

# EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS, CITIZEN JOURNALISM AND THE NEWS CONTENTS OF *OGTV* AND *ROCKCITY FM* STATION

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**Abstract:** This study examined eye-witness accounts and the news contents of *OGTV* and *Rockcity FM* stations. The study employed survey method. The main objectives of the study were to ascertain whether or not *OGTV* and *Rockcity FM* radio use eye-witness accounts in their news production, to also know the rate at which the stations use eye-witness accounts in their news package. As well as possible challenges in the use of eye-witness accounts in the news production of both stations. Staffers in the news and current affairs departments of both stations formed the population of the study which were purposively made the sample size at 30. Related literature and theories such as, source credibility were reviewed in relation to the study. According to the findings both stations used more of physical eye-witness accounts. It was also, evident that physical eye-witness accounts were more objective, authentic, and balance than online version. Likewise they used more than any other available ones in their news packaging. Based on the findings, it is therefore recommended that, since the rate of eye-witness account usage is very high in the broadcast stations, and it can be exaggerated, therefore, broadcast media must be careful from any information taking from any eye-witnesses, so as to avoid defame or grandstand on exaggerated event(s). Larger percentage of physical eye-witness accounts should be engaged for balance, objective and authentic information, so as to keep the general public abreast of credible information.

**Keywords:** Eye-Witness accounts, News Contents, Citizen Journalism.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

News production is a product of many activities in terms of gathering, processing, packaging and dissemination to the audience whether large in terms of broadcasting or individual as related to narrowcasting. News is all about people, places and events (PPE) which are news worthy within a society every day while some personnel are saddled with the responsibility of relaying news for public consumption. It is this vein, Odetoyinbo (2005) asserts that, news production differs from other television programmes because of its element of immediacy, newness, accuracy and timeliness. As stated in Gyimah (2015), news is a cultural concept which rely on social conventions and literary values. This justifies reason why news and its analysis are seldom universal, and that different forms of journalism production do exist.

In the words of Aina (2004), news is a reported account of an event. While Adeosun, Obioha and Onuoha (2019), assert that, news is the gathering of information of event or activities through reporters. This suggests, that news is whatever reporter called it because he witness the event. Additionally, news can also be an account of a person's, a group's or an organisation's news activities which may be coloured by educational background, environmental perspective, personal belief, value or bias, organisational style or ownership influence. Validating this view, Obalanlege (2016) contends that:

.....news is both an individual and an organisational product, however, when putting into consideration the ways and manner in which news is being constructed, it is imperative to examine, the processes by which an excessive amount of events and issues relating to a given day are filtered into the news bulletin (p:68).

This could be the reason why Jakob (2003), submit that, news production is kind of reproductive exercise which has to do with conversion of multiple news discussion like (press agency copy, press releases, interview notes, news feeds and other news media) into single account, with appropriate frame as an authoritative account of a news event. News feeds are also vital sources of news for other media. News feeds are recorded from satellite feeds and reviewed by the local news stations. Stories selected for broadcast are normally saved to a video server, or assembled on one or two videotapes, and then “rolled into” the local news as needed (Adenekan, 2018).

Like any other commodity, news is gathered, processed, packaged and sold by the news agencies, radio, television networks and cable stations. During this process, a journalist reports what he/she considers newsworthy while, viewers also, use their power of selective perception to ascertain what could gratify their needs and jettison others which are of no relevance to daily needs. However, in the field of journalism and in media studies as well as in the newsrooms where news production processes are perfected; media men are at the mercy of people who furnish them with information officially, unofficially, known or anonymous for their opinions, views and witness account in the context of news break within a particular place. These people are called news sources. According to Cross (2010):

Research on the social production of news, journalistic practices, and influences on news content has contributed to an understanding of the use of news sources, the journalist-source relationship, and the potential effect selective source use has on the framing of news stories (p:413).

Conversely, there is symbiotic relationship between news sources and journalists which make them to function as good partners. A credible news medium is as good as its sources. This means that news must emanate from particular sources irrespective of the nature of such news. Again, news sources which media organisations consult for the news processing are varied in nature, but what matter most is the credibility, veracity and relevance of the information. The information given by the source as the case may be will later metamorphose into subject of interpretation from different players within the news medium. It is in this vein, Hout and Jacobs (2008:60) claim that news production “is an ‘interpretive practice’ which involves a process of entextualization with multiple actors who struggle over authority, ownership and control”.

The increase in media organisations increase due to advancement in technology and deregulation of broadcast media in 1992 in Nigeria, have made stakeholders to demand for quality in relation to picture, programming news processing and production (Jegede, Ernest-Onuri and Akintayo, 2016; Chioma,2014). This however, created competitions amongst media as they continue struggling to generate traffic towards their medium in terms of commercial and listenership. They strive for effectiveness and efficiency in relation to immediacy and accuracy of news gathering, processing and dissemination to their audiences. In this connection, technology which had given plurality to the media organisations also did same to what Bock (2012) called solo-newsgathering, which also serve as source of news for other news media that may not witness event as it unfold.

As observed, news men process news with attribution because it makes the news to be credible irrespective of who says what? In terms of actuality or physical sources, media organisations conduct different interviews from the streets and from the personalities who they consider as impeccable source of information. All these are done to enrich the news processing and to satisfy the needs of television and radio audiences. Of course, news sources are critical to news gathering process which assumes to be one of the main ingredients in the news production. While getting news sources may be herculean task as a result of hard-to-get sources that are probably busy or as a result of secrecy that may be attached to the news reporter showed interest.

Actuality in terms of eye-witness accounts on the issues of general interest or news break which news reporter(s) may not be fortunate to witness owing to the circumstances beyond his capacity; may force him/her to conduct an interview from those who witnessed the scenario. It could also be the freelance video journalist who witnesses the scene, records and sells to interested news medium. For instance, pipeline explosion at Abule Ado and Abule Egba, recently in Lagos State, fire incident at Rabeng Petrol Station in 2017, at Adigbe, Abeokuta, Twin-bomb blast in December, 2016 in Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa state did not happen in the presence of any of the news men but, people (witnesses) such as, military personnel, survivors of the blast and other people around the incident balanced the reports. On the other hand,

news men conduct interviews in terms of reality, physical and sound bites from who-is-who in the country in order, to confirm from the 'horse's mouth' and later up-sound it, in the news bulletin.

The above instances suggests that, good journalists never forget the reasons they exist because of the viewers and listeners. Their first loyalty is always to their audience. Everything else including seeking fame, fortune and profits is secondary to that loyalty. In addition, misquotations of these people (sources) by journalists can bring the whole news gathering process and the station down, leaving the journalists, editors and programme managers vulnerable to legal actions. According to Osundare, (2011)

There is no small news in journalism. Every reported event carries a certain measures of significance, although the importance we attach to the event depends on who and where we are, and the angle and perspectives from which we perceive and interpret experiences (p;114)

Under these circumstances, sourcing must be accurate, contextual, and systematic and the right attribution must be adhered to. This implies that news has a substantial impact on people's lives and that the various parties involved in news making should be seen as stakeholders who have all sorts of interests in actively determining what the media's impact on people's lives will be (Boyer and Hannerz 2006).

Therefore, as newsmen gather information from these sources, how does the information influence the news package of the broadcast stations? Are there any challenges inherent in this process? To what extent is this information gathered from the news sources being used as part of the news production processes? These and many other contentious issues relating to eye-witness accounts and news processing of broadcasting stations have been the driving force behind this study to ascertain the influence of eye-witness accounts on the news processing of *OGTV and Rockcity FM stations*. This study therefore, purposely chose a television and a radio station in order to look into how both stations process their news.

### Research Questions

- 1) Do *OGTV and Rockcity FM* station use eye-witness accounts in their news production?
- 2) At what rate do the stations use eye-witness accounts in their news package?
- 3) What are the possible challenges inherent in the use of eye-witness accounts in the news production of both stations?

## 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The field of social science and humanity is blessed with countless numbers of theories as well as models which have direct links with mass media messages and its effect on their audience. These theories are varied in functions and their meaning depending on the topic which researcher is trying to investigate. Therefore, the study is anchored by credibility theory.

### Credibility Theory

This theory belongs to the class of persuasive theories which is of significance to the mass media and its audience. The theory was propounded by Carl Hovland and Water Weiss in (1951). The theory hinges on the premise of expertness, trustworthiness, professionalism, objectivity, transparency, dynamism as well as competence (Anaeto, Onabajo and Osifeso, 2008). This theory presupposes that choice of the source of the message will make or mar the reception and potency of the message. Applying this to mass media of communication, the credibility of the media through which news and current affairs surface will decrease or increase the effectiveness of messages. For instance, during news gathering and reportage, a reporter needs to be sure of the credibility of the eye-witness (source) of the news whether it comes into the station through phone-in programme, through their websites, interviews or from the place of the event.

However, one of the variables in a communication situation over which the communicator typically has some control is the choice of the source. Judging from day-to-day examples of news programmes, there appears to be a widespread of belief that having the right source can increase the effectiveness and acceptability of news (Anaeto, *et al*, 2008). The relevance of this theory to this study presupposes that whenever broadcast news personnel are sourcing for news from people, places and events (PPE), they tend to confirm and re-confirm the credibility of such stories from different sources and eye-witnesses.

The reason for this is not to misinform the general public. Another reason is to achieve principles of reporting which include: Accuracy, clarity, balance, objectivity and fairness because broadcast media audience could also double-check information they get from the media (radio and television) and if there is contrary information to what they might have heard, witnessed or listened to, the credibility of the media which relay the information might be in jeopardy. This scenario tends to make the audience to be hostile or doubt broadcast media to other media considered credible when genuine information is needed. This presupposes that broadcast media audience are wary of certain messages and believe that whatever information they get from a particular broadcast channel is credible. This in effect means that individual's credibility and that of mass media are of great importance. These submissions and contentious as they appear bring to the fore the appropriateness of the theory to this study.

### 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Broadcast media have been inexistence over the years as popular means of communication and of disseminating information as well as preferred medium of cultural expression among the people owing to oral tradition and rendition (Agu, 2011). Corroborating above assertion, Ihechu and Okugbo (2013: 13) note that:

With the natural backdrop of three vegetation zones and a varied colourful topography, Nigeria has an impressive historical location, traditional festivals and durbars, which provide a rich tapestry and backdrop for television and radio production. There is also a rich multi-cultural setting of about 400 indigenous cultures to fertilise creation and creativity in the area of programming.

Originally radio was an instrument of colonial government, more reason why Ige (2012) claims that, radio is one of the oldest and most relevant source of information. Supporting this claim, Atakiti, Ogunwemimo, Alao, Chioma, and Ofurum (2016), radio is a potent communication instrument that has been confirmed to be the most effective media in the in the process of sharing information to both the rural and urban centers. According to Oyero (2003) as cited in Anaeto and Solo-Anaeto (2010:126), explains that radio can be described as an ideal means of communication in the Third World countries because it provides access to communication for a large number of people both literate and non-literate and it is very cheap to own and maintain without dependency on electricity supply. However, radio later paved way for television broadcasting with variety ways of usage and gradually linked to indices of Nigeria development. According to Levine (2011:3), "news can be listened to on radio, watched on television and found on cell-phones or online. For those with access to these options, a wealth of information is always readily available".

In countries where free expression is suppressed, access to technology is expensive or illiteracy rates are high, broadcasting continues to play an important role in information sharing. But the advents of technologies have somewhat changed the landscape, thereby contributing immensely to the development and sustenance of modern communications. This has given people more ways to access an increasing amount of information locally and internationally.

This is apparent in mass media communication processes due to changes it have brought to it in recent time. The appearance of electronic media signaled profound breaks with traditional means of communication and with national information system. Odetoyinbo (2017) while citing Zettl (2006) explains that broadcasting is an electronic mechanism device that shares the nature and characteristics with digital operations. It is in this view; Asekun-Olarinmoye, Sanusi, Johnson and Oloyede (2014) contend that:

A very important area in today's broadcasting world over is the technology and equipment for the transmission of media messages. Modern technology has transformed the shape and dimension of broadcasting. Broadcasting media technology has undergone rapid changes and continued until the early 20th century(p;8).

Broadcasting in this era is the process of disseminating, circulate, transmitting, put on air and or sharing of information, message or any other forms of communication through the electronic mechanism. The complete production is what results to programme of different sorts. A programme is an electronically processed material in relations to people, place and events (PPE) (Odetoyinbo, 2017). It is against this background that, modern technologies are today enhancing and facilitating the communication process activities, as well as help the generation and dissemination of information more efficiently to highly dispersed audience in the world. Broadcasting is increasingly assuming a leading role in the communication of information to mass audience in Nigeria. This presupposes that, if broadcasting is well guided; it could produce a far-reaching impact on its audiences in the nearest future in Nigeria.

However, television broadcasting is the system of sending and receiving pictures and sound by means of electronic signals transmitted through wires, cables of optical fibres or by electromagnetic radiation. According to Onagwa (2013), these signals are usually broadcast from a central source, called a television station, to reception devices known as television sets in homes or relay stations such as those used by cable television service providers. Odetoyinbo (2005:8) opines that “television broadcast consists of sound and visuals”. In other words, it is audio-visual in nature. As rightly opines by Shook (2005), apart from the words that guide the contents of television, it is a language on its own. The reason is not far-fetched, television employs the use of words, its prime content revolves around the visual images that unfold on one of the most powerful communication tools ever devised; the television screen.

Since the embryonic stage, television has established itself as a medium that works best when it communicates visually. It is in this vein, Shook explain that, in a world-oriented society television screen’s ability to impart ideas and to make those ideas stick in people’s minds. Historically, several scholars such as Odetoyinbo (2017); Raufu (2011) and Aina (2007) alluded to the fact that, television broadcasting debuted in Nigeria as first in Africa when the government of Western Region in Nigeria switched on the transmitter of Western Nigeria Broadcasting Service (WNBS) in 1959 in Ibadan, Nigeria. According to Raufu (2011) in May 1959, Western Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation went on air and was followed by Western Nigeria Television (WNTV) on October 31. In 1963, Eastern Nigeria followed suit by establishing its own radio and television stations. Corroborating the above statement, Okunna (1993) as cited in Nwodu, Oloruntola, Onwubere (2013:16) says:

.....the reason for why television started in from the region was attributed to the pre-independence politics which placed more emphasis on regional rather than national development. So with the establishment of WNTV in 1959, other regions began to establish their own television stations.

Radio broadcasting on the other hand, is a unidirectional wireless transmission over radio waves intended to reach a wide audience. Stations can be linked in radio network to broadcast a common radio format, either in broadcast syndication or both. Levine (2011:1) avers “radio broadcasts can provide real-time information, broadcasted 24 hours a day to provide the most recent updates to listeners”. From observation, stations have the ability to reach across borders and become a source of information where reliable news is scarce. When access to the internet is blocked and phone lines are cut, people can still search the airwaves for trustworthy sources. Even electricity is not a necessity for battery operated and hand-cranked radios. According to Stefanyshyn and Kendell (2012),

.....radio broadcasting is one of the greatest educational tools which have ever been placed at the disposal of civilized man. It is an instantaneous, universal means of communication. It is not a new art, but is a means of multiplying the efficiency of oral communication just as the printing press multiplied the effectiveness of the written word. In addition to that, it has certain decided advantages over the printed page which it in part supplants and in part supplements (p:3).

More so, radio allows people to listen to regular broadcasts of news material on current affairs. There is constant communication on politics, sports, business and weather news that keep the society informed. People tune in to radio stations to listen to breaking news.

El-Semary and Al-khaja (2013) study, titled credibility of citizen Journalism and Traditional TV Journalism among Emirati Youth, found out that, Emirati were found to be using almost both traditional and new media equally, with regard to intensity of use, the usage of new media was more intensive than traditional media. Additionally Goh’s (2007), study titled “Mainstream Media Meets Citizen Journalism: In Search of a New Model”. The study found out that, that citizen journalism was a relatively new movement facilitated by the rise of the internet as a form of mass communication. Again, in the work of Simeon (2014) titled “The Impact of Social Media and Citizen Journalism on Mainstream Russian news”. The study found out that, effect of new technology had spurred a development in the freedom of information.

In the work of Afolayan, (2015) titled “Impact of ICTs on changing face of television reporting in Nigeria”. He found out that, ICTs had contributed to changing face of television reporting in Nigeria In the work of Asekun-Olarinmoye, Sanusi, Johnson and Oloyede (2014), study Imperatives of Internet and Social Media on Broadcast Journalism in Nigeria. The researchers argue that the development of radio and later television brought a new dimension to news and events coverage in Nigeria. They concluded that, pervasiveness of websites in our everyday lives is today changing the face of

broadcasting globally and in particular the Nigerian broadcast industry. This reviewed study is relevant to the aims of this research work as it explored the impact of the citizen journalism and social media on the mainstream of a nation so as to ascertain its impact on it.

### **EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS, CITIZEN JOURNALISTS AND THE NEWS CONTENTS OF BROADCAST STATIONS**

Regardless of the appeals and emotions which might have been attached to citizen journalism or citizen journalists by different scholars; Citizen Journalists are the public citizens who play an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, and analyzing news and information. They can be refers to individuals or groups who have not been trained as journalists but use the tools of modern technology and the internet to cover or verify news stories from different people, place and event(PPE), such events or happenings might have been one of the numerous events they witnessed in their daily activities. The above therefore qualified them as one of the eye-witnesses to different events within the society.

Eye-witness as a source of news story is not a new concept when news gathering, reporting and dissemination are concerned. However, recently, the advents of technologies have spurred its activities beyond the ways it works. In relation to actuality and reality of news stories, eye-witness has been a rostrum upon which traditional media rest. Whenever reporters want to cover news that does not happened in their presence they rely on people around the place of the event, survivors of an incident, victims of circumstances and make necessary attributions when reporting the news.

According to Aririguzoh (2006), reporter may not be at the scene of event, he needs to rely on the clips and claims of eye-witnesses to get report of whatever happened”. Often times, sources of news who witness an event did call-in into the live television and radio programme(s) to give account of what they might have witnessed. In some cases, sources who witnessed the event might plead anonymity so as to prevent him/her from “wrought” of his/her place of work, residence and so on. This is more reason reporters’ use phrases like: “an eye-witness said that”; “according to our source who pleaded anonymity” and so on. For instance, #End SARs protest and Lekki killings activities were relayed by protesters who were at the scene, some of the clips and information shared were relied upon by other Television stations upon critical analysis of its veracity.

Again, citizen journalists whom technologies have empowered with multi-media convergence that have brought about the integration and collaboration among various data based devices can also send their accounts of an event to website of television stations, as in the case of I-report of Channel TV, (Odetoyinbo, 2017). This also aligns with current trend of whistle blowing policy initiated by present government of President Muhammodu Buhari in Nigeria which empowers all patriotic Nigerian to report corrupt officials and their loots and other societal vices.

However, in the news production processes the whole activities are becoming more open and transparent. News gathering, reporting and disseminating unlike before, are now visible and participatory by both professionals and non-professionals. For instance, iReport which is unique to Cable News Network (CNN) is a typical example (Channel, 2010 cited in Nguyen, 2006). It allows the public to share and submit “unfiltered” content. Vetted submissions that are deemed newsworthy can then be broadcast across networks and published on CNN.com. Similarly, citizen report on Rockcity FM during day break show also serve as perfect example, as some of the callers relay what they might have witnessed in within their areas.

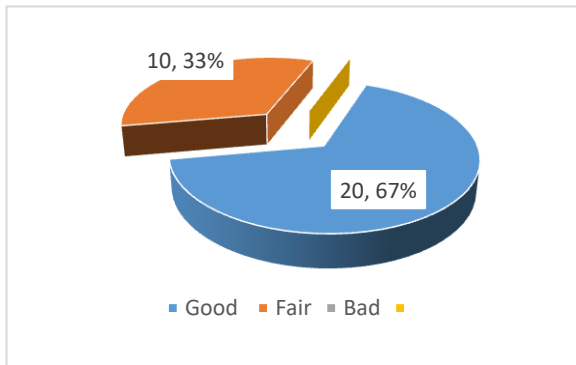
### **4. MATERIAL AND METHODO**

This study adopted survey method. While the population of the staff in *OGTV and Rockcity FM* was 80 and 15 respectively, according to the administrative department of both stations but focus was on the stations’ news and current affairs and programmes departments which stood at 27 and 10 respectively where all data are generated. The reason for the adoption of this, hinged on the fact, the focal point of the study was on the news production processes and not all the staff in *OGTV and Rockcity FM* were relevant for the purpose of this study.

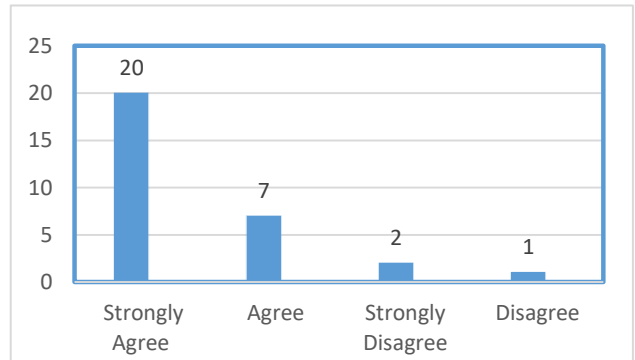
The sampling method for this research was purposive. The total population was used in line Adeosun and Udabah (2013:136) citing Nnana (2003) that when population of the respondents is not many the whole population must be studied. Based on this, the researcher purposively selected main respondents who were considered working within the area of focus and constituted the whole population. Data for the study was analyzed using Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS) and presented using descriptive statistical tools of simple frequency, percentage and chart.

**5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

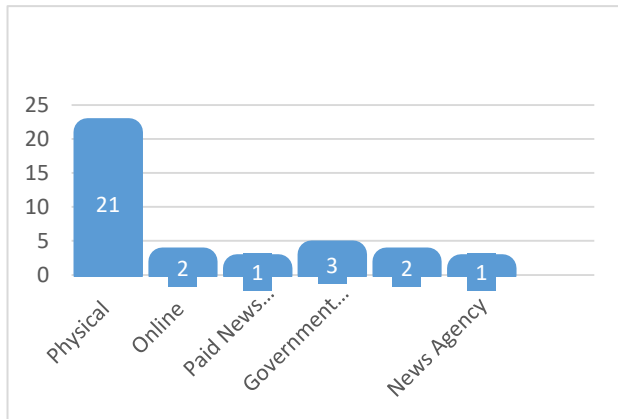
**RQ 1: Do the OGTV and Rockcity FM station use eye-witness accounts in their news production?**



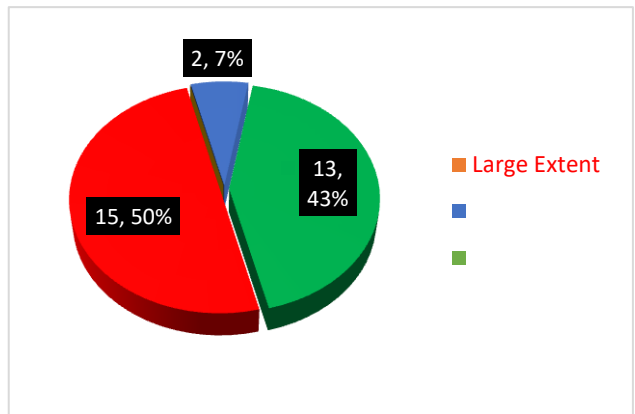
**Fig 1: Process of news production**



**Fig 2: Awareness of Use of Eye-witness account in news package**

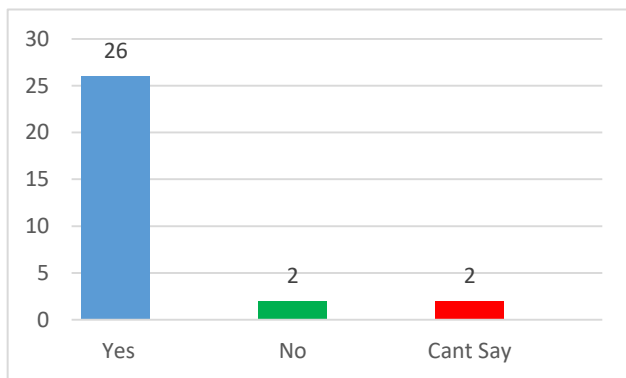


**Fig 3: Preferred use of eye-witness accounts in OGTV & Rockcity**

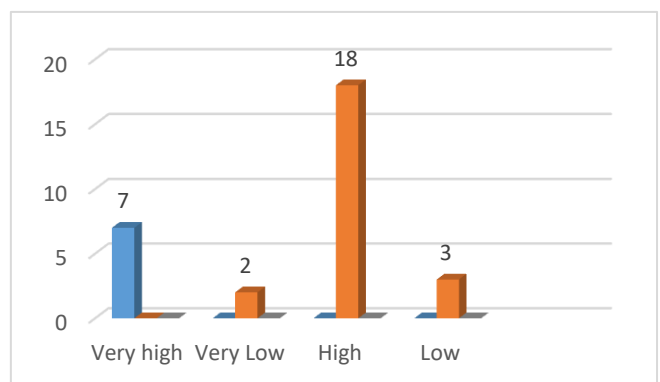


**Fig 4: Extent of eye-witness accounts in the news production**

**RQ 2: At what rate do the stations use eye-witness accounts in their news package?**



**Fig 5: Knowledge of the use of Eye-witness account in news**



**Fig 6: Allowance of usage of eye-witness account in News**

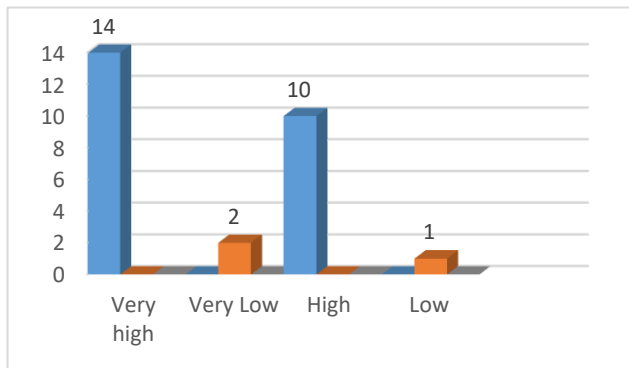


Fig 7: Rate of Use of Eye-witness account in news package

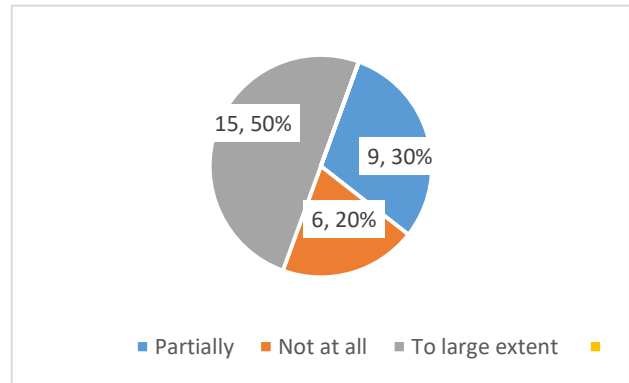


Fig 8: Influence of the use on news package

**RQ 3: What are the possible challenges inherent in the use of eye-witness accounts in the news production of both stations?**

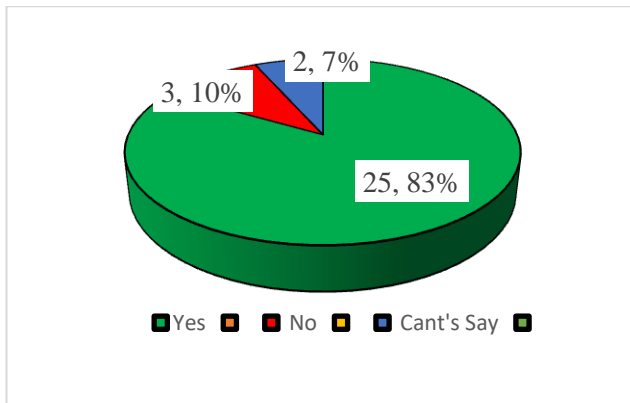


Fig 9: Use of eye-witness account in the news content

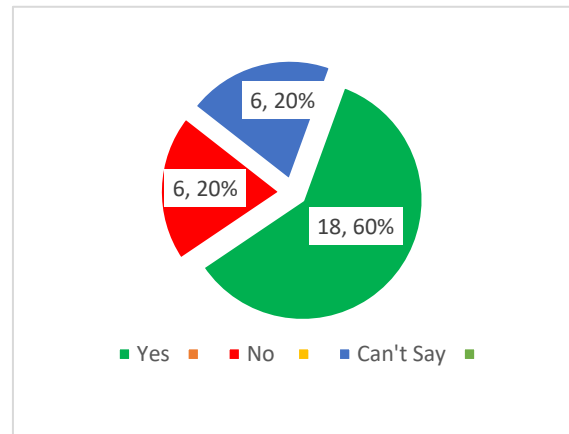


Fig 10: Challenges in the use of eye-witness account

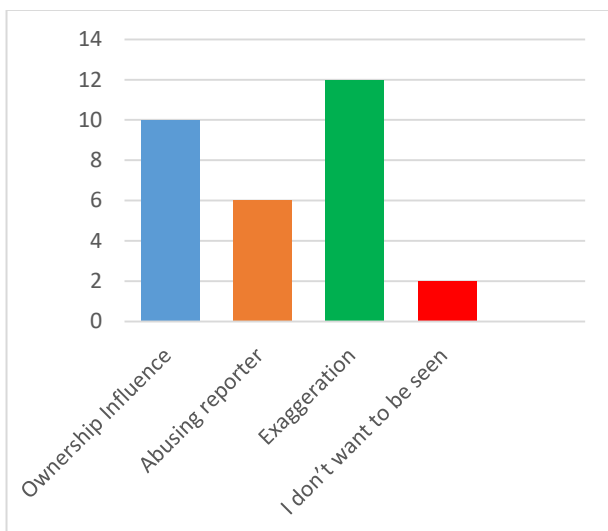


Fig 11: Challenges encountered in the use of eye-witness account

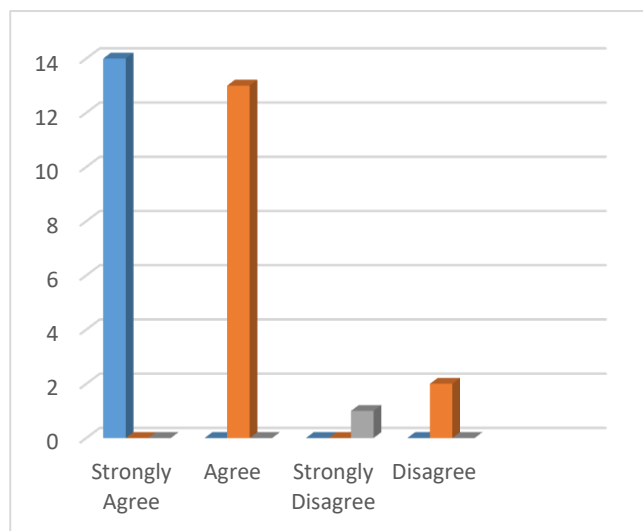


Fig 12: Danger in unclarified eye-witness account in News

## 6. ANALYSIS OF RESULT

Fig 1: reveals, (67%) confirmed that the condition of news production process since they have joined their medium was good while 10(33%) confirmed that it was fair. Fig 2: highlights that (67%) strongly agreed to awareness of the use of eye-witness account in the news package, (23%) agreed, (7%) strongly disagreed and (3%) disagreed. Fig 3, reveals that



(70%) used physical eye-witness accounts most, (7%) online, (3%) used paid new informant, (10%) government sources while (7%) foreign monitoring, news agency (3%) the entire options. Fig 4: indicates that (50%) used eye-witness accounts to large extent while (43%) some extent and (7%) little extent.

Fig 5: highlights (86%) had knowledge of the use of eye-witness account and (7%) did not while (7%) could not say. Fig 6: shows that (60%) usage at high rate, (7%) at very low rate and (23%) at high rate and (10%) at low rate. Fig 7: reveals (57%) and (33%) confirmed that the rate in which they use physical eye-witness accounts in their news packaging was very high as they were more objective, authentic, and balanced compared with online version, while and (7%) (3%) confirmed that the rate of eye-witness accounts in their news packaging was very low. Fig 8: discloses (50%) confirmed that eye-witness accounts influenced their news content to large extent, (30%) partially and (20%) not at all.

Fig 9: indicates that (83%) viewed the need for more eye-witness accounts while (10%) did not and (7%) could not say anything. Fig 10: discloses that (60%) remarked, there were challenges in their use in the news production while (20%) and (20%) said there was none and “can’t say” respectively. Fig 11, indicates that (33%) claimed ownership influence was one the challenge they encountered, (20%) abusing report of being bias, (40%) exaggeration, (7%) I don’t wasn’t to talk. Fig 12: discloses that (47%) strongly agreed that eye-witness accounts might cause big problem if not verified appropriately while (43%) agreed, and (3%) strongly disagreed while disagreed (7%).

## 7. DISCUSSION

The result of the findings indicated that majority (67%) of the respondents in both stations confirmed that awareness of eye-witness account in their content while they used of more of physical eye-witness accounts than any other available ones in their news packaging as affirmed by (70%). It was also discovered that (50%) agreed that physical eye-witness accounts were paramount and hence, evident that physical eye-witness accounts were enormous in the news packaging of both stations to a large extent. Majority (80%) agreed that the rate at which they use physical eye-witness accounts in their news packaging was very high as they were more objective, authentic, and balanced compared with online version. This further confirmed the relevance of credibility theory to the study as media audience will want to get news laced with ethics and principle of journalism. Majority (50%) acknowledged the accounts influenced their content to large extent. These findings agreed with Goh (2007). According to him, citizen journalists helped to cover the hyper-local news that concerns their daily lives, but that the mainstream media did not have the resources or time to cover report on what happened in the neighborhood than the residents themselves. Adenekan (2018), discovered that, broadcast media derived much from witnesses account as it is not possible for the reporters to be at everywhere.

In the same vein, findings revealed that (67%) attested to good and conducive conditions of news process. (86%) as revealed they gave consideration for eye-witness accounts in their news content while, (50%) as their large extent usage indicated a kind mix-grill not totality. However, the level of their influence was high as affirmed by the (60%). These findings are supported by Aririguzoh (2006) who claimed that, reporter may not be at the scene of event, he needs to rely on the clips and claims of eye-witnesses to get report of whatever happened. Cross (2010), also supported these findings by asserting that, social production of news, journalistic practices, and influences on news content has contributed to an understanding of the use of news sources, the journalist-source relationship, and the potential effect selective source use has on the framing of news stories.

Findings also showed that reporters in *OGTV and Rockcity FM* encounter different challenges which include: ownership, abuse of reporter of being biased, exaggeration of event, people might not really want to talk to mention but a few. The exaggeration of event was witnessed in the report of Cable News Network (CNN) independent report over what it called “*how a bloody night of bullets quashed a young protest movement*” during #End SARS protest in Lekki Tollgate Plaza as a result of unverified claims gotten from citizen journalists’ social media platforms which were evident in its video. It took the intervention of Federal Government for the station to disclaim it report. Nevertheless, this study has proved that eye-witness accounts were inevitable as news source(s) in television and radio stations. With reference to the findings, it is evident that the witness accounts in terms of reality and actuality as well as citizen journalism complement mainstream media on the area which they might not reach and do better report on what happens in the neighborhood than the residents themselves.

## 8. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that *OGTV and Rockcity FM* stations gave considerations for eye-witness accounts in their news packaging in very high rate. The stations used physical eye-witness accounts more in their news packaging because physical eye-witness accounts were more objective, authentic, and balance than online version. However, ownership

influence as well as authenticity and impartiality of accounts in news coverage were part of the challenges reporters (respondents) encountered while using eyes-witness accounts in their news production

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the recommendations suggested:

1. So far, the use of eye-witness accounts are inevitable in news production of broadcast stations, larger percentage of physical eye-witness accounts should be engaged for balance, objective and authentic information, so as to keep the general public abreast of credible information.
2. As the rate of eye-witness account usage is very high in the broadcast stations and it can be exaggerated, broadcast media must be careful from any information taking from eye-witnesses, so as to avoid defamation or grandstand on exaggerated event(s).
3. There is likelihood of challenges from unverified accounts of eye-witnesses, broadcast media should double check information gotten in order to avert litigations and what may drag their names into disrepute.

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