

**COVERAGE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN NIGERIA:
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SELECTED NEWSPAPERS PRE
AND POST COVID-19 LOCKDOWN**

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JULY, 2023

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BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE
STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF SCIENCE (M.Sc) IN
MASS COMMUNICATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS
COMMUNICATION, COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

JULY, 2023

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this thesis is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of the Master of Science (Msc) in Mass Communication in the Department of Mass Communication, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota.

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DECLARATION

I, OGUNDOWO OLUBUKOLA JOHANNAH, (21PBE02336) hereby declare that the research project was carried out and written by me. All sources of information used in the work were acknowledged accordingly. Therefore, I stand liable for matters arising from the work.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the project titled **“COVERAGE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN NIGERIA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SELECTED NEWSPAPER PRE AND POST COVID-19 LOCKDOWN”** was carried out by Ogundowo Olubukola Johannah with Matric no 21PBE02336, Department of Mass Communication, College of Management and Social Sciences (CMSS) Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Masters (M.Sc) Degree in Mass Communication under the direct supervision of

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to the Almighty God, the maker of the whole world, my faithful father and Lord who has faithfully kept me safe throughout my journey from the beginning to the end of this programme.

To my Husband and my pillar Barr. Femi Ogundowo who stood by me, took care of the children while I am away and also encouraged me through all the difficulties I faced during this programme, I say Thank you.

To my dependable mother, Mrs Aderonke Shopekan whose advice kept me going, I say thank you, Mum.

And to my supervisor, Dr Babatunde Adeyeye of Covenant University, I say a big thank you. For all you do.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to God Almighty, The Chancellor Dr. (Bishop) David Oyedepo, The Vice Chancellor Prof. Abiodun Adebayo, The first female Head of Department – Mass Communication, Dr. Kehinde Oyesomi and all faculty members of Mass Communication, Covenant University for the successful completion of this academic programme against all odds.

This academic work was made possible by the efforts of my supervisor Dr. Babatunde Adeyeye who played a pivot role in my life and tireless fine-tuning this project, despite his busy schedule, in the department, especially with the final year students of Mass Communication Covenant University. May God reward your efforts over me.

Also, to Dr. Evaristus Adesina, our MSc. PG Coordinator who never give up on me and knew I needed help and decided to guide me through this project and defence, I say a big thank you.

I must not fail to recognise and appreciate the efforts of all other lecturers I passed through in the Department of Mass Communication from Late Prof. Lai Oso, Prof. Rotimi Williams Dr O. Odiboh, Dr Lanre Amodu, Dr. Tunji Oyedepo and Dr. Kehinde Oyesomi my HOD for your immeasurable knowledge imparted in me and Mrs Bukola Adewunmi our Admin Officer you are a great support system to me always. God bless you all.

Special gratitude to my darling Husband, Barr. Femi Ogundowo and my three awesome children Elijah Omotomiwa, Testimony Oluwadarasimi, and Emmanuel Oluwajomiloju, many thanks for your understanding, your love was a major drive on this programme, love you guys plenty.

To my bestie Mrs Lara Onababjo and Dr Ganiu Okunnu, both insisted I should pursue my MSc at Covenant University because you both believed in me, my acknowledgement is incomplete without you, God bless you and your wonderful family.

Lastly, to the Director General of NABDA Abuja Head office, The Coordinator Biodec Owode Centre Dr Henry Oshagbemi (my direct boss), and colleagues here at Ogun State, I say thank you for releasing me to study.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFP- Agence France Presse

CSO- Community Security Organisation

FGN- Federal Government of Nigeria

ICU- Intensive Care Unit

MCH- Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin

NDHS- National Demographic and Health Surveys

NGO- Non Governmental Organisations

NPC- National Population Commission

PRB- Population Reference Bureau

SPSS- Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

STD- Sexually Transmitted Diseases

UN- United Nations

UNAID- United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

VVF- Vesicovaginal Fistula

WHO- World Health Organization

ABSTRACT

This study examined the coverage of teenage pregnancy in Nigeria: a comparative analysis of selected newspaper pre and post-COVID-19 lockdown. Previous Study focused on the causes and effect of teenage pregnancy while the study focuses on proferring solution to stop teenage pregnancy and eradicate the social stigma faced by teen mothers. The study objectives to determine the frequency of teenage pregnancy reportage comparativly in the selected newspapers, examine the most popular genre of reporting teenage pregnancy, ascertaining the directions/slant of teenage pregnancy stories, identifying the sources of information on teenage pregnancy reports, identify the frames used in reporting teenage pregnancy and ascertain the underlying factors that determine the coverage of teenage pregnancy in the selected Nigerian newspapers (*Punch and Vanguard*) in pre and post-COVID-19 lockdown period. The study employed a mixed methods approach of content analysis for the newspapers while in-depth interview was used to generate data from the two newspaper editors purposively sampled. Coding sheet was the instrument used to analysed data generated from the content analysis and presented in frequency tables while thematic analysis was used to present the in-depth interview responses using interview guide as the instruments. The results show that 2019 had more coverage of 72.2% in Vanguard on teenage pregnancy reports than in Punch that had 28.7% Nigerian newspapers during the pre and post-COVID-19 lockdown is very low and insignificant..Accusations, arrests and adjudication are the predominant frames and narratives used in teenage pregnancy reportage in the selected newspapers as preventive measures and support for teen mothers received least reportage. Human interests are factors that influence the social responsibility role of the mass media the reportage of teenage pregnancy issues in Nigerian newspapers but secrecy, stigma, stereotypes and legal restrictions tend to inhibit successful media coverage. The study aligned with the SDG Goal 3.7 on sexual and reproductive health by 2030 and recommends public enlightenment by the media, advocacy and Government support for teenage mothers while using more in-depth empathy/slant on preventive measures reportage for teenage pregnancy in partnership with government agencies and non-government organisations to discourage social stigma against teenage mothers.

Keywords: Covid-19, Media, Newspaper, News reportage, Teenagers, Teenage Pregnancy