have the problems of environmental noise pollution in mind when citing new roads, shopping centers, schools, hospitals and both commercial and residential houses in general.

**2.3 Review of related studies**

In a study carried out by Valentine, Margret, Iyeneomie (2010) titled: “Noise Pollution in Port Harcourt Metropolis: Sources, Effects, and Control.” The study reported the problem of noise pollution within the Port Harcourt metropolis where it identified a good percentage of the inhabitants revealing that the main sources of noise pollution came from generators, road traffic, and the use of loudspeakers mainly in religious and social activities. It further says the potential health effects of noise pollution are numerous, pervasive, persistent, and are medically and socially significant. Noise produces direct and cumulative adverse effects that impair health and that degrade residential, social, working, and learning environments with corresponding real (economic) and intangible (well-being) impacts. Major effects of noise include interference with communication, sleeplessness and reduction in efficiency. Public education seems to be the best method as suggested by the respondents in solving this menace. However, government and NGO‟s can play a significant role in this process.

Another study that is empirically analysed in this research work is carried out by Abotutu (2015) titled: “Urban Noise Pollution in Nigerian Cities: Imperatives for Abatement.” The study described noise as any sound that is unpleasant to the ear. Medically, when it persists, it can damage the ear. Considering the ear organ, it has been said that human ears were designed to process naturally-occurring sounds, and they are beautifully adapted to handle that task. They are able to detect sounds of intensities that vary across many orders of magnitude, and to meaningfully transmit these signals to our brains. But they are not well equipped to deal with the high noise levels that are common in Nigeria’s urban centres today, because such loud sounds occur only rarely in nature. Although the eardrum may sometimes be ruptured by severe noise (acoustic trauma) or pressure changes, the part that is most vulnerable to damage by noise lies more deeply in the inner ear, where the final processing takes place before the sound is converted into nerve impulses that are transmitted to the brain. The study revealed that urban dwellers in Nigeria are exposed to high noise levels (above 70 decibels), with the attendant health implications. The study recommends technical, planning, behavioural and public enlightenment strategies to abate noise pollution in urban Nigeria.

Gabriel (2013) studied: “Urban Centres Noise Pollution: Case Study of Akure, Nigeria.” The study noted that excessive noise in an environment is identified to constitute the most disturbing among the city pollutants and is a serious urban crisis in Akure. The study identified and examined the various sources of noise in an urban area, classifying noise generating activities mainly into commercial, religious, industrial, social, domestic and cultural sources. It highlighted the implications of noise on the life and health of inhabitant in urban areas. It also attempted a rationalisation of these activities towards an acceptable level of city noise and liveable environment. The study suggests legislative and policy recommendations to the various tiers and agencies of governments towards a more tolerable urban noise level and the enhancement of healthy and productive urban environment.

Some studies have shown control measure in reducing noise pollution like the study by Narendra and Davar (2017) titled: “Noise Pollution – Sources, Effects and Control”. The study examines the problem of noise pollution in the wake of its ill effect on the life of the people. A cross section survey of the population in Delhi State in India points out that main sources of noise pollution are loudspeakers and automobiles. However, female population is affected by religious noise a little more than male population. Major effects of noise pollution include interference with communication, sleeplessness, and reduced efficiency. The extreme effects e.g. deafness and mental breakdown are not ruled out. Generally, a request to reduce or stop the noise is made out by the aggrieved party. However, complaints to the administration and police have also been accepted as a way of solving this menace. Public education appears to be the best method as suggested by the respondents. However, government and NGOs can play a significant role in this process.

Nnaji (2012) studied: “Press coverage of environmental pollution in the Niger state. A content analysis of the Guardian, Vanguard, Daily sun and This day newspapers.” The study observed that since man’s activity is done in the environment and the resultant effect is either negative or positive to man, the press as the watchdog of the society is expected to draw attention of all and Sundry to environmental issues around them; one of which is environmental pollution. Hence, the study investigated press coverage of environmental pollution in the Niger Delta region by content analyzing four national newspapers: The Guardian, Vanguard, Daily Sun and This day with the view to finding out whether the Nigerian press cover environmental pollution in the Niger Delta, the extent of their coverage, the nature of news coverage given to environmental pollution in the region and forms of environmental pollution prevalent in the region as covered by the four newspapers. This study reveals that little coverage and low interpretation was given to the subject matter. Also, that no story on the subject matter made the front or back pages of the newspapers studied within the 9 months study period. Finally, that the most reported aspect of environmental pollution in the region is oil pollution and related activities. The findings led to the suggestions that media organizations should assign beat reporters to cover environmental issues in the country especially in the Niger Delta region. Also suggested is the introduction of environmental education in the school curriculum from primary to tertiary institutions to inculcate in the masses environmental friendly attitudes. Again, that government should ensure strict compliance to environmental laws in the country.

J. T. Bertrand, O’Relly, Dennison, Anhang& Sweat (2006) studied the effectiveness of newspaper messages and HIV/AIDS related behaviors in developing countries. Their study found that HIV specific communication in newspapers directed members of the public towards acquiring new medical knowledge, increased their knowledge of HIV transmission, and reduced high risk sexual behaviors among the populace.

**Gap in literature:** The various studies reviewed in this study has been able to establish that the exposure to noise pollution is high and the studies focused on few states in Nigeria. None of the studies found out if Nigerian newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution, and none of the studies examined how Nigerian newspapers covered issues relating to noise pollution in Nigeria as a whole and the extent to which it was covered. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to fill in this gap by finding out if Nigerian newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution and also to ascertain if Nigerian newspapers give adequate coverage to information on noise pollution in Nigeria.

**2.4 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical foundation of this theory was based on agenda setting theory.

**2.4.1 Agenda Setting Theory**

Another communication theory that is considered suitable for this work is the agenda setting theory propounded by Walter Lippman. Mc combs (1972) and Shawn (1976) as quoted by Ndolo (2006) states that audiences do not only learn how much importance to attach to an issue or topic but from the emphasis the mass media place upon it.

This theory was propounded by Maxwell Mccombs and Donald Shaw in the 1970s. The argument propounded was that the media set agenda for the public opinion by highlighting certain issues. Michael (2011) in his work “agenda setting theory and the role of the media in shaping public opinion for the Iraq war” states that aware of this relationship between press coverage and public concern, researchers Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw, in their now famous Chapel Hill study, having studied the 1968 political campaign, arrived at a proposition that says, “people learn from the media what the important issues are.” (McCombs & Shaw, 1972, 176)While McCombs and Shaw introduced agenda-setting as a media function with the 1972 study in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, this idea began much earlier. With *Public Opinion* in 1922, Walter Lippman proposed that people aren’t able to deal effectively with the variety and subtlety of their environments. Most people are protected from their own surroundings by elites. These elites, or media representatives, interpret the motives and beliefs of politicians. (Baran & Davis, 1995, 232) Several decades later, Benard Cohen expanded this notion when he said, “The press is significantly more than a purveyor of information and opinion. It may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think, but it is stunningly successful in telling readers what to think about.” (Cohen, 1963, 13) His findings became the basis for what we now call the agenda-setting function of mass media.

McCombs and Shaw expressed Cohen’s theory by presenting their more thorough study in 1972. They interviewed registered voters during the 1968 presidential election and discovered what these people thought were the most important issues of the day. They analyzed local and national media coverage of the election, quantifying the relative attention given to such issues as public welfare, civil rights, fiscal policy, foreign policy, and the war in Vietnam. Further, they produced an aggregate from a smaller sample of the measurement of attention to the various issues. They found correlations between pubic ordering of issues and media coverage and concluded this provided evidence of media agenda-setting. (Neuman, 1990, 160-161). It follows from this that the world looks different to different people, depending not only on their personal interests, but also on the map that is drawn for them by the writers, editors, and publishers of the paper they read” (Cohen, 1963: 13 and cited in Baran and Davis, 2006: 316).

McCombs and Shaw supported the work of Cohen because the findings of their work reveals that “a strong relationship exist between the emphasis placed on different manifest content in by the press and the judgments of the readers as to the salience and importance of various manifest content that opposes the ruling party or government in power (McCombs and Shaw, 1972: 180-181).

According to Nwaokafor and Okunoye (2014) in their work on media power in election: evidence of the role of agenda setting theory in political communication in Nigeria evolution says that the definition of Mccombs and Shaw has led the format of other definitions by various communication and media scholars; Walter Lippmann (1922), Theodore White (1972) Perloff (1998) whose views about agenda-setting likened it to power of the media to set the agenda of public discussion which determines what people will talk and think about.

Narrating or relating this theory to the study, one can argue that if the media determine how much importance people attach to issue, then their coverage of noise pollution can go a long way in increasing the awareness of this issue which have overtime been left undiscussed. The theory also, is relevant to the topic because this research work tends to analyse the content to know the frequency of noise pollution contents in the newspapers under study having in mind that the frequency of the noise pollution content determines the extent to which the audience attach importance to the issue.

**2.5 Summary**

Based on this chapter, Noise pollution was reviewed as a concept identifying the sources and effects of noise pollution. Reports on noise pollution was also reviewed which was covered in Port Harcourt and in Abuja municipality. Agenda setting theory was the major theory of mass communication reviewed in this chapter having high relevance towards the study.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHOD**

**3.1 Introduction**

This chapter deals with the methodology adopted for the study. The following are presented in this chapter: research design, population of the study, sampling technique/sample size, unit of analysis, content categories, coding, inter-coder reliability and method of data analysis.

**3.2 Research Design**

Given the nature of this study, the method used is content analysis. The rationale for this approach is that the study was designed to examine the contents of newspapers within the specified period covered by this research work.

**3.3 Population of the Study**

This research work concerns itself with newspaper coverage on noise pollution in Nigeria. However, the population is made up of publications on four major national newspapers in Nigeria, namely: *The Vanguard, the Nation, Guardian and Daily Sun* from January to June 2017.

This means that the total number of newspapers studied in 6months was 181 days multiplied by four (4) newspapers which amounted to 724 newspapers. This means that the population of the study is 724.

**3.4 Sampling technique/Sample**

In determining the sampling frame, therefore, the composite week procedure was adopted. Riffe, Aust and Lacy (1993) as cited in Wimmer and Dominick (2011, p.163) demonstrated that “a composite week (month) sampling technique was superior to both a random sample and a consecutive day sample when dealing with newspaper contents”. Therefore, the composite week sampling technique was used.

The editions of newspapers under investigation were grouped according to the first 6 months of the year and four editions within each week of every months of the year including weekend editions were selected at random. The results are presented in the table below:

**Table 1 Month of January to Studied**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month/week | January 2017/Month 1 | | | | | | |
| Days of the week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| *The Vanguard* | 2,9,16,23 |  |  | 5,12,19,26 |  | 7,14,21,28 | 8,15,22,29 |
| *The Daily Sun’* | 2,9,16,23 |  |  | 5,12,19,26 |  | 7,14,21,28 | 8,15,22,29 |
| *Punch* | 2,9,16,23 |  |  | 5,12,19,26 |  | 7,14,21,28 | 8,15,22,29 |
| *Guardian* | 2,9,16,23 |  |  | 5,12,19,26 |  | 7,14,21,28 | 8,15,22,29 |

**Table 2 Month of February to be studied**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month/week | February 2017/Month 2 | | | | | | |
| Days of the week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| *The Vanguard* |  |  | 1,8,15,22 |  | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 | 5,12,19.26 |
| *The Daily Sun* |  |  | 1,8,15,22 |  | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 | 5,12,19,26 |
| *Punch* |  |  | 1,8,15,22 |  | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 | 5,12,19,26 |
| *Guardian* |  |  | 1,8,15,22 |  | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 | 5,12,19,26 |

**Table 3 Month of March to be studied**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month/week | March 2017/Month 3 | | | | | | |
| Days of the week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| *The Vanguard* |  | 7,14,21,28 |  |  | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 | 5,12,19,26 |
| *The Daily Sun* |  | 7,14,21,28 |  |  | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 | 5,12,19,26 |
| *Punch* |  | 7,14,21,28 |  |  | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 | 5,12,19,26 |
| *Guardian* |  | 7,14,21,28 |  |  | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 | 5,12,19,26 |

**Table 4: Month of April to be studied**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month/week | April 2017/Month 4 | | | | | | |
| Days of the week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| *The Vanguard* |  | 4,11,18,25 |  | 6,13,20,27 |  | 8,15,22,29 | 9,16,23,30 |
| *The Daily Sun* |  | 4,11,18,25 |  | 6,13,20,27 |  | 8,15,22,29 | 9,16,23,30 |
| *Punch* |  | 4,11,18,25 |  | 6,13,20,27 |  | 8,15,22,29 | 9,16,23,30 |
| *Guardian* |  | 4,11,18,25 |  | 6,13,20,27 |  | 8,15,22,29 | 9,16,23,30 |

**Table 5: Month of May to be studied**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month/week | May 2017/Month 5 | | | | | | |
| Days of the week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| *The Vanguard* |  |  | 3,10,17,24 |  | 5,12,19,26 | 6,13,20,27 | 7,14,21,28 |
| *The Daily Sun* |  |  | 3,10,17,24 |  | 5,12,19,26 | 6,13,20,27 | 7,14,21,28 |
| *Punch* |  |  | 3,10,17,24 |  | 5,12,19,26 | 6,13,20,27 | 7,14,21,28 |
| *Guardian* |  |  | 3,10,17,24 |  | 5,12,19,26 | 6,13,20,27 | 7,14,21,28 |

**Table 6 Month of June to be studied**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month/week | June 2017/Month 6 | | | | | | |
| Days of the week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| *The Vanguard* | 5,12,19,26 |  |  |  | 9,16,23,30 | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 |
| *The Daily Sun* | 5,12,19,26 |  |  |  | 9,16,23,30 | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 |
| *Punch* | 5,12,19,26 |  |  |  | 9,16,23,30 | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 |
| *Guardian* | 5,12,19,26 |  |  |  | 9,16,23,30 | 3,10,17,24 | 4,11,18,25 |

In all, 384 editions were studied as the sample size. This means that from each newspaper, 16 editions were sampled. The composite sample was designed in such a way that the editions randomly selected for *The Vanguard* was applied to *The Nation*, *Guardian* and *Daily Sun* newspapers. The study included weekend newspapers because it is a matter of national interest; issues of national importance do not leave the pages of newspapers even though it is weekend.

**3.5 Unit of analysis**

The units of analysis for this aspect of the study are the Straight News, Features and Opinion Articles, Advertisement and Editorials.

**3.6 Content categories**

The content categories for this study with their variables of analysis were: Frequency of coverage, Placement, Story types, source of coverage.

The researcher categorized content in frequency of coverage in order to find out if Nigerian newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution and to ascertain if Nigerian newspapers give adequate coverage to information on noise pollution while the order of placement determines the relevance that Nigerian newspapers attach to information relating to noise pollution. The content of the study also categorized story types to determine how Nigerian newspapers present coverage to information relating to noise pollution while the source of coverage ascertains if stakeholders make use of Nigerian newspapers in campaigns about noise pollution and its effects on human health

**3.7 Coding**

This study used one major instrument for the content analysis which is coding sheet. The code sheet as well as coding guide was designed to aid the ascribing of numerical figures to manifest contents.

Placing a unit of analysis into a content category is called coding. For this research two coders were used in order to produce a valid, accurate and error-free work because it is an integral step in content analysis and it usually results in a more reliable analysis.

Coding in content analysis makes use of standardized sheets to ease coding. These sheets allow coders to classify the data by placing check marks or slashes in predetermined spaces.

**3.8 Inter Coder Reliability**

The researcher will also conduct a pilot study to check inter coder reliability. Lorr & McNair (1966) suggest that inter rater agreement for a new set of judges given a reasonable but practical amount of training would present a more realistic index of reliability. (p.133) for this reason the researcher will conduct the pilot study with a fresh set of coders who are given some initial training to impart familiarity with the instructions and the method of the study.

Formula is: Reliability =

Where M = Number of coding decision the coders agree

N1+N2 = Total number of coding decision by the first and second coder respectively.

Therefore:

**= = 0.77720207**

**3.9 Method of data analysis**

Data collected using code sheet were analyzed using tables, numbers, percentages and bar charts. The graph represents the four newspapers used for this study which is the *Vanguard,* *Daily* *Sun, Punch, and Guardian* newspaper.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

**4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presented and analyzed data generated from the field. The analysis was based on information obtained from the Nigerian newspapers on their coverage of noise pollution in the country. The newspapers coded were four Nigerian national dailies. The coding process looked at 16 editions of every month for each of the four (4) newspapers collected within a period of 6 months which is from January to June 2017. This amounted to 384 editions of the newspaper in all. The presentation and analysis was done using tables, percentages and numbers; and they sought to answer the following research questions:

1. To find out if Nigerian newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution?
2. To ascertain if Nigerian newspapers give adequate coverage to information on noise pollution and its effect on human health?
3. What relevance (in terms of placement in pages) do Nigerian newspapers attach to information relating to noise pollution?
4. How do Nigerian newspapers present coverage of information (in terms of story types) relating to noise pollution?
5. To ascertain if stakeholders make use of Nigerian newspapers in campaigns about noise pollution and its effects on human health?

The researcher constructed a coding sheet incorporating the relevant content categories relevant to this study. The coding sheet was used as the instrument to content analyze the contents of the newspapers selected for this study. The researcher also consulted the University’s library which is in Godfrey Okoye University Enugu to get the editions of the newspapers in which the coders and the researcher analyzed.

The researcher did the coding personally to ensure consistency and reliability. Frequency count and percentages were used to analyze the data which were presented on tables.

Considering the research method adopted, data analysis is expected to be presented in both quantitative and qualitative format, but with large emphasis placed on quantitative data. To this effect, quantitative approach would be used to address research question one (1) to four (4) which is content coding.

Also for the presentation of this table the Vanguard newspaper is represented with N1, the second newspaper Daily Sun newspaper is represented with N2, the third newspaper which is the Punch Newspaper is represented with N3 while the fourth Newspaper which is the Guardian Newspaper is represented with N4. These representations will help analyze newspaper coverage on noise pollution in Nigeria.

**4.2 Data presentation and analysis**

**4.2.1 Research Question One and Two**

1. Do Nigerian Newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution?
2. To ascertain if Nigerian newspapers give adequate coverage to information on noise pollution and its effect on human health?

**Table 7: Analyzing the frequency of coverage on noise pollution in Nigeria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OPTION** | **FREQUENCY** | | | | | **PERCENTAGE** |
| Frequency of Coverage | *Vanguard* | *The Sun* | *The Punch* | *Guardian* | Total |  |
| Recession News | 30 | 41 | 30 | 38 | 139 | 45% |
| Noise Pollution News | 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 26 | 8.4% |
| Boko Haram News | 26 | 44 | 24 | 50 | 144 | 46.6% |
| **Total** | **65** | **90** | **62** | **92** | **309** | **100%** |

**Figure 2: Analyzing the frequency of coverage**

The data and the chart show that, Nigerian newspapers do cover issues relating to noise pollution. In the Vanguard Newspaper, 9 news contents were on noise pollution, in Sun Newspaper, 5 news content were on noise, in Punch Newspaper 8 news contents were on noise while in Guardian newspaper, 4 news contents were on noise pollution.

Again, out of all the editions of the 4 newspapers the frequency of coverage given to noise pollution is very low with respect to the frequency of coverage given to recession news or Boko Haram news. News on Recession were given 139(45%) coverage on the 4 newspapers, news on noise pollution were given 26(8.4%) coverage on the 4 of the newspapers while news on Boko Haram were given 144(46.6%) coverage on the 4 newspapers.

**4.2.2 Research question three**

What relevance (in terms of placement in pages) do Nigerian newspapers attach to information relating on noise pollution?

**Table 8: Analyzing the placement of coverage on noise pollution in Nigeria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OPTION** | **FREQUENCY** | | | | | **PERCENTAGE** |
| **Placement** | ***Vanguard*** | ***The Sun*** | ***The Punch*** | ***Guardian*** | **Total** |  |
| Front page | - | - | - | - | - | 0% |
| Back page | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 3.8% |
| Centre spread | - | - | - | - | - | 0% |
| Inside page | 8 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 25 | 96.2**%** |
| **Total** | **9** | **5** | **8** | **4** | **26** | **100%** |

**Figure 3: Analyzing the prominence of coverage**

The table above reveals that during the period of study, no stories were placed on the front page, 1(3.8%) were placed on the back page, no stories were placed on the center spread while 25(96.2%) were placed on the inside page.

**4.2.3 Research Question four**

How do Nigerian newspapers present coverage of information (in terms of story types) relating to noise pollution?

**Table 9: Analyzing the story types on noise pollution in Nigeria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OPTION** | **FREQUENCY** | | | | | **PERCENTAGE** |
| **Story types** | ***Vanguard*** | ***The Sun*** | ***The Punch*** | ***The Guardian*** | **Total** |  |
| Straight News | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 46.2% |
| Feature News | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 5 | 19.2% |
| Opinion Articles | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 30.8% |
| Advertisement | - | - | - | - | - | 0**%** |
| Editorial | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 3.8% |
| **Total** | **9** | **5** | **8** | **4** | **26** | **100%** |

**Figure 4: Analyzing the story types on noise pollution in Nigeria**

The table above shows that the most coverage on noise pollution issues were presented in the media during the period of study is straight news 12(46.2%), followed by Opinion Articles 8(30.8%), Feature news with 5(19.2%), then editorial with 1(3.8%). Adverts had no coverage on noise pollution during the period of study.

**4.2.4 Research Question Five**

To ascertain if stakeholders make use of Nigerian newspapers in campaigns about noise pollution and its effects on human health?

**Table 10: Analyzing the source of coverage on noise pollution in Nigeria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OPTION** | **FREQUENCY** | | | | | **PERCENTAGE** |
| **Source of Coverage** | ***Vanguard*** | ***The Sun*** | ***The Punch*** | ***The Guardian*** | **Total** |  |
| Journalist | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 42.8% |
| Civil societies | - | - | - | - | - | 0% |
| Government | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 28.6**%** |
| Individuals | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 28.6% |
| **Total** | **10** | **5** | **7** | **6** | **28** | **100%** |

**Figure 5: Analyzing the source of coverage on noise pollution in Nigeria**

From the table above, the prominent forums that brought the coverage of noise pollution were the journalist 12(42.8), followed by Government and Individuals having the same amount 8(28.6%). Civil Societies had no interest in noise pollution according to the period of study.

**4.4 Discussion of Findings**

Data collected from the content analysis design on the topic “newspaper coverage of noise pollution in Nigeria” would be discussed. Responses to answers on research question would be discussed.

**Research Question one: Do Nigerian Newspapers cover issues relating to noise pollution?**

The analysis of data presented in this study revealed that Nigerian newspapers do cover issues relating to noise pollution. It was seen in the data chart that in the Vanguard Newspaper, 9 news contents were on noise pollution, in Sun Newspaper, 5 news content were on noise, in Punch Newspaper 8 news contents were on noise while in Guardian newspaper, 4 news contents were on noise pollution.

Oyedepo (2012) stated that since noise results from the citizens’ behavior (driver, music player, hawker etc) information and education campaigns usually produce good results in the long term adding that people can be educated through radio, TV, and most especially newspapers about noise pollution. Public vehicles drivers should be educated not to horn unnecessarily on the roads, avoid quarrelling amongst each other and so on. Therefore the need of newspapers or any type of medium in disseminating information that will educate the public on noise pollution is very crucial.

**Research Question two: To ascertain if Nigerian newspapers give adequate coverage to information on noise pollution and its effect on human health?**

The analysis of data presented in this study revealed that the frequency of coverage on noise pollution in Nigeria was low. To arrive at this result, the researcher produced a content analysis of news on Boko Haram crisis which happened to be the most covered story in the newspapers and also news on recession which happened to be the second most covered issue in the newspapers at the end, the total coverage of news on Boko Haram crisis amounted to 144(46.6%) and news on recession coverage amounted to 139(45%) as against the 26(8.4%) coverage given to noise pollution in Nigeria.

The study further revealed that the media coverage is less concerned on noise pollution in Nigeria. This is anchored on the fact that 26 coverage which amounted to 8.4% was on noise pollution rather than Boko Haram news which was 144(46.6%) followed by 139(45%).

This means that low amount of stories about noise pollution was covered, while high amount of stories on Boko haram and recession were covered. Due to this the audience read more news stories that are on Boko Haram and Recession, while they pay no attention to the news on noise pollution.

According to the Agenda setting theory which states that the media sets agenda for the public opinion by highlighting certain issues. This theory explains that the media sets agenda for the audience by repeating the same news story over and over again and in relations to this study the frequency at which news on Boko haram and recession were covered shows that they paid attention to them more than that of noise pollution.

**Research question three: What relevance (in terms of placement in pages) do Nigerian newspapers attach to information relating on noise pollution?**

Furthermore this study also revealed the placement of coverage. Most stories on noise pollution where placed in the inside page which it amounted to 96.2% while there was no story on the front page and center spread also the back page amounted to 3.8%.with this statistics it is showed that noise pollution has no prominence because most of the stories are in the inside page which has the highest number 25 and the second after that is the back page which is the second to the highest number 1; thus the coverage on noise pollution is on a low or no prominence.

In reference to the researcher’s literature review, this result supported the claim by Oyedepo (2013) saying that due to the ignorance of Nigerians on the fact that there exist a close nexus between noise pollution and sustainable city, little or no attention is paid to the control of noise pollution in Nigeria.

It was also similar to Nnaji (2012) who studied: “Press coverage of environmental pollution in the Niger state. A content analysis of the Guardian, Vanguard, Daily sun and This day newspapers.” The study observed that since man’s activity is done in the environment and the resultant effect is either negative or positive to man, the press as the watchdog of the society is expected to draw attention of all and Sundry to environmental issues around them; one of which is environmental pollution. Hence, the study investigated press coverage of environmental pollution in the Niger Delta region by content analyzing four national newspapers: The Guardian, Vanguard, Daily Sun and This day with the view to finding out whether the Nigerian press cover environmental pollution in the Niger Delta, the extent of their coverage, the nature of news coverage given to environmental pollution in the region and forms of environmental pollution prevalent in the region as covered by the four newspapers. The study revealed that little coverage and low interpretation was given to the subject matter. Also, that no story on the subject matter made the front or back pages of the newspapers studied within the 9 months study period. This applies to the fact that no story on noise pollution made the front page, center spread and back page among the selected newspapers for this study.

**Research Question four: How do Nigerian newspapers present coverage of information (in terms of story types) relating to noise pollution?**

This showed that the contents in newspaper on noise pollution were mostly presented as straight news 12(46.2%), followed by Opinion Articles 8(30.8%), Feature news with 5(19.2%), then editorial with 1(3.8%). Adverts had no coverage on noise pollution during the period of study.

With this the researcher observed that the Nigerian newspapers did not give adequate and in-depth coverage to the issue during the period studied. Only 12 straight news stories, 8 opinion articles, 5 feature news stories and 1 editorial content that had coverage on noise pollution. This is in respect to the period studied.

A study which corresponded with the said findings previously was by Nnaji (2012) titled: “Press Coverage of environmental pollution in the Niger state. A content analysis of the Guardian, Vanguard, Daily sun and This day newspapers was done. The study observed that since man’s activity is done in the environment and the resultant effect is either negative or positive to man, the press as the watchdog of the society is expected to draw attention of all and Daily Sundry to environmental issues around them; one of which is environmental pollution. Hence, the study investigated press coverage of environmental pollution in the Niger Delta region by content analyzing four national newspapers: The Guardian, Vanguard, Daily Sun and This day with the view to finding out whether the Nigerian press cover environmental pollution in the Niger Delta, the extent of their coverage, the nature of news coverage given to environmental pollution in the region and forms of environmental pollution prevalent in the region as covered by the four newspapers. The study reveals that little coverage and low interpretation was given to the subject matter. This applies to the fact that little coverage and low interpretation was paid to noise pollution in this study.

**Research Question Five: To what extent do stakeholders make use of Nigerian newspapers in campaigns about noise pollution and its effects on human health?**

From the table above, the prominent forums that brought the coverage of noise pollution were the journalist 12(42.8), followed by Government and Individuals having the same amount 8(28.6%). Civil Societies had no interest in noise pollution according to the period of study.

This study revealed that the source of coverage on noise pollution was mainly from journalists which amounted to 42.8% while other sources like government and individuals amounted to the same amount 28.6%, civil societies had no interest in noise pollution according to the period of the study. Basically the study reveals that most content on noise pollution are gotten from journalists. This implies that most journalists are really interested in covering news events on noise.

According to Nnaji (2012) stated in his study that since man’s activity is done in the environment and the resultant effect is either negative or positive to man, the press as the watchdog of the society is expected to draw attention of all and Daily Sundry to environmental issues around them; one of which is environmental pollution. From the findings on source of coverage towards noise pollution the journalist are doing their duty, being interested in covering issues on noise pollution.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1 Introduction**

The analysis done in the previous chapter portrays that the mass media usually play a crucial role in setting agenda for the masses. This chapter will recommend and set suggestions for further studies.

**5.2 Summary of Findings**

The analysis and the study showed:

* Nigerian newspapers do cover issues relating to noise pollution
* The frequency of coverage of noise pollution was very low
* No newspapers gave prominence to issues on noise pollution
* There was no editorial on noise pollution.
* Reveals that little coverage and low interpretation was given to the subject matter in terms of story types.

**5.3 Conclusion**

This study reveals that contents of the newspaper publication on noise pollution were less or low according to the period of study. The frequency of coverage on noise pollution was low when compared to other news stories like Boko haram and recession. Its contents were much higher and it was a human interest story. This means that noise pollution is not something of importance and should be treated by the audience as a minor problem.

Based on the discussion of findings this study concludes that the media serves as a tool for modifying the direction of audience attitude towards a particular issue, and if the media doesn’t modify the direction of the audience attitude towards such issue, it becomes less important or of no importance and this is made evident in this study.

**5.4 Recommendation**

The study recommends the following:

* More news stories should be covered on noise pollution by newspapers knowing that whatever emphasis placed on an issue by the media, becomes important.
* Apart from journalists, government, civil societies and individuals should make use of newspapers on campaigns on noise pollution. They should give out news stories that has the qualities like factuality, accuracy, objectivity and balance of news that can be attained by media houses.
* Again, news stories on noise pollution should not only be placed in the inside pages of the newspaper but rather be placed on the front page or back page of the newspaper.
* Finally, human interest stories that has a serious effect in the society should have same prominence with other stories of the same caliber.

**5.5 Suggestions for Further Findings**

This study researched on analysis on newspaper coverage on noise pollution in Nigeria from January 2017 to June 2017. Other researchers can find out broadcast media coverage on noise pollution which consists of Radio and Television.

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***APPENDIX 1***

***CODING GUIDE FOR CONTENT ANALYTICAL STUDY NEWSPAPER COVERAGE ON NOISE POLLUTION IN NIGERIA***

**Frequency:** It will be compared to:

* Recession
* Noise Pollution
* Boko Haram

**Source:** Therefore the source will be measured with

* Journalists (Jour)
* Civil Societies (CS)
* Political Parties (PP)
* Individuals (IND)

**Prominence:** It will be measured with

* Front page (FP)
* Back page (BP)
* Centre Page (CP)
* Inside Page (INP)

**Story Types:** This will be measured with

* Straight News (SN)
* Feature News (FN)
* Opinion Articles (OPA)
* Advertisements (AD)
* Editorial (ED)