Chapter Twenty-Two

Digital Media, Fake News and Nigeria's National Development

Aniekan Aniefiok Udonquak, Kufre Joseph George
Patrick Samuel Ekpe, Comfort Effong Williams &
Edikan Nseobong Ukpong

Introduction

The surge and innovations of digital media have created situations where information can be disseminated at an unprecedented scale and speed. From video sharing to event streaming, digital media provides tools in ways that previously were not possible for people and organisations to reach audiences. Uzochukwu (2023), states that digital media has fostered increased interactivity between content providers and audiences. Other digital media tools, such as social media platforms, allow for feedback and comments and therefore provide two-way communication systems between individuals and organizations. This has revolutionised the way information is consumed because people are no longer able to receive it only but also comment, criticise, and produce discourse around it (Haruna, 2021). By implication, this allows individuals and organisations alike to generate contents that suit the needs and preferences of their target audience, which will also make communication and engagement more effective.

According to Smith (2021), this has allowed a growing diversification of voices to emerge, making the conversation about national development issues more dynamic and informed. The democratisation of information has also broken down geographical barriers because, through digital media, people access and share information across borders. The idea here makes the world more connected and interdependent, where ideas, values, and information can spread in no time, often outworking physical and cultural borders (Allen & Duru, 2021). Therefore, digital media has provided a platform for people and organisations to speak in louder voices and be heard across the world, creating networks and co-producing knowledge. This way, they avail chances to expose diverse perspectives and experiences of national development discourses for consideration and exploration through an approach to development processes that are more inclusive and equitable (Edwards,2016).

However, with the uprising of digital media, a surge in the access and usage of social networking sites has created equal opportunities for the touting of fake news. Fake news refers to information that is misleading or untrue, postulated as if the information were news. This recently developed factor has turned out to be

discard public health directives like the use of masks and social distancing. This has further spread the virus and worsened the challenge for public health officials in trying to contain it. Consequently, it may show disastrous consequences in terms of public health; fake news can have disastrous effects, and there is a desperate need to make sure people have real and actual information.

On different aspects of the Nigerian economy, there has been an observation of a fall in the rate of foreign investments on account of miscommunication regarding the policies of the country and the opportunities available for the same. It has been false reports of insecurity, political instability, and corruption that gave reason to doubt the country's economic prospects and led to potential investors shying away from making investments in the country. This has resulted in a negative impact on the Nigerian economy through reduced investment, job creation, and economic growth that were not anticipated. For instance, a report by NOI Polls in 2019 showed that the sustained flow of fake news on ethnic killings seemingly brought about a decrease in tourism within the country.

Fake news has marred the reputation of companies in Nigeria and their various brands, as both local and international customers have started distrusting such companies (NOI Polls, 2019). This is done by making sure that false or misleading information about such companies is passed on to destroy trust and confidence among customers. It usually creates a pattern of taking on major firms with frivolous accusations of wrongdoing or an evil act, or with bad stories, to tarnish their name in the eyes of their customers (Akure, 2019). Once such kind of news goes viral on social media and the rest of the platforms, then the reputation of the company is the one that is tarnished, and it might lose long-term customer patronage. As Simeon & Shedrack (2023) observe, this may result in a loss of sales revenue and even new customer acquisition. The result therefore is that fake news tends to have adverse effects on the reputation and bottom line of companies and brands in Nigeria, thus requiring actions that reduce fake news to preserve the image and goodwill of Nigerian companies and businesses (Okunna, 2016).

According to Amadi, (2019), during the 2019 presidential election, fake news played a major role; all manners of false news stories were spread on social media platforms, most often aimed at winning an election. The 2019 presidential election in Nigeria was defaced by the spread of news through social media. The election saw its fair share of farfetched lies about the candidates, their policies, and their personal lives to continue to pull in a certain direction. Examples of the said fake news stories on the election include claims that one of the candidates was cloned, that foreign powers were planning to rig the election, and that a certain ethnic group was going to boycott the vote. These news stories went on to be widely propagated through social media with the sole intention of convoluting, dividing, and misguiding voters (Adum & Chukwudi, 2021).

Digital media, fake news and Nigeria's national development: The marriage

The effect of digital media on Nigerians in their style of disseminating and consuming information is irrefutable. Anim & Ekpo (2023) emphasise that increasingly, the growth of digital media in Nigeria has heralded a dramatic turn in the way information is consumed and disseminated. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have become critical tools for disseminating information to connect with the public, and this transformative potential of digital media fosters connectivity to people and information. On the other hand, its evil twin of fake news has emerged to become a national threat for inciting violence and social uprising. It is doubtless true that the speed of newsbreaks today and the ability to share it across a wide audience instantly have come with enormous advantages.

But this evolution has its dark side, emanating from an increased incidence of fake news. It can be used to bring a general breakdown in our national development, provoking violence, and destroying reputations. This may be done by entrenching mutual distrust between the citizens and the state and making the citizens lose confidence in the critical institutions that are needed to make national development possible (Sifon, 2019). Violence will be triggered by the distribution of false information. It will create a distorted picture of the whole event enflaming hatred among the different groups. It can also cause damage to properties and loss of lives (Abiodun, 2018). Last, fake news will result in a bad image of persons, organisations, and the country as a whole through reputation damage. It leads to reduced trust, or loss of confidence, and a fall in business and investment opportunities, in essence, a hindrance to national development. In this light, there is an urgent need to understand the impact of fake news on national development and how it battles in light of a continually changing era of digitization (Bamidele, 2022).

For instance, Nigeria, one of the most used countries in the world, has 27.4 million active social media users, accounting for 13 per cent of Africa's usage (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). But with increasingly growing users, fake news always seeps into the platform, mostly in manipulated images or videos and disinformation across many social media platforms. One of the recent examples of fake news spread on social media in Nigeria was regarding the End SARS protest. Pictures and videos were passed around on social media about flagrant acts against citizens by security personnel, which were later found to be false. These images and videos formed the basis for widespread demonstrations and clashes, which significantly caused property destruction and loss of life.

Another example is the story shared across Facebook and Twitter in 2020 that Muhammadu Buhari, the head of state in Nigeria, had died and been replaced by his

particularly dangerous because it can have serious consequences on the mass psyche of people and further deteriorate into harming the outcomes of elections, public health, and social welfare. Most of the fake news is passed via social media, as it is not a big deal to share and amplify it. The lack of regulation and no clear fact-checking in the world of digital media makes this data propagation very simple. Furthermore, the vastness of information available on the Internet confuses the consumer about selecting what is real news and what is fake, which thus lessens the consumer's trust in media.

The prevalence of fake news has further compounded Nigeria's developmental challenges. By all intents and purposes, fake news can be said to have instigated inter-ethnic conflicts, instilled fear and panic among the populace, and ruined public figures and institutions' reputations (Ekong & Godwin, 2023). This not only leads to a massive threat to national security but has served to incite violence and culminate into civil unrest. The impact of the phenomenon on the national development of Nigeria is, therefore, not to be ignored, and the country should be able to work out strategies to stem the tide of fake news. This paper, therefore, is aimed at assessing the relationship between digital media, fake news, and the national development of Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Within the past decade, digital media has become a significant avenue for the dissemination of information and a driver for events that take place worldwide. On the other hand, this has consequently brought about an increased presentation of fake news through digital media avenues, which, when compared to real news, has led to various problems in societies, economies, and political systems around the world. It has bitten deeper into the fabrics of nations, with Nigeria not being an exception, irrespective of whatever growth has been recorded in the nation's digital media landscape within the last ten years. This spread of fake news through social media platforms, blogs, and vlogs is seriously contributing to the erosion of the national values that hold the country together and are capable of denting the economic prospects of the country. These developments, however, have not yet been fully understood concerning their implications for the national development efforts of Nigeria, and such an analysis is rather imperative. The overarching question the study, therefore, seeks to address is: How does the prevalence of fake news on digital media affect Nigeria's national development efforts?

The objectives of the chapter include, to determine the level of prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria; to find out whether fake news on digital media platforms influences national development efforts in Nigeria; and to investigate the extent to which fake news on digital media platforms influences national development efforts in Nigeria.

It is therefore hypothesized that:

H_1: The level of prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria is not uniformly distributed.

H_2: Fake news on digital media platforms positively influences national development efforts in Nigeria.

H_3: The extent to which fake news on digital media platforms influences national development efforts in Nigeria is uniformly distributed

Literature Review

Digital media and fake news in Nigeria

Digital media have heralded a great paradigm shift in the ways of interaction and information consumption in Nigerian society. New digital media platforms such as social media, blogs, and other online news and information sites have transformed the way information is disseminated and consumed in Nigeria. Individuals now have more sources for news and can consume information in real-time. The growth of digital media has equally made it rather easy for people and organisations to be involved in the creation and dissemination of content, whether in news, opinions, or commentary. It democratises the media landscape because various voices are heard while it creates space for citizen journalism and different forms of alternative news sources to blossom. All these shifts in information consumption patterns have made digital media very popular in Nigeria.

Tunde & Bolanla (2023) pointed out that Nigeria had more than 123 million Internet users as of April 2019. Out of this number, 82.5 million Nigerians were active on social media. Equally, there was a wide increase in the use of mobile gadgets, with more than 122 million subscribers. For news and information, digital media have become the first point of contact, as 39% of Nigerian adults use them. Where digital media have democratised access to news and information in real-time, their increasing growth is bringing in a development challenge in the form of fighting the all-pervasive sway of fake news for Nigeria's media industry. In Nigeria, it has been in recent years fake news has most definitely been the bane of digital media platforms and has caused grievous harm to the nation's democracy, ethnic and religious groupings, and economy (Ayo, 2022).

Meanwhile, the BBC reported in 2018 that fake news had instigated a disease outbreak, once again proving the case that false reports on cures and treatments influence public health decisions. Consequently, fake news related to cures and treatments of diseases can lead to distorted perceptions among the general public and, therefore, mislead health decisions, thereby spreading illnesses. These included the farfetched cures and treatments for COVID-19 that aired on social media, thus making people practice self-medication without any evidence or even

Sudanese double. This hoax caused confusion and created panic; many citizens began to question if the response by the government was real, and this went a long way in jeopardizing the country's reputation internationally. Sensational stories, poorly researched information, and so on can be passed on as news without verifying the facts or discharging due diligence before sending them out. The consequences of that may be disastrous because, in essence, fake news can serve as fuel to ignite and flare up conflicts in the country.

According to Awuah, Agyeman & Mbamalu (2018), the dangers of fake news lie in its potential to fuel and flare up conflicts in the country. The negative influence of fake news on the national development of Nigeria can be distinctly traced in several aspects. One such area is in the health sector. During the COVID-19 outbreak, social media played a key role in the spread of fake news, including the news that concerned the virus and its cure remedies, hence weakening the COVID-19 response by the government. Therefore, the global nature of fake news on an enormous scale in social media can affect how well-prepared government policy is on public health issues in meeting future challenges posed by a pandemic. How the propagation of fake news impinges on the public health strategy can readily be seen through how the false stories about COVID-19 vaccinations have been spread on social media (Ndume, 2022).

Theoretical Framework

Technological Determinism Theory

The Technological Determinism Theory was propagated by Marshall McLuhan in the early 1960s. The theory states that technology is the dynamic factor at the root of societal changes and has strong and direct impacts on the development of social structures, cultural values, and individual behaviours. Huge societal changes come out of technological changes, which eventually compel people and institutions to adapt themselves and develop new ways of thinking, behaving, and organizing (Ezeagwu, 2016). However, critics argue that technological determinism overlooks the role of human agency, social context, and political-economic factors in shaping technology's impact. It is also criticised for being overly deterministic, ignoring how society influences technological development. Nevertheless, this theory provides an important resonance concerning the complex interplay between digital media and fake news and how these elements impinge on national development in Nigeria.

Human Machine Theory

The Human Machine Theory is a product of Norbert Wiener's (1948) works which was later expanded by others like J. C. R. Licklider (1960). The theory states that people and technology work as one single unit the technology extends human

capabilities, and there is mutual dependency between people and machines. The theory assumes that human behaviour would largely be dictated by the advances that would have been made in the field of technology while technology is made for the betterment of human senses and resources, thus giving a more effective performance. A major criticism of the theory is the concern that the theory overestimates the reliability of machines, overlooks ethical concerns like bias in algorithms, and underestimates the potential for misuse, such as in spreading fake news or manipulating digital media. This is particularly important in the aspect of fake news, which spreads very fast through digital media platforms. For instance, during the Nigerian 2023 presidential election, various false stories and fake news were spread on social media platforms, reaching millions of Nigerians within hours. This relationship between fake news on digital media and its impact on Nigeria's development efforts is what this study seeks to establish.

Methodology

The study adopted the mixed-methods approach to investigate the influence of fake news through digital media on Nigeria's national development. The population of this study comprised 237 Mass Communication lecturers in select government-approved higher institutions of learning in Akwa Ibom State including the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State University, Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic, Heritage Polytechnic Ritman University and TopFaith University. The purposive sampling technique was used to select respondents who have not less than 3 years of lecturing experience and are registered members of the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON), Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), and the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ). The final sample size comprised ten (10) lecturers from each of the higher institutions of learning above, making a total of sixty (60) respondents. Descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages were used to analyse the responses obtained. To test the hypothesis, the **Chi-Square Goodness-of-Fit Test** was deployed.

RESULTS

Table 22.1: RO 1: The level of prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria

Options	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Very high	41	68
High	12	20
Moderate	7	12
Low	-	-
Very low		
Total	**60**	**100**

Source: Field Data 2024

The majority (68%) of respondents believe that the level of prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria is very high.

Chi-Square Test 1

The calculated Chi-Square statistic is 35.2, and the critical value for 4 degrees of freedom at a significance level of 0.05 is 9.49. Since the calculated Chi-Square statistic (35.2) is much greater than the critical value (9.49), we reject the null hypothesis (H_o). This indicates that the prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria is not uniformly distributed. There is a significant variation in the prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria.

Table 22.2: Influence of fake news on digital media platforms and national development efforts in Nigeria

Options	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Yes, it hinders national development efforts	5	8
Yes, it influences national development efforts negatively	7	12
Yes, it influences national development efforts positively	4	7
No, it does not influence national development efforts	9	15
Yes, it misleads citizens and can cause them to lose faith in development initiatives	10	17
Yes, it can influence public opinion and funding for development projects	3	5
No, development efforts are strong enough to overcome the impact of fake news	15	25
Not sure/Don't know/Can't say	5	8
Others	**2**	**3**
Total	**60**	**100**

Source: Field Data 2024

Table 22.2 shows that the responses are varied, with the highest percentage of respondents (25%) believing that development efforts are strong enough to overcome the impact of fake news, while 17% believe that fake news misleads citizens and causes them to lose faith in development initiatives. Only 7% believe that fake news has a positive influence, and 12% believe it has a negative influence on national development efforts, with 8% stating it hinders development efforts and 15% saying it does not influence at all.

Chi-Square Test 2

The calculated Chi-Square statistic is 18, and the critical value for 8 degrees of freedom at a significance level of 0.05 is 15.507. Since the calculated Chi-Square statistic (18) is greater than the critical value (15.507), we reject the null hypothesis (H_o). This indicates that fake news development efforts are strong enough to overcome the impact of fake news.

Table 22.3: The extent to which fake news on digital media platforms influences national development efforts in Nigeria

Options	Frequency	Percentages (%)
To a great extent	22	37
To some extent	27	45
To a limited extent	5	8
Not at all	4	7
Can't say/unsure	2	3
Total	**60**	**100**

Source: Field Data 2024

The table shows that 37% of respondents believed that fake news on digital media platforms influenced national development efforts in Nigeria to a great extent, while 45% believed that it influenced it to some extent. Only a few respondents (7%) believed that it did not influence national development efforts at all.

Chi-Square Test 3

The calculated Chi-Square statistic is 37.4, and the critical value for 4 degrees of freedom at a significance level of 0.05 is 9.94. Since the calculated Chi-Square statistic (37.4) is greater than the critical value (9.94), we reject the null hypothesis (H_0). This indicates that the extent to which fake news on digital media platforms influences national development efforts in Nigeria is uniformly distributed.

Discussion of Findings

The level of prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria

The majority of the respondents (68%) believe that the level of prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria is very high, with 20% believing it is high and 12% believing it is moderate. It is no news that Nigeria has been described as a hotbed of fake news (Akume, 2018). The prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms has become a major concern for Nigerians, and this study has shown that their concern is not misplaced. The Chi-square test conducted on this research question revealed that the prevalence of fake news on digital media platforms in Nigeria is not uniformly distributed, indicating that there is a significant variation in the prevalence of fake news in Nigeria. This finding supports the observations of Akume (2018) and Olumide (2019), who have raised concerns about the prevalence of fake news in Nigeria.

Influence of fake news on digital media platforms on national development efforts in Nigeria

The data showed that a quarter of the respondents (25%) believed that development efforts were strong enough to overcome the impact of fake news. This suggests that Nigerians have confidence in their development efforts, but they recognize that fake

news can influence public opinion and funding for development projects. On the other hand, 17% of the respondents believe that fake news misleads citizens and causes them to lose faith in development initiatives. The Chi-square test conducted on this research question indicates that development efforts are strong enough to overcome the impact of fake news. This finding agrees with the assertion made by Olumide (2019), who believes that despite the prevalence of fake news, genuine development efforts can still thrive.

The extent to which fake news on digital media platforms influences national development efforts in Nigeria

The majority of the respondents (45%) believe that fake news on digital media platforms influences national development efforts in Nigeria to some extent, while 37% believe that it influences it to a great extent. This finding supports the observation made by Ogbuji et al (2019) that fake news can cause panic and confusion among the populace, which can lead to a breakdown of law and order, and hinder national development efforts. However, the Chi-square test conducted on this research question indicates that the extent to which fake news on digital media platforms influences national development efforts in Nigeria is not uniformly distributed. This finding suggests that fake news may have a more significant impact on some aspects of national development efforts than on others.

Conclusion

From the findings, it has been observed that the prevalence of fake news on digital media in Nigeria is extremely high and not evenly distributed. Public opinion and funding for development projects can be affected, with fake news causing panic and confusion among the citizens, thereby forcing a retardation of national development. However, the study has also indicated that development efforts are strong enough to overcome such fake news impacts. The critical insight into the phenomenon of fake news and its implications for national development in Nigeria has been offered through this study. It is, therefore necessary that the government and media organisations work in collaboration with civil society groups and individual citizen's work on arresting the spread of fake news. This calls for some key policy and regulatory measures that would safeguard the citizens, guarantee freedom of speech, and determine liability among media platform owners.

The government of Nigeria should enhance regulatory frameworks that could inhibit the spread of fake news through digital media platforms. This means actions that will make the media more responsible with the information they put out into the public domain and transparent in their news reporting methods. Media literacy campaigns should be improved and propelled to train citizens in identifying and combating fake news. The citizens must be encouraged to verify information

anytime it is received before sharing or reacting to it. Media organisations and individual citizens should work toward responsible journalism practices through the responsible reporting and issuance of information that is factually accurate, non-biased, and objective. Social media platforms should implement and enforce more rigid policies toward combating fake news. The policies must involve tools that will aid in finding and pulling down false information, urban users who would continuously post fake news, and undertake measures to promote valid news reporting that has a basis.

REFERENCES

Abiodun, O. (2018). The menace of fake news to national development. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research,* 4(9), 41-44.

Abraham, L., & Maroon, J. (2019). The effects of digital media on individual and social behavior. *Journal of Media Research and Analysis*, 2(1), 32-46.

Adum, E. E., & Chukwudi, U. (2021). Fake news and electoral violence in Nigeria. *Journal of Political Science and Public Affairs*, 9(2), 1-12.

Akume, S. A. (2018). Fake news and Nigeria's democracy. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations,* 12(3), 26-34.

Akure, S. (2019). Fake news and its implication for Nigeria's economy. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development,* 10(3), 143-154.

Allen, L. O. & Duru, M. N. (2021). Digital media and its implications for national security: The Nigerian perspective. *Journal of Politics and Society*, 1(1), 27-41.

Allen, L. O., & Duru, M. N. (2020). Fighting fake news in Nigeria: A focus on digital media and social media. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 14(3), 45- 57.

Amadi, B. A. (2019). Fake news and Nigerian media industry: A discourse. *International Journal of Media and Communication Studies,* 7(3), 23-32.

Amadi-Obi, I. (2018). The impact of fake news on national development: A focus on Nigeria. *Journal of Media Research and Analysis*, 1(2), 5-14.

Amadi-Obi, I., & Eze, O. H. (2018). The rise of fake news and its implications for Nigeria's digital journalism. *Journal of Media and Communication Studies*, 4(1), 1-10.

Anim, E. S. & Ekpo, A. O. (2023). The effect of digital media on Nigeria's participatory democratic process. In R. N. Oparaocha & D. N. Opara (Eds.), *Social Media and Contemporary Political Processes in Africa* (pp. 39-55). IGI Global.

Awuah, R. K., Agyeman, J. K., & Mbamalu, I. V. (2018). Fake news and its implication for national development. *International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Literature*, 6(7), 33-45.

Ayo, O. O. (2022). The effect of fake news on national security and development. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 16(1), 56-67.

Bamidele, O. M. (2022). Fake news, digital media and Nigeria's national security: Towards a strategic control mechanism. *Journal of Strategic Defense Studies*, 1(1), 5-18.

Bassey, C. (2023). Understanding the impact of social media on the 2023 Nigerian presidential election. In S. E. Ubong, V. E. Edu, & B. O. Alemika (Eds.), *Political Communication and Governance in Africa* (pp. 67-85). Palgrave Macmillan.

BBC. (2018, June 7). Nigeria church collapses under heavy rain, killing worshippers. BBC News. Retrieved from https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-44380243

Caleb, A. (2022). Understanding the impact of fake news on public health in Nigeria. *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health*, 9(2), 567-574.

Drinkwater, G. (2019). The fallibilism of fake news. *European Journal of Communication*, 34(1), 3-4.

Duru, M. N. (2019). Digital media and its implications for Nigerian politics: An evaluative approach. *Nigeria Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 5(4), 13-21.

Edwards, A. (2016). Digital media and democracy: A new era of journalism in Nigeria. *Journal of Communication and Media Studies*, 8(2), 86-96.

Effiong, A. B. (2023). Digital media and mental health: An analysis of the effects, benefits, and drawbacks. *Journal of Mental Health and Clinical Psychology*, 1(1), 56-68.

Egor, K. (2019). Digital media and mental health: Examining the effects of frequent use of social media platforms. *International Journal of Applied Psychology*, 9(1), 56-65.

Ekong, U. A. & Godwin, P. E. (2023). Fake news and national development in Nigeria. *Journal of Mass Communication and Media Studies*, 3(4), 53-68.

Ezeagwu, C. O. (2016). The impact of technological determinism and social constructivism on technological innovation and society. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Research*, 4(1), 22-32.

Finbar, L. (2017). Fake news and its implications in society. *Journal of Media and Mass Communication Studies*, 3(2), 34-43.

Godwin, B., & Barrel, J. (2023). The rise and spread of fake news in Nigeria, implications for national security. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations,* 17(2), 1-15.

Haruna, A. (2021). Digital media, democracy, and the crisis of fake news in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Communication*, 18(1), 22-35.

Lekan, E. (2013). Fake news and implications for national security in Nigeria. *Journal of Defence Studies*, 2(3), 67-78.

Mission, G. O., & Dele, R. A. (2022). The impact of digital media on society: An analytical approach. *Journal of Content, Community & Communication*, 4(1), 21-34.

Mutter, P. (2021, July 17). The impact of fake news on Nigeria's democracy. Vanguard News.https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/07/the-impact-of-fake-news-on-nigerias.

Ndume, E. C. (2022). Fake news, social media, and the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria. *American Journal of Medical and Biological Research*, 10(2), 29-39.

Newman, N., Fletcher, R., Kalogeropoulos, A., Levy, D. A., & Nielsen, R. K. (2019). Reuters Institute digital news report 2019. University of Oxford.

Nigerian Communicaton Commission (NCC). (2019). Subscribers' access to and use of social media platforms in Nigeria. Retrieved from http://www.ncc.gov.ng

NOI Polls. (2019). Survey report: The impact of fake news on advertising and public relations in Nigeria. NOI Polls Limited.

Ogbuji, G. O., Nkwocha, I. G., & Onyeukwu, O. (2019). Fake news and national security in Nigeria: Issues and challenges. *International Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, 7(1), 23-33.

Ogbuji, N. N., Ede, L. O., Ogbuji, J. M., & Adibe, P. T. (2019). Impact of fake news on Nigerian society and national development. *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 3(1), 1-18.

Olaleye, O. B. & Adedayo, S. A. (2020). Effect of fake news on socio-political behavior among university students in South-west Nigeria. *Journal of Digital Media and Policy*, 11(2), 207-222.

Olumide, O. O. (2019). Fake news in Nigeria: An analysis of the causes and consequences. *The Nigerian Academic Forum*, 28(2), 43-59.

Oyeama, U. C. (2022). The Impact of fake news on national development. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 16(1), 12-23.

Oyovwe-Tinuoye, G. (2019). The impact of fake news on media literacy education in Nigeria. *Journal of Media and Communication Studies*, 11(5), 66-77.

Perrin, A. (2019). Share of US adults using social media, including Facebook, is mostly unchanged since 2018. Pew Research Center.

Sedoof, F., Fried, O., & Michael, O. (2016). Fake news detection in social network: A deep learning approach. arXiv preprint arXiv:1606.08415.

Sifon, E. E. (2019). Fake news and its impact on Nigeria's economy and development. *Journal of Economics and International Business Management*, 7(2), 21-29.

Simeon, T. A., & Shedrack, N. O. (2023). The impact of fake news on company reputation: A focus on Nigerian companies. *Journal of Business and Management Studies*, 6(1), 45-56.

Tunde, A. A. & Ayomide, O. O. (2017). The effects of digital media on Nigerian political campaigns. Communicatio: South African. *Journal for Communication Theory and Research*, 43(3), 58-73.

Tunde, A. A., & Bolanla, A. F. (2023). Social media in Nigeria: Implications for education, politics and national development. *International Journal of Social Science Research and Technology*, 2(1), 105-117.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2020). Africa human development report 2020: Innovative financing for Africa's development. Retrieved from https://www.africa.undp.org/.../ahdr2020innovative-financing- africa-s-

Uzochukwu, H. C. (2023). Digital media and development in Nigeria: An appraisal.

International Journal of Communication and Society, 12(1), 39-49.

Yusuf, A. (2021, February 24). Fake news and the Nigerian media. Al Jazeera. https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2021/2/24/fake-news-and-the-nigerian- media.