

**CTIZEN JOURNALISM: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES
IN NIGERIA ASA DEVELOPING NATION**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Efkigwa Yiase Dogari declare that this project titled "CITIZEN JOURNALISM: "PROSPECT AND CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA AS A DEVELOPING NATION" is aproduct of my research work. All references in this work have also been dulyacknowledges.

Signature

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project was carried out by EFKIGWA YIASEDOGARI with matriculation Number NSU/PGD/MCM/0002/17/18 has been approved as meeting the requirement for the award of Post-Graduate Diploma in Mass Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences, Nasarawa State University Keffi.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to God Almighty and My parents Mr and Mrs Yiase S.

Dogari

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I count this as one of the blessings from my heavenly father to attain this academic height praise is upon God almighty for his mercies upon us all. My sincere appreciation goes to my disciplined supervisor Dr. K.S Akpede for his patience and constructive criticism on my work which has made this work a success. Also my department lecturers Mallam Muhammad Rabiu, Dr. K.S Apede, Dr. Anthony Igyuve, Mr. Tony Ogande, Dr. Akase, Millam Saliwu, Mr Santas thank you for all the years of lecturing and impact on us (student). My profound gratitude and appreciation goes to my father and mother Mr. Yiase S. Dogari and Mrs Rautha Dogari for their moral upbringing and financial assistance. Finally, all whose efforts and contribution towards the success of this program were not mentioned are duly appreciated May God in his goodness guide and keep you all. Amen

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ABSTRACT

This project, citizen journalism: prospect and challenges in Nigeria as a developing nation. The study employs the survey research method for data collection. Findings from the study indicate that benefit of citizen journalism practice makes known the happenings around societies, and exposes things journalist would want to cover or ignored. The findings also revealed the challenges confronting citizen journalism practice are publishing or posting of fake news on the internet, content providers, reporters and internet users are not well trained and citizen journalism are not govern by the ethics of the profession. Furthermore, the findings also reveal that there will be a future where significant information will be posted online or internet, there will be an informed society and there will also be increase in the number of internet users. The conclusion thus indicates that in other to avoid the control the challenges using the social media, the government must encourage citizens of the country to be computer literate and also to create a free ICT training centre that would help in creating awareness about the use of social media both as a tool for communication.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

The growth of modern technology and the sophistication of society over a period of time became a big challenge for traditional media of communication. In order for the media to survive this challenge, they resorted to the coverage of news with economic benefits as against the interest of the citizens. On the other hand, the citizens having discovered this development, decided to look for a way out in satisfying their quest to know the happenings around them. The consequence of this development became a situation where the citizens would source for news themselves without it passing through the normal journalistic process. Adelabu (2008, p. 364) captured the vivid picture of this development when he avers that: Many mass media organizations are busy repackaging and becoming more interested in meeting advertisers' needs rather than readers'/audiences needs, many people through the help of information technology most especially, the internet are redefining the rules and roles of the game.

Another issue that led to the emergence of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria is the fact that the happenings around us far supersede the manifest content of traditional mass media. This simply means that most events occur without being reported either because there is no conventional journalist on site or none assigned to cover such beat. Burkholder (2010, p. 1) captures the essence of this statement when she notes that.

More often than not, major news happens and there is no one around to report it. By way of interviews and records of the event, reporters are able to re-create it for the morning paper. Unfortunately, there is usually not the opportunity to capture news in the making with a photograph. But when the London underground was bombed on July 7, 2003, photos of the event were published on websites and blogs, and made their

way to the mainstream media. It was the people with camera cell phones that captured the images, not reporters.

By definition, citizen journalism practice is a term which describes the act of individual within a given society, community, state or nation engaging in the gathering, processing and publishing of news materials. In this case, individuals on their own create web pages where they publish news material collected within the society. They are able to do this due to the prevalence of modern technology. In most cases, they employ mobile phones and other recording materials which enable them to snap and cover event which are later posted on the web.

According to Wikipedia (2010, p.1), “citizen journalism (also known as ‘public’, ‘participatory’, ‘democratic’ or ‘street journalism’) is the concept of members of the public playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing and disseminating news and information”. This is equally the view of Bowman & Willis (2003, p. 9), who defined citizen journalism as “the act of a citizen, or group of citizens, playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing and disseminating news and information, in order to provide independent, reliable, accurate, wide-ranging and relevant information that a democracy requires”. They added that “credibility, thus, would be an almost natural attribute of a citizen-journalist, since eyewitness reporting comes in large part from people’s desire to share their stories and publish the truth”.

Educause Learning Initiative (2007, p. 1), in their opinion of citizen journalism aver that “citizen journalism refers to a wide range of activities in which everyday people contribute information or commentary about news events”. Furthermore, “the concept of citizen journalism has been applied to wide variety of practices, underpinned by the idea that active participation in media production by non-professional actors is potentially a mode of political engagement” (Markham, 2009, p. 1). However, a true

picture of citizen journalism practice can be gotten from the account of Educause Learning Initiative (2007, p. 1) as they record that:

When the G8 Summit came to town, a local university sponsored a citizen journalism project to cover the event. For three days, the G8 leaders gathered to discuss issues including trade, the environment, international security, and social welfare. The summit also drew protesters from a number of countries, and the project addressed not only the summit itself but also the issues raised by critics. Students from disciplines including journalism, economics, political science, sociology, and environmental science were recruited to participate. They would write stories dealing with their areas of study, posted on a web site along with photos and video of the event. Before the meeting began, the students researched the G8, its positions, and the agenda for the summit. The sociology students interviewed members of some of the groups protesting the meeting and posted stories on the site about efforts to raise awareness of what the groups saw as shortcomings in the G8's approaches to a range of environmental and economic issues.

Two groups of protesters were from the university, and this connection gave the sociology students greater access to, and understanding of, those protesters than the throngs of mainstream media could obtain. In some cases, individual protesters submitted angry, even hostile comments to the site. As long as they did not violate the site's prohibitions against obscenity or libel, however, the comments were allowed to stand as part of the broad picture painted of the summit. As bloggers picked up some of the stories, readership increase sharply, as did the comments submitted. In the end, the students made important contributions to the news while developing a keen sense of how not only to make insightful observations based on discipline-specific knowledge but also to communicate those ideas in a balanced way to a general audience.

Explaining the concept of citizen journalism, Glaser (2006) avers that the idea behind citizen journalism is that people without professional journalism training can use the tools of modern technology and the global distribution of the Internet to create augment or fact-check media on their own or in collaboration with others. Supporting this statement, Bowman and Willis (2003) avers that the essence of citizen journalism is to provide independent, reliable, accurate, wide-ranging and relevant information that a democracy requires.

The latest trend in citizen journalism is the concept called “hyperlocal citizen journalism”. This term represent a situation where media houses call on resident individuals within the community where they operate to submit news stories or articles. Wikipedia (2010, p. 4) gave more insight into this new development when it notes that “a recent trend in citizen journalism has been the emergence of what blogger Jeff Jarvis terms hyperlocal journalism, as online news sites invite contributions from local residents of their subscription areas, who often report on topics that conventional newspapers tend to, ignore.” It is important to note that a lot of citizen journalism happens on sites and forums where citizen journalism is not the main focus. It just crops up as warranted. Therefore, any venue might occasionally offer some citizen journalism (Contentious, 2010, p. 4).

Considering the rich nature of the subject under investigation, the researcher intend to find out the major benefits, challenges and prospects of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria. This study will help to determine the stance of citizen journalism practice in the country and what the future holds for it.

1.2 Statement of Problem

As media houses concentrate in making money in order to keep the organization running, the citizens are some worth ignored in the process. Most of the contents of the news covered do not really reflect the interest of the people. Hence, the people, not

being satisfied by the development, resort to citizen journalism. However, most Nigerians are computer illiterate and the country lacks some basic infrastructural facilities that will make manifest the concept of citizen journalism practice. This situation informed the need for the investigation into the benefits, challenges and prospects of citizen journalism in Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study is aimed at achieving the following objectives to:

1. Ascertain the benefits of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria.
2. Find out the challenges confronting citizen journalism practice in Nigeria.
3. Ascertain the prospects of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the benefits of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria?
2. What are the challenges confronting citizen journalism practice in Nigeria?
- 3, What are the prospects of citizen Journalism practice in Nigeria?

1.5 Scope of the study

This study intends to identify the prospects, possibilities and challenges of citizen journalism in Nigeria. The work is also limited to the use of social media by citizens to disseminate information across the country. Moreover, the study covers Keffi town of Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

1.6 Significance of the study

The new media has to a large extent reversed the order of communication in terms of its flow from one-way to an interactive process. It has also increased peoples access to the media of communication as a means of expressing opinions.

Citizen journalism has been trailed by mixed reactions over the years. While some commentators have spoken so glowingly about the benefits of this brand of Journalism, others have almost over-emphasized its downsides.

It has already been noted that citizen journalism offers professional and non-professional journalists alike opportunities to be active participants in news content creation. With it, members of the public are no longer helpless passive consumers of news. They are now content creators. Citizen Journalism has broken the hitherto seemingly endless monopoly of the mainstream media. As such, Journalism is today democratic and participatory.

According to Educause Learning Initiative (2007), by granting access to just anyone to cover the news, citizen journalism presents a more personal, nuanced view of events and has the potential to cultivate communities of people with a common interest. Through blogs, citizen journalists have broken stories about political corruption, police brutality, and other issues of concern to local and national communities. Another rather amazing benefit of citizen journalism is that it delivers news almost at the speed of lightning. It has surpassed the immediacy of the broadcast media (radio and television).

Citizen journalism, via the social media, spreads news like wild harmattan fire just in split seconds, apparently because the news does not need to wait for any editor to process it. Feedback is also immediate. The audience has the opportunity to react to the news instantly, and even add to the content. This is why citizen journalism has been called “We Media.” In fact, we can simplify it by calling it “Our Media.” This is because the content of this brand of journalism is what we make it.

The foregoing benefits of citizen journalism notwithstanding, it has some downsides. One of such challenges is the question about the veracity of its content. Some commentators have criticized citizen journalism as a new way of spreading falsehood and other unethical practices in the name of journalism.

Potential false news reports are just one of the many possible ramifications of sourcing news from anonymous sources. The news could be factually correct, but have flaws like blatant disregard of ethics, lack of objectivity, impartiality and balance. It

could also be a hidden agenda or opinion sugarcoated as fact or a libelous or defamatory statement that puts subjects in the story in bad light. In mainstream media, a process of verification and checks called gate-keeping can weed out any such inaccuracies and biases. Gate keeping, so it's called, is done by experienced and trained journalists and editors, using tools and skills like knowledge of the law and in house or commercial stylebooks such as the Associated Press Stylebook.

1.7 Definition of significant operational terms

This section focuses on some of the key concepts upon which the whole gamut of the study hangs. Some of these concepts are used with peculiar meaning to the study hence the need to explain them as used in the context of the study. It is noteworthy that such meanings must not conform to the general or lexical meaning and application of the words/concepts, but remains valid and relevant in the context of the study.

Such words include:

- 1. Citizen journalism:** An emerging form of journalism made possible by the advent of the new media where the citizens gather and report information about happenings around them using the available media at their disposal.
- 2. Social media:** These are Websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking. Examples include Facebook, 2g0, WhatsApp, twitter, LinkedIn, flicker, YouTube etc.
- 3. Information and communication technology (ICT):** is another/extensional term for Information technology (IT) that stresses the role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunications (telephone lines and wireless signals), computers as well as necessary enterprise software, middleware, Storage, and audio-visual systems, which enable users to access, Store, transmit, and manipulate information.

4. **Democracy:** A system of government that takes into cognizance, the will and views of the masses and tries to yield to the public expectations. It is described as government of the people, by the people and for the people.

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CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Preamble

The 21st century which has been tagged the “information age” is undergoing serious transformations in the business of information dissemination and reception massively. The internet and the world wide web which are at the forefront of this transformation have eased access to information so much such that the communication process which hitherto was a linear process, emanating from a source/sender to the receiver has become an interactive process, where the interlocutors inter switch roles so frequent, so that it becomes difficult _to identify who is the sender/sources and who is the recelver/destination after all!

We have found ourselves in the social media boom which is setting the pace for public discussions. Politics is not an exception to this, thus political opinion formation via the social media is no longer a difficult task. This chapter takes an excursion into the world of social media; particularly as it affects political opinion formation. This is intended to link the study with the body of knowledge in existence, and as well lead us to the cutting edge/frontiers of knowledge to enable the study contributes its quota to the existing body of knowledge.

2.2 Review of concepts

This section takes into consideration the key concepts that constitute the bulk of the study. These concepts will be put into proper perspective to enable the research to be properly delimited.

1. citizen Journalism
2. social media
3. democracy

2.2.1 Concept of citizen journalism

Explaining the concept of citizen journalism, Glaser (2008) avers that “the idea behind citizen journalism is that people without professional journalism training can use the tools of modern technology and the global distribution of the Internet to create augment or fact-check media on their own or in collaboration with others.” Supporting this statement, Bowman and Willis (2003) avers that the essence of citizen journalism is to “provide independent, reliable, accurate, wide-ranging and relevant information that a democracy requires”.

The latest trend in citizen journalism is the concept called “hyper local citizen journalism”. This term represent a situation where media houses call on resident individuals within the community where they operate to submit news stories or articles. Wikipedia (2010, p. 4) gave more insight into this new development when it notes that “a recent trend in citizen journalism has been the emergence of what blogger Jeff Jarvis terms hyper local journalism, as online news sites invite contributions from local residents of their subscription areas, who often report on topics that conventional newspapers tend to, ignore.” It is important to note that a lot of citizen journalism happens on sites and forums where citizen journalism is not the main focus. It just crops up as warranted. Therefore, any venue might occasionally offer some citizen journalism (Contentious, 2010, p. 4).

Historically, the idea that average citizens can engage in the act of Journalism has a long history in the United States. The modern citizen Journalists movement emerges after journalists themselves began to question the predictability of their coverage of events such as the 1988 U.S presidential elections. Those Journalists became part of the public or civic Journalism movement, a counter measure against the

eroding trust in the news media and widespread public disillusionment with politics and civic affairs.

Today the scope of citizen Journalism has widened, courtesy of the internet and social, media sites such as You tube, face book, blogs etc. that enable the audience to create and share contents of whatever kind to the masses.

2.2.2 Types of citizen journalism media

Lasica J.D in his essay “what is participatory Journalism” classifies media for citizen Journalism into the following types:

1. Audience participation (such as Wser comments attached to news stories, personal blogs, photos or video footage captured from personal mobile cameras, or local news written by residents of a community.
2. Independent news and information websites (consumer Report, the Drudge Report in U.S)
3. Full-fledged participatory news sites (Now public, Oh my News, Digital Journal. Com, Ground Report etc. in U.S)
4. Collaborative and contributory media sites (slash dot, KuroShin, News vine-in U.S)
5. Other kinds of “thin media” (Mailing lists, Email, Newsletters).
6. Personal broadcasting sités (Video broadcast sites such as KenRadio).

2.2.3 The concept of social media

According to Olise (2014) Social media are online communications media that use web 2.0 technologies which enable users to download, upload, interact and collaborate with one another regardless of distance and time. Social media is the use of technology combined with social interaction to create and co-create value. Olise further argues that social media is a shift in how people discover, read and share news information and content.

Social media involves a fusion of sociology and technology to transform the process of communication from monologue to dialogue i.e. The practice of information emanating from one person to many people has been reversed to enable many people communicate too many people at a time. Some of the common social media sites that enable users to post and share content are face book, twitter, flicker, YouTube, weblogs, Whatsapp, 2go, among a host of others.

In his submission, Nwabueze (2009) posits that today, anyone through social media can post news online, making it possible for the wide-spread of information across the globe. Citizens post regularly information, journals and comments on social media like weblog, twitter, face book, WhatsApp etc.

Nwabueze argues further that, through social media, readers, viewers, listeners or other audience now get involved in the world of news and information dissemination. Social media has thus become the driving force of this generation, and that is why Olise (2014) has to assert that:

The level of awareness created by social media has greatly affected the way different people in different locations use them. Journalists and concerned citizens alike are so awash by social media messages because of their perceived timelines, immensely and wide coverage. In fact social media have become like the air that pervade the existence of human beings

2.2.4 Social media and citizen journalism: the fusion

As one could rightly predict, social media provide a conducive atmosphere for citizen journalism to thrive. It thus serves as a means of expression for citizen journalists who have find the various social media sites as potent tools to fast tract the massive and rapid spread of information through blogs, groups, and pages etc. that prevail or abound on the sites. Olise who concurs absolutely to this argument site two examples to support the positions with:

The dramatic video coverage of a nude lecturer in one Nigerian higher institution sexually assaulting a female student Who had alleged that the lecturer has been demanding for sex as the only means for her to pass the course, the video clip of the scenario was posted on facebook (Olise 2014).

In another scenario, the tragic event that took place along the Benin-Ore-Sagamu express way was reported by citizen journalists first, where some travellers from Lagos to the eastern part of the country were ran over and killed by a driver who was avoiding being robbed by armed robbers. The driver thus ran over the passengers of a luxurious bus who lay on the ground at the instance of the armed robbers in the middle of the night. The passengers were unfortunately mistaken for wood barricades by the driver who ran over them. This pathetic tale was shot by eye witnesses, who posted it on face book and sent same to conventional media organizations. We could go on and on and on ad infinitum giving instances and illustrations to justify the usefulness of social media to citizen journalists, but the fact remains that social media provides a potential means for the smooth functioning of citizen journalism.

2.2.5 The concept of democracy

Democracy as a concept originates about 2400) years ago in ancient Greece. It simply means “rule by the people”, Democracy requires that each individual be free to participate in the political community’s self-government. To this end, political freedom lies at the heart of the concept of democracy. Basically, democracy connotes rule by the people through free and fair elections and other forms of participation.

Galadima and Goshit (2013) submits that the Athenians of ancient Greece, progenitors of democracy have not left us in dearth of definition for the concept, conceiving of it in their days as government of the people, by the people and for the people. To this end, democracy entails popular sovereignty, political equality, recognition to the consent of the governed as well as free and fair elections among other

forms of participation. Powel (1982) thus outlines the five basic criteria that are key to identifying contemporary national democracies as follows:

1. Legitimacy of government rests on its claim to represent the desires of the citizens. Government exists and is therefore accountable to do what the people want;
2. There is regular and competitive electoral process for choosing political leaders and voters can choose from alternative candidates:
3. Most adults can participate in the electoral process both as voters and as candidates for election;
4. Citizens vote in secret, free from coercion, and;
5. Citizens and leaders have freedom of speech, assembly, press and organization.

Democracy puts accent on people's participation. Everyone involved should be carried along, and this is where the role of the media becomes necessary. Galadima and Goshit (2013) who are of this opinion posit that an environment of dialogue is *sin qua non* for the sustenance of democracy, but this cannot be achieved unless the media and other essential fabrics that hold democratic institutions are in place. The trending social media and citizen journalism that allows for participation and unlimited access to all among other virtues are thus central to the sustenance of modern democracies.

2.3 Review of related literature

Right from the time of the modern man, people have long to exercise their right to communicate their personal views and Opinions over issues of public importance. In one way or the other, citizens' participation in communication has existed. However, Educause Learning Initiative (2007, p. 1) gave inkling into the history of citizen journalism when it opined that "over the years, citizen journalism has benefited from the development of various technologies, including the printing press — which provided a medium for the pamphleteers of the 17th and 18th centuries — the

telegraph, tape recorders, and television, each of which offered new opportunities for people to participate in sharing news and commentary. With the birth of digital technologies, people now have unprecedented access to the tools of production and dissemination.”

However, Wikipedia (2010, p. 2) gave its own version of the history of citizen journalism but with reference to United State of America. To Wikipedia:

The idea that average citizens can engage in the act of journalism has a long history in the United States. The modern citizen journalist movement emerged after journalists themselves began to question the predictability of their coverage of such events as the 1988 U.S. presidential election. Those journalists became part of the public, or civic, journalism movement, a countermeasure against the eroding trust in the news media and widespread public disillusionment with politics and civic affairs. Initially, discussions of public journalism focused on promoting journalism that was “for the people” by changing the way professional reporters did their work. According to Leonard Witt, however, early public journalism efforts were, “often part of ‘special projects’ that were expensive, time-consuming and episodic. Too often these projects dealt with an issue and moved on. Professional journalists were driving the discussion. They would say, “Let’s do a story on welfare-to-work (or the environment, or traffic problems, or the economy),” and then they would recruit a cross-sections and chronicle their points of view. Since not all reporters and editors bought into this form of public journalism, and some outright opposed it, reaching out to the people from the newsroom was never an easy task”. By 2003, in fact, the movement seemed to be petering out, with the Pew Center for Civic Journalism closing its doors.

With today’s technology the citizen journalist has found new life as the average person can capture news and distribute it globally. As Yochai Benkler has noted, “the the capacity to communicate to make meaning – to encode and decode humanly

meaningful statements — and the capacity to communicate one’s meaning around the world, are held by or readily available to, at least many hundreds of millions of users around the globe (Wikipedia. 2010, p. 2)

ThemeParkInsider.com, an online news medium, in 2001, became the first online publication to win a major journalism award for a feature that was reported and written entirely by readers, earning an Online Journalism Award from the Online News Association and Columbia Graduate School of Journalism for its “Accident Watch” section, where readers tracked injury accidents at theme parks and shared accident prevention tips.

Despite these developments, Wikipedia (2010, p. 3) noted that it was only until February 2003 that iBrattleboro.com was launched in Brattleboro, Vermont, becoming one of the first citizen-written news sites in the United States.

However, in 2004, a citizen journalism website called AssociatedContent.com was launched. The “People’s Media Company”, as they claim to be, was the first company to offer monetary compensation for their users that publish quality content in the form of articles, videos and audio clips, (Wikipedia, 2010, p. 2). More recently, all voices were launched in July 2008. The outlet uses a combination of technology and community to vet stories for authenticity and popularity. The site takes contributions from around the world via any Internet-connected device and its contributors frequently break stories before the mainstream media. All voices was also the first citizen journalism site to measure the credibility of contributed reports and their authors, providing readers with a gauge launched in March 2009 for assessing the accuracy of news accounts.

During the 2004 U.S presidential election, both the Democratic and Republican parties issued press credentials to citizen bloggers covering the convention, making a new level of influence and credibility for non-traditional journalists. Some bloggers

also began watch-dogging the work of conventional journalists, monitoring their work for biases and inaccuracy, (Wikipedia, 2010, p. 2).

Ever since 2004 till date, the popularity of citizen journalism has continued to grow to all parts of the world and Nigeria is no exception. Gradually, the citizens of the country are beginning to take part in the cause of citizen journalism.

2.3.1 Citizen Journalism Practice: The Nigerian Situation

With the advent of citizen journalism practice, journalism is no longer restricted to the trained professionals. The Internet and its associated multimedia technology such as cell phones, iPods and video cameras have expanded the frontiers of journalism practices to include practically everybody that has access to these technologies.

In Nigeria, citizen journalism has not really had strong footing due to the numerous challenges therein. Adelabu (2008, p. 369) notes that “the challenges facing Nigerian journalism is how to redefine the old model of journalism which sees the audience as an empty receptacles waiting to be filled with information selected by omniscience editorial and sees the consumers as those whose only interaction with the media is to buy what is sold or not (except on few occasions when the audience had the privilege of writing a letter, or opinion article which must be at the mercy of the editor to publish or dump in the refuse basket).” Though, most of the media houses in Nigeria are already going online, some still find it too difficult to managed online publications.

It is important to state at this point that online journalism practice has been a problem to many media organizations in Nigeria and they are not doing much to brace up with the challenges posed by the Internet and the multimedia technology.

However, since the media finds it difficult to meet up with the current challenges of using the internet, most citizens who are computer literates are beginning to make judicious use of the net. Some have gone as far as opening their own websites while some others have open blogs for themselves. To make sure that these sites and

blogs are functioning effectively, some of the owners are posting materials online for others to read. Some net users unconsciously post materials that are news worthy. Gradually, citizen journalism will become the other of the day. Again, Adelabu (2008, p. 369) avers that:

As more and more people embrace the Internet and other multimedia technology, they will no longer depend on traditional mass media to supply them with information. Rather, they will source and create their own to meet their taste.

The above quotation is an indication that citizen journalism practice would one day become a household name in Nigeria and that it would become an alternative and reliable source of news for the citizens.

2.3.2 Citizen Journalism Practice: “Publish, then Filter” vs “Filter, then Publish”

Publish, then filter is actually the conjecture of “open source journalism”, in which engaged citizens collaborate in gathering information, and complementing or correcting it according to the “wiki method” (Moretzsohn, 2006, p. 33). In a situation like this, the citizen journalist would have to write his/her story and have it corrected with the aid of a software located in the web page where the material is been published. As Bowman and Willis (2003, p. 35) indicate: We are talking about a type of journalism that is more feasible for “specialized niche markets”. It would certainly be the case of substituting one adverb for another by stating, instead, that this kind of journalism would be feasible only under these conditions. But, in this case, the participatory target audience’s level of qualification and outreach would limit the performance of this modality.

The issue of ‘publish and then filter’ is an approach which offers the opportunity to break the hegemony of the “venerable profession of journalism” as gatekeeper, with the audiences taking on a new role, by being able to create and disseminate news and information, (Moretzsohn, 2006, p. 31). The first example illustrating this point as

noted by Bowman and Willis (2003, p- 8) involves the events in the aftermath of the World Trade Centre attack.

Many of the largest news sites buckled under the huge demand, so users searched for alternate sources of information (e-mails, blogs and virtual forums), which, according to the authors, would stimulate the propagation of "do-it-yourself journalism". Blogs, therefore, would represent the most structured form of this "phenomenon that shows the markings of a revolution - giving anyone with the right talent and energy the ability to be heard far and wide on the Web.

On the other hand, professionals have argued that "the theory of publish, then filter" is not, and could never be, adopted by those who are aware of the responsibilities of journalism" (Moretzsohn, 2006, p. 34). To these professionals, the job of a real journalist is not a child's play. It transcends the issue of just covering events and reporting it. Rather, it involves the proper scrutiny of materials, analyses, gate-keeping and presentation of information to the public in an understandable manner.

Filter, then publish, is the belief of "real journalist". To those who hold this opinion, as recorded by Moretzsohn, (2006, p.35): "Real journalism" points out that "it's not enough that you tell a good story or capture beautiful images", because what makes that journalism different is "the standards", like "honesty, accuracy, fairness and integrity". Those standards are summarized in the "code of ethics", which includes, among other requirements, rules for verifying the source of stories sent in by the audience.

It should be self-evident that journalists are professionals who are authorized to have access to information and to places unavailable to the general public, and therefore should have the right to access sources from which they can gather relevant information for society at large, (Moretzsohn, 2006, p. 34). This is nothing more than the status given to journalists by the old concept of the "fourth estate of the realm" The BBC's

position on the concept of citizen journalism is obvious. The organization has Opined that it will not use material that has been gathered through illegal means and does regardless of their hot support the use of micro cameras and micro tape recorders dissemination - as it insists on respecting the right to privacy, (Moretzsohn, 2006, p. 34).

2.4 Review of empirical studies

2.4.1 Onyebuchi, C.A (2010) Benefit and Challenges of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria unpublished B.Sc submitted to the department of mass communication, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

This research explains the benefits and challenges of citizen journalism in Nigeria. However, since most citizen journalist are not well informed in the rudiments of journalism, they publish their news stories before thinking of editing it properly or gate-keeping some words. This process has been called "publish and then filter". But professional journalists strongly oppose this process, stating that media materials have to be checked properly before it is published.

The researcher employed survey method and random sampling in eliciting information from the sample size of 25 respondents selected in administration of questionnaires to have relevant data that will be used in the research. Therefore, the researcher recommended that Web publishing and reporting should be inculcated in the normal school curriculum in order to equip the citizens with the rudiments of online management, operations and usage. The researcher concludes that, with the growth of citizen journalism, it should be noted that the big problem with the concept is the question of credibility of news sources and content. Therefore, consumers of citizen journalism should understand that however well-intentioned a citizen journalist might be, reading the news with a skeptical eye is a good practice. The research work is

related to this present research in such a way that, both work emphasis on citizen journalism challenges and benefit in the Nigerian system.

2.4.2 Mbursa, J(2017) Audience Perception of Hate Speech and Foul Language in the social Media in Nigeria: Implications for Morality and Law. Unpublished B.Sc submitted to the department of Mass Communication Benue State University.

The study examined the phenomenon of hate speech and foul language on social media platforms in Nigeria and assessed their moral and legal consequences in the society and to journalism practice. It used both quantitative and qualitative methodology to investigate the phenomenon. In the first place, the paper employed the survey research methodology to sample 384 respondents using questionnaire and focus group discussion and foul language on social media have moral and legal consequences in the society and to journalism practice. Findings also shows that although the respondents understand that hate speech and foul language attract legal consequences, they do not know what obligations are created by law against perpetrators of hate speech and foul language in Nigeria.

The study therefore, adopted the quantitative, doctrinal and analytical methodology to discuss the legal consequences and obligations created against perpetrators of hate speech and foul language in Nigeria. The study conclude base on the findings that hate speech and foul language is prevalent on social media platform in Nigeria and there are adequate legal provisions to curb the phenomenon in Nigeria.

The research work is related to the present work in such a way that social media platforms is what citizen journalist use in disseminating information, foul language and hate speech on the internet.

2.5 Theoretical framework

This work is anchored on Mass Communication theories known as **Democratic Participant Media Theory and the Libertarian Press Theory**

2.5.1 Democratic - Participant Media Theory was actually developed by Dennis McQuail During the 80's This theory, according to Folarin (1998, pp.29-30), *"lies in its insistence that the existing bureaucracy as well as commercial and professional hegemony in media systems be broken down, so as to guarantee easier media access for all potential users and consumers". Explanatorily, Ojobor (2002, p.15) avers that "there is in this theory a desire for horizontal rather than vertical (top down) communication". The stimulus for democratic – participant theory has been the reaction against commercialization and monopolization of privately owned media or monopoly journalism, centralism and bureaucratization of public broadcasting institutions, (Okunna, 1999, 2002, p.15) Supporting the above statements, McQuail (1987, p.123) as quoted by Ojobor (2002, p.16) cited in Ojobor, as opined that one of the basic principles of the theory is that "individual citizens and minority groups have rights of access to media (rights to communicate) and rights to be served by media according to their own determination of need.

This theory advocates for the liberalization of the media for the common good of the people it is meant to serve. It believes that the people should have free access to the means of communication in order to better their lot. In a way, the theory vehemently opposes the monopolistic and rigid structure of traditional mass media. This theory is relevant to the work under investigation because it anchors itself on individual citizen's right of access to the media. On the other hand, this work focuses on the citizens' participation in information gathering and dissemination. Therefore, this theory provides a forum were citizens can have access to information gathering and dissemination. This analysis, no doubt, shows the relationship between the theory and the study under investigation.

The conclusion here is very significant. This is because it is only professional journalists that can attend to news stories professionally. However, citizen journalism serves as an alternative source for freelance journalists, considering the payment scale for "pods" (short videos from one to eight minutes). It also represents a good alternative for the audience, even if this alternative is still wrapped in the myth of news credibility.

2.5.2 The libertarian press theory. This study also hinges on the assumptions of libertarianism, a theory that advocates for freedom of expression perceives an individual as having a rational mind to decide which idea is good or bad, hence the need to allow for a "free market place of ideas", where good ideas will naturally "sell" and be preferred by the masses at the expense of the bad ones. Though a relatively old theory, the libertarian theory is quite relevant to global communication in the new media era.

According to Sambe (2008), the libertarian theory rose in opposition to authoritarianism in the 17th century, when monarchs were ruling most of Europe. At that time, the media were owned by the state, which only allowed the use of the media to trusted individuals or sages, hence denying media access to ordinary citizens. Consequently, the thought for press freedom arose, pioneered by libertarian philosophers such as Thomas Jefferson, John Milton, John Stuart Mill and John Locke.

Sambe (2008) states that the theory was adopted by England after 1688 and in US, out of the writings of Milton, Locke, Mill and the general philosophy of natural rights and rationalism. Its chief purpose is to inform, entertain and sell, but chiefly to help discover truth and to check government. The theory opens up media ownership and access to all who can afford it without restrictions being imposed by the state; with the "self-brightening process of truth" as the guiding principle.

Although developing countries found it difficult to adopt the theory at long after it has been propounded due largely to their uniqueness and inherent peculiarities that attracted them most to the authoritarian principle, the advent of the internet which has

deregulated the process of mass communication has helped to enthrone the free press ideology. Prior to the internet revolution, it was a common practice for governments in developing countries, most of which were by nature autocratic to gag the press at the slightest provocation, most especially when critical issues that could lead to negative public opinion about them were at stake. The opportunities offered by the new media have however overcome these barriers and regulations, making information to filter on social media and other web-based media. Freedom of expression in the new media era has thus come to stay, as it offers unlimited access to users, with minimal tendencies of restriction by the state.

Libertarian theory to this end, best provides explanation to the wide scale utilization of social media by concerned citizens not only during elections, but also for mobilizing the masses in developing nations to be actively involved in civil movements. This makes it the most suitable theory for the study.

2.6 Summary

Social media is creating a new generation of Nigerians who have neither power nor money but have influence. Whatever trends on twitter trends on traditional media? And what so ever trends on traditional media trends in the policy space. The wind of social media usage has gradually blown to this part of the world allowing those that are ICT literate to effectively digest and communicate information through it and for those who are not ICT literate it has provided a room for them to gradually catch up through the use of easy to understand interface.

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CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Preamble

This section of the study is devoted to dealing with the methods adopted in collecting the necessary data for the study. The section consists of: Research Design, Population of the Study; Sample size and Sampling Technique, instrument of data collection, administration of Instrument, Validity and Reliability of instrument and Method of Data Analyses.

Asemah (2012) says the essence of methodology is to enable those who will read the research report know the method used in investigating the phenomenon, so that they could see its appropriateness and the extent to which the result obtained in the study are consistent with the method specified. Thus, methodology is too important a section to overlook in a research study.

3.2 Research design

The research design for this work is survey method. This is more so because survey for the study of a sample of a given pollution in order to determine the current incidence, distribution, and interrelations among sociological and psychological variables. Speaking on the importance of survey to this study, Osuala (2005, p. 254) opines that the focus of survey is "on people, the vital facts of people, and their beliefs, opinions, attitudes, motivations, and behavior"

In his opinion, Nwabueze (2009, p. 60) defined survey as "a non-experimental, descriptive research method of obtaining exact facts about a current situation through sampling a population". Ohaja (2003, p. 11) supported the above definition when she opined that "survey is a study of the characteristics of a sample through questioning that enables a researcher to make generalizations concerning his population of interest"

3.3 Population of the study

This work deals with the benefits, challenges and prospects of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria. Therefore, the population of this work is supposed to be all citizens of the country within the reasonable age of 18 years and above. However, for the purpose of manageability of sample, and avoidance of guess work, the population of this work shall be all concern citizen of Keffi. Therefore, the population of the study envelops the population of Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, 92,664 at the 2006 census.

3.4 Sampling Technique

To arrive at a representative sample size for this study, the researcher relied on Cozby's sample size and precision of population estimates table, at +/- 5% confidence level. This sample size was considered adequate because as Fowler, (1984, p41) notes "a sample of 50 people will describe a population of 1,500 or 15million with virtually the same degree of accuracy. Therefore, the researcher intends to use the total of 120 respondents from the population size of Keffi.

3.5 Description of research instrument

An instrument in the context of research is a tool which is used to elicit data for analyses. Although several instruments abound in social science research, this study employs the use of questionnaire to generate the required data for analyses. A questionnaire is a set of questions on a given topic which have been issued to a respondent by a researcher to probe into a situation. It is a common tool in descriptive researches. Questionnaire has two basic types: open ended and structured questionnaire. A structured questionnaire provides options from which a respondent chooses, while open ended questionnaire allows the respondent to provide their own opinion on an

issue. Although both have their strengths and weaknesses, the questionnaire item in this study comprised both structured and open ended questions.

Social science research, this study employs the use of questionnaire to generate the required data for analyses. A questionnaire is a set of questions on a given topic which have been issued to a respondent by a researcher to probe into a situation. It is a common tool in descriptive researches. Questionnaire has two basic types: open ended and structured questionnaire. A structured questionnaire provides options from which a respondent chooses, while open ended questionnaire allows the respondent to provide their own opinion on an issue. Although both have their strengths and weaknesses, the questionnaire item in this study will be the structured questionnaire

3.6. Validity and reliability of data gathering instrument

Validity measures the degree to which the instrument used in a study is able to produce the desired data. The common question here is: can the instrument produce the required data? This entails the accuracy of the instrument and its ability to measure exactly what it ought to measure Reliability deals with the question of consistency, how regular and consistent is the instrument in providing the needed data? Can we arrive at the same results if we use the instrument elsewhere on a sample with the same characteristics or the results were obtained by chance? Validity and reliability are thus central in the appraisal of the research instrument. Of course a faulty instrument surely produces faulty data hence giving rise to faulty generalizations

3.7 Method of data collection

The instrument used for data collection in this study is the questionnaire. The researcher used questionnaire as an instrument, because, it is flexible. The questionnaire for this study contains carefully designed and moderated close -ended items for the respondents of this study to choose from an array of options. The questionnaire was divided into two sections A and B. while section A investigated the demographics of

the respondents, section B probed the opinions, attitudes and perception of the audience as regard the subject of this study.

3.8 Method of data analysis

The researcher uses descriptive statistic tools, precisely frequency tables and simple percentage to present and analyze primary data. This is because frequency tables bring about clarity in data analyses. Percentage enables us to see the degree of agreement or otherwise of respondents on an issue for the purpose of drawing inferences.

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CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Preamble

Data presentation means the various ways of carrying the different forms of data obtain through various data collection techniques to enable the researcher perform analysis and extract new meaning from it. For the purpose of this study, one hundred and twenty questionnaires were administered to respondents but one hundred were returned.

Section A

Table 1: Gender of respondents

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	59	59%
Female	41	41%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 1 show that 59 (59%) respondents were male, while 49 (49%) are females. This implies that the number of males is higher than the number of females.

Table 2: Age range of respondents

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
18-25	25	25%
26-35	40	40%
36 above	35	35%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 2 shows the age range of the respondents, indicating that 25 (25%) fall within the age range of 18-25; while 40 (40%) respondents is between 26-35 years and 35 (35%)

falls within 36 and above. This implies that the respondents are matured and appreciated the issues considered in the study.

Table 3: Marital Status

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Single	60	60%
Married	39	39%
Divorce	1	1%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 3 reveals that out of 100 respondents studied, 60 (60%) was single, while 29 (29%) were married and only 1 (1%) divorced. These means that more singles respondents attended to the instrument in the study.

Table 4: Academic Qualification

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
O' Level	8	8%
NCE	12	12%
HND	15	15%
B.Sc	65	65%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

From table 4, 8 (8%) respondents are O'level, 12 (12%) are NCE holders, 18 (18%) are HND holders, while 65 (65%) respondents are B.Sc holders.

Table 5: Occupation

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Students	42	42%

Civil Servant	19	19%
Business men	14	14%
Others	25	25%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

From table 5, it is clearly shown that 42 (42%) respondents were students, 19 (19%) were civil servants, 14 (14%) were business men, while 25 (25%) falls into other categories. This simply means that majority of the respondents 42 (42%) were students, while a significant percentage 25 (25%) goes to other category, 19 (19%) were civil servant and 14 (14%) are business men/women.

Section B

Table 6: How often do you surf the Internet?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Often	94	94%
Not often	6	6%
Not at all	0	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 6 shows that 94 (94%) respondents access the internet often, while 6 (6%) access the Internet but not often. This implies that all the 100 respondents surf the internet.

Table 7: how often do you post materials online?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Often	94	94%
Not often	6	6%
Not at all	0	0%

Total	100	100%
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Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 7 reveals that 20 (20%) respondents used the Internet very often, while 68 (68%) which has the highest percentage often post materials online and 12 (12%) respondents do not post materials at all.

Table 8: what are the natures of materials you post online?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
News	50	50%
Articles	25	25%
Comments	32	32%
Others	13	13%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

From table 8, 50 (50%) respondents post news online, while 25 (25%) post articles, 32 (32%) reply comment and 13 (13%) goes for others.

Table 9: Is citizen journalism practice highly supported in Nigeria?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Supported	60	60%
Highly supported	40	40%
Not supported	0	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 9 shows that the practice of citizen journalism is supported/highly supported in Nigeria because 60 (60%) of the respondents supported it, while 40 (40%) of the respondent highly supported.

Table 10: What are the benefits of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
It makes known the happenings around society	50	50%
It exposes things journalist would want to ignore	10	10%
It tackles news urgently	40	40%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 10 interprets the benefits of the practice of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria. The respondents attested to the fact that the practice of citizen journalism benefits are more than its challenges and cannot be over emphasized.

Table 11: are there challenges confronting citizen journalism practice in Nigeria?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
There are	100	100%
There are not	0	0%
Can't say	0	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

From table 11, 100 (100%) respondents (which is the total number of respondents) representing 100% says there are challenges confronting the practice of citizen journalism in Nigeria.

Table 12: which among these challenges do you think they confront?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Unprofessionalism	41	41%
Fake news	50	50%
Invasion of privacy	8	8%
Obscenity	1	1%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Data presented from table 12 shows that spread of fake news and unprofessionalism are some of the challenges confronting the practice of citizen journalism. Journalist and other social media users publish and post news online without knowing the source and verifying the authenticity of the news. While some people go as far as invading the privacy of people which might be prominent citizens or ordinary citizens.

Table 13: what are the futures of citizen journalism in Nigeria?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
A future of increase in the numbers of internet users	10	10%
A future where one can get anything from the internet	10	10%
A future of an informed society	40	40%
A future where significant information will be posted on the internet	40	40%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 13 shows that the respondents have positive mind-set about the practice of citizen journalism in the future. They believe that practice can improve if the challenges' confronting it is tackled.

40 (40%) respondents want significant/beneficial information to be posted on the internet, 40 (40%) respondents also wants an informed society. A society that educates her citizens of the latest happenings and everybody is carried along. 10 (10%) respondents want an increase in the number of internet users, while 10 (10%) respondents want a future where one can source for anything on the internet and get it.

Table 14: how can you rate citizen journalism practice in Nigeria over print and electronic media?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Fairly rated	52	52%
Highly rated	48	48%
Poorly rated	0	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

From table 14, citizen journalism practice is both highly and fairly rated over print and electronic media. The view of the respondents is that because of the challenges confronting the practice of citizen journalism.

52 (52%) respondents rated the practice as fairly while 48 (48%) respondents see the challenges as prospect and rated it highly.

Table 15: which are do you think can be improved to achieve its aims of becoming a veritable news source?

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage
Through enhancement of laws	5	5%
Censorship	20	20%
Through adequate regulation	15	15%
Training and retraining the content providers on the ethics of reportage	60	60%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey (2018)

From table 15, the aims of citizen journalism practice can be achieved through enacting of law according to 5 (5%) respondents, 20 (20%) respondents believe it goes beyond just enacting of law, they are in support of sensitization, sensitizing content providers and reporters of laws governing the practice. 15 (15%) respondents viewed it from a different angle, they want adequate regulation and enforcement of laws guiding the practice. While 60% respondents say training and retraining the content providers on the ethics of reportage will not only improve the practice but will help achieve its aim and objectives.

4.3 Discussion of findings

The purpose of this research work is to examine the prospects and challenges confronting the practice of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria. The following are the findings after analysis made:

The finding shows that the benefit of citizen journalism practice (see table 10) is that it makes known the happenings around societies, and exposes things journalists would want to cover or ignore.

The findings also revealed the challenges confronting citizen journalism practice (see table 12) which are publishing or posting of fake news on the internet, content providers, reporters and internet users are not well trained and citizen journalism are not govern by the ethics of the profession.

Furthermore the findings also show the prospects confronting citizen journalism practice in Nigeria. (See table 13). It reveals that there will be a future where significant information will be posted online or internet, there will be an informed society and there will also be increase in the number of internet users.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The study examined the prospect and challenges of citizen journalism in Nigeria. Citizen journalism describes a situation where members of the public play an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing and disseminating news and information. By the virtue of this definition, everyone is a potential citizen journalist.

Most citizen journalists own their own blog where they publish news stories. Others do submit their stories to websites designed for the purpose of citizen journalists or to well citizen from stories reporters. Media known Houses that do accept.

However, since most citizen journalist are not well informed in the rudiments of journalism, they publish their news stories before thinking of editing it properly or gate keeping some words. This process has been called "publish and then filter". But professional journalists strongly oppose this process, stating that media materials have to be checked properly before it is published.

In the first place the study in chapter one (1), social media has revolutionized and redefined the communication process, conferring to each subscriber, the status of a reporter, the audience were not only receivers of social media messages, but in varieties of ways acted as reporter, providing information.

In chapter two (2) the researcher reviewed literature and works that were related to the research work. Nwabueze 2009, Olise 2014, and Sembe 2008, come to a conclusion that the social media is creating a new generation of Nigerians who have neither power nor money but have influence through the use of the social media trends. It has created rooms for those who are ICT literates to effectively digest information and channel it; also providing rooms to those who are ICT literates as it provide rooms for easy digestion of information.

Survey research method, simple random sampling and questionnaires were used for data collection. The questionnaire method was adopted because, it could be custom to meet the objectives of almost any type of research work. Collected data were analyzed on tables, for ease of presentation and understanding.

Research question stated in chapter one (1) was answered in chapter four (4) using the data collected in chapter four (4). The result of the study shows that despite the challenges faced by citizen journalism, the prospect of citizen journalism is bright.

5.2 Conclusion

With the growth of citizen journalism, it should be noted that the big problem with the concept is the question of credibility of news sources and content. Therefore, consumers of citizen journalism should understand that however well-intentioned a citizen journalist might be, reading the news with a skeptical eye is a good practice.

Social media change how information was disseminated in Nigeria. Citizens accessed information directly and more accurately. Although social media also comes with a lot of challenges that must also be considered. The fact still remains that the short falls or challenges can be affectively managed or conquered partially and as such social media must be considered and integrated. Thus, in order to avoid the control the challenges, using the social media, the government must encourage citizens of the country to be computer literate and also to create a free ICT training centre that would help in creating awareness about the use of social media both as a tool for communication

5.3 Recommendations

Considering the nature of research questions raised in the cause of this work, the researcher is forced to recommend that:

1. Citizen Journalism practice should be encouraged by the government and private

establishments as a way of encouraging ICT development in the country. This can be done by subsidizing the cost of accessing the internet and making it more available to the citizens. Also, government should make sure that computers and all its accessories are made available to the public at cheaper rates.

2. Web publishing and reporting should be inculcated in the normal school curriculum in order to equip the citizens with the rudiments of online management, operations and usage.

3. Government should make sure that owners of website and blogs within the country abide to the laws of defamation, obscenity, and invasion of privacy. This can be done by setting up a body whose sole responsibility is squarely on monitoring the manifest content of internet materials.

4. This research work is highly recommended as a resource material for those who will like to carry out further studies in this area and other related area(s).

5.4 Suggestions for further studies

This study is neither perfect nor exhaustive enough to prevent further researches into this area. Therefore, there is need for:

1. Similar studies on social media in enhancing political development in Nigeria to be conducted.

2. The credibility of government in employing and using social media effectively should be researched into.

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Department of mass communication,
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Keffi,
Nasarawa State.

Dear Respondents,

RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a postgraduate diploma student of the department of mass communication
Nsuk conducting a research work on the topic "Citizen Journalism: Prospect and
Challenges in Nigeria as a Developing Nation.

Please kindly provide answers to the questionnaire as specified. Your responses
will be treated with utmost anonymity and used for the purpose of the research
response.

Yours faithfully,

Efkgwa Yiase Dogari

NSU/PGD/MCM/0002/17/18

QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A:

Kindly tick the appropriate answer.

1. Gender?

(a) Male (b) Female

2. Age

(a) 18-25 (b) 26-35 (c) 35 and above

3. Marital status?

(b) married (c) divorce

(a) Single

4. Educational background

(a) Leaving school cert (b) O'level (c) graduate

5. Occupation

(a) Student (b) civil servant (c) business (d) other specify

Section B:

6. How often do you surf the internet? (a) often (b) not often (c) not at all

7. How often do you post materials online? (a) often (b) very often (c) not at all

8. What are the natures of materials you post online?

(a) News (b) articles (c) comments (d) others

9. Is Citizen Journalism practice highly supported in Nigeria? (a) supported (b) highly supported (c) not supported

10. What are the benefits of citizen journalism practice in Nigeria?

(a) It makes known the happenings around societies

(b) It expose things journalist would want to ignore

(c) It tackles news urgently (speed flow of information)

11. Are there challenges confronting citizen journalism practice in Nigeria?

(a) There are (b) there are not (c) can't say

12. Which among these challenges do you think they confront?

(a) Unprofessionalism (b) fake news (c) invasion of privacy (d) obscenity

13. What is the future of citizen journalism in Nigeria?

(a) A future of increase in the number of internet users

(b) A future where one can get anything from the net (digital age)

(c) A future of information society (increase in information)

(d) A future where beneficial information will be posted on the internet or online

14. How can you rate citizen journalism practice in Nigeria over print and electronic

media? (a) fairly rated (b) highly rated (c) poorly rated

15. Which area do you think can be improve to achieve its aims of becoming a veritable

news source? (a) through adequate regulation of its contents (b) censorship

(b) Through enactment of law (d) training and retraining the content providers on the ethics of reportage.