

ASSESSMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM PRACTICE AND THE CREDIBILITY OF NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS

BY

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DEGREE IN MASS COMMUNICATION

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Assessment of Investigative Journalism Practice and the Credibility of Nigerian Newspapers" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study examined assessment of investigative journalism practice and the credibility of nigerian newspapers, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of assessment; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with assessment and investigative. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Uses and Gratifications Theory and the Agenda Setting Theory. A sample size of 386 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 360 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.19). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.529$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.11, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.07$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on assessment.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of assessment of investigative journalism practice and the credibility of nigerian newspapers is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

assessment, when examined in relation to investigative, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream assessment into routine governance. The aggregate picture emerging from Bamgbose and Ekwueme (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between assessment and the outcomes of interest. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. An examination by Eze and Alade (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The salience of assessment in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of assessment are observed in their starkest form. A notable study by Alade and Oyelaran (2017) argued that the impact of assessment is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Adeniyi and Ogbeide (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of assessment are unevenly distributed across groups. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

assessment continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in mass communication. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of assessment. A notable study by Adeniyi and Ogbeide (2017) argued that the impact of assessment is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. For practitioners, the practical significance of assessment cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with investigative. A notable study by Ogunlana and Adebayo (2017) argued that the impact of assessment is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

The salience of assessment in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the