

**ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF TWITTER BAN ON INFORMATION
DISSEMINATION IN NIGERIA**

BY

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**BEING A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled "Assessment of the Effects of Twitter Ban on Information Dissemination in Nigeria." was written by me and that it is the record of my own research. To the best of my knowledge, it has not been presented in any previous application for an academic award. All sources of information have been acknowledged using references.

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APPROVAL

This project is approved based on the student' s declaration and its compliance with the requirements of the Department of Mass Communication, Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Higher National Diploma (HND) in Mass Communication.

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DEDICATION

This work is especially dedicated to God Almighty

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ABSTRACT

This study examined Twitter ban and its implication on information dissemination. The objective was to examine if ban and negative legislature against the Twitter have negative or positive implications on information dissemination. The survey methodology was adopted and the questionnaire was used as instrument of data collection. The simple percentage method was used to present the data and analyse it. literatures were derived from the internet, journals, seminar and textbooks. The study found out that over time, the Nigerian environment has been hostile towards the internet, social media and even the conventional media. This is based on the fact that at various times, decrees and laws against the media have been promulgated. From the study, it was observed that Twitter ban has negative implication on information dissemination. It in this regard that this study recommended among others that the media freedom should be guaranteed for smooth running of democracy in Nigeria.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

In every culture, the media is tasked with informing the public. Educating, informing, and connecting the government and the people. People are exposed to what is going on in society through the media. In carrying out these functions, the media is expected to have a high level of mutual understanding with the public. The media, whether social or traditional, plays a critical role in guaranteeing the efficient operation of any democratic government. No wonder the former president of the United States of America stated that he would prefer a government with a press over a government with a legislative arm of government. This emphasizes the importance and necessity of the media in the administration of government.

Over time, Nigerian governments have come to regard the media as a thorn in their side. As a result, they continue to devise ways, regulations, and strategies to prevent the media from performing their jobs or playing their roles. This is despite the fact that the 1999 Federal Republic of Nigerian Constitution, which they swore to preserve, guaranteed such liberty. Section 39 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution guarantees and protects the right to freedom of expression in the following terms: "Every person shall have the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference" (1) Every person shall be entitled to own, establish, and operate any medium for the transmission of information, ideas, and opinions under this section, provided that no person, other than the government of the federation or a state, or any other person or organization authorised by the president on fulfillment of a condition given out by an Act of National Assembly, shall own, create, or run a television or wireless broadcasting station for any purpose whatsoever.

The drafters of the constitution, like the drafters of modern and advanced democracies' constitutions, acknowledge the role and value of freedom in modern democracy. Freedom of expression is critical for any country aspiring to be a democratic, rule-of-law state. The right to express oneself, as well as the right to receive what others express—access to information—comprise freedom. This means that freedom of expression encompasses more than simply free media and discussion; it also establishes the framework for how public services are delivered and how individuals make decisions about their daily lives. In this context, it is clear that freedom of expression can include many different elements, and it is unclear what these elements are and how to implement them.

The internet and social media have revolutionized how information is disseminated and accessed. The internet has closed the wealth divide. Thanks to social media offered by the internet, the lopsidedness that existed previously in the information distribution process has been eradicated. The Internet has transformed the way information is generated, gathered, processed, and disseminated. The Internet has become so prevalent that it now pervades people's daily lives and, to some extent, impacts their attitudes on topics (Ekwueme, 2008, p. 25).

Furthermore, with the Internet came the huge tech businesses that created life-changing social networking platforms. As of today, Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook, which also owns the messaging app Whatsapp and the picture-sharing app Instagram; Jack Dorsey's Twitter; Snapchat, YouTube, LinkedIn, Google Duo, Facetime, Telegram, and a slew of other social media platforms, have continued to dominate the cyberspace, breaking new ground and innovating in a variety of ways (Obiaje, 2021).

So far, social media has remained a tool for millions of Nigerians, particularly young people, who use it to connect with others, mobilize for public action, create relationships, conduct business, and get information.

As it has done in the past with traditional media, the authorities suggested legislation criminalizing criticism of the government on these social networking platforms. The government's crackdown on social media has been circulating for some time. In this regard, the Nigerian National Assembly is now considering social media regulatory proposals. A version titled "Frivolous Petitions Prohibition Bill 2015" was introduced during the 8th National Assembly in 2016 but was withdrawn due to intense complaints from concerned Nigerians.

Again, there are two more measures on this subject before the Nigerian Senate; the first is the reintroduced Hate Speech Bill, and the second is the Social Media Bill. There are two versions of before the chambers of both national assemblies.

In equal manner, another *Hate Speech Bill*, otherwise called the *National Commission for the Prohibition of Hate Speeches (Est. etc.) Bill 2019*, was sponsored by Senate deputy chief whip, who argued for the establishment of commission to regulate his subject matter. According to Emmanuel (2019), anyone found guilty of hate speech is liable to life imprisonment and if it leads to the death of another, the guilty party should be sentenced to death by hanging. The backlash from the Hate Speech Bill has seen its sponsor remove the attached death penalty and the senate distancing itself from the charade (Umoru, 2019).

On the opposite side and in order to give citizens access to information about government policies and decisions; the Nigeria's *Freedom of Information Act (FOI)* was passed into law in

May of 2011. Its passage was to enable the public have access to certain government information, so as to hold government accountable and ensure transparency (Coker, 2011).

It is an open secret that the Digital Right Bill which was initiated to protect internet and social rights of Nigerian was declined by the president, Muhammadu Buhari. The president and his handlers hinged the decline on the claim that the bill was full of technicalities that are capable of setting the nation on war path.

Very recently, the Federal Government through the Ministry of Information and Culture announced an indefinite ban of Twitter for what was described as a breach of Social media engagement rules in the country. This move came days after Twitter deleted a post by the Nigerian President for violating the platform's safety rule. Before this, President Buhari in a series of tweets threatened Biafra agitators, saying those responsible for the destructions of INEC properties would be treated the way a secessionist group, Biafra, was treated during the Nigerian civil war (Onireti, 2021).

The ban was condemned both by both national and international democratic commentators, describing it as a move to deliberately shut out social media which has become to voice of the people in recent. No doubt, freedom of information is an important prerequisite for a flourishing democracy.

In view of the above, this study examined the ban on internet and social media and its implication on freedom of information.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The internet and social in recent time has become the means through which communication is enabled. Since their emergence, social media have 'shrunked' the information gap that hitherto existed between the rich and the poor, governed and government. In many parts of the world, life without the internet is almost difficult to imagine. The internet has become much more than just a technology through which we can communicate or perform various private and public services—it is rather like the background against which we live large parts of our daily lives. The internet is the main medium that we use to interact with other individuals, enterprises or authorities, expressed. it is a necessary tool for exercising freedom of expression.

Due to it liberal nature, internet avail the mass of the people the avenue to freely express their opinion on issues that bothers on governance, education, processes, etc. Through the internet and social media, the people have an unhindered access to passing messages to their leaders.

Over times, the Nigerian leaders have considered the freedom that social media avail the people as a threat to the unity and corporate existence of Nigeria as an entity. Therefore, they have made several attempts at clamping down on social media. The researcher in this study examined the implication of social media ban on freedom of information.

Apart from the above, a lot of studies have been carried out on the implication of mass media ban on democracy and implication of mass media ban on freedom of information. However, there are little or no studies on the implication of social media ban on freedom of information. It was on this basis that the researcher examined the implication of twitter ban on information dissemination in Nigeria. A lot of studies have been carried out on government offensive policies towards the media but little or nothing has been done regarding the implication of the government's ban on twitter on information dissemination.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

The general objective of this study is to examine the implication of Twitter ban on information dissemination in Nigeria.

To examine the factors that led to twitter ban in Nigeria;

To examine the perception of twitter users of the ban on Twitter;.

To examine the implication of twitter ban on information dissemination.

1.4 Research Questions

In order to achieve the above objectives, the research will answer the under stated questions.

What are the factors that to the ban on twitter in Nigeria?

What is the perception of twitter users of the ban on twitter in Nigeria?

What are the implications of the ban on twitter on information dissemination in Nigeria?

1.5 Scope/Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to the implication of twitter ban on information dissemination in Nigeria. Geographically, the study is limited to Etsako west. This means that the data for this study will be gathered from Etsako West residents.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Literatures on this subject matter are still relatively scanty. Based on this, upon completion, this study will contribute to the body of knowledge thereby boosting the literature on this subject. In the light of this, the study will serve as reference material to future researchers who will be interested in delving into researching further on the subject matter.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The importance of freedom of expression for any country that aspires to be a democratic, rule-of-law state cannot be exaggerated. Freedom consists of both the right to express oneself and the right to have access to what others express—access to information. This means that freedom of expression does not just concern free media or debate but sets the stage for how public services are exercised and in what setting people can make decisions about their daily lives. In this context, it is clear that freedom of expression can contain many different elements

and what exactly these elements are and how to protect them changes in time, as the means of communication change (*Kelichavyi 2019*).

Corroborating the above, Udofa (2011) stated that Freedom of expression is one of the fundamental rights, which are universally recognised and protected. Constitutions of most countries of the world, Nigeria not excluded have expressly made provisions for protection of this right is not unconnected with the importance of the right to individual liberty and entrenchment of democracy.

In the Nigerian setting, the right to freedom of expression is guaranteed and protected in *Section 39 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria* in the following terms; every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom, to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference; Without prejudice to the generality of sub section (1) of this section, every person shall be entitled to own, establish and operate any medium for the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions provided that no person, other than the government of the federation or a state, or any other person or body authorised by the president on fulfillment of a condition laid down by an Act of National Assembly, shall own, establish or operate a television or wireless broadcasting station for any purpose whatsoever.

Moreover, the right to freedom of expression is also guaranteed under the various international instruments on human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this direction, *Article 19 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights* provides as follows: everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinion without interference and to seek, receive and impart information, and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. In the same regard, *Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political*

Rights provides for the right to freedom of expression as follows: that everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference: everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds etc. The *African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights Article 9* also made provision for the protection of the right to freedom of expression (Udofa, 2011, p.2).

Today, the internet is a key tool for freedom of expression and access to it is a prerequisite for exercising freedom. Ever since the internet and social media emerged, they have revolutionized information dissemination. The gap the hitherto existed between the rich and the poor in terms of access to information has been eliminated.

Importance of Social Media and Internet in Information Dissemination

The emergence of internet and social media is a major phenomenon in the 21st century that has transformed the interaction, communication and sharing of information between people throughout the world in. Social media most often refers to as activities that integrate technology, telecommunications and social interactions, and the construction of words, pictures, videos and audio. This interaction and the manner in which information is presented, depends on the varied perspectives and “building” of shared meaning among communities, as people share their stories and experiences (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2010, p.60). Some of the popular and widely used social networking sites include Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Blogs, MySpace, LinkedIn, among others.

Today, social media have become a natural part of the everyday lives of people all over the world. In the past few years, social media have shown a rapid growth of user counts and have been object of scientific analysis (McAfee, 2006). For example, more than 800 million people worldwide are members of the Facebook network (Facebook, 2019) while Twitter counts

more than 200 million accounts in total (HuffPost Tech, 2018). This development makes social media fantastic tools for communicating with large audience. The arrival of these social media platforms have continued to change the way people communicate with one another around the world. For example, mobile phone penetration rates, in particular, have resulted in a plethora of ideas for new media platforms aimed at bridging the information divide between the well-connected and the disconnected (Unwin, 2012, p.7).

In addition, Internet-based communication has equally started to gain importance in Nigeria in particular and Africa in general. Both mobile phones and the internet provide exciting new opportunities for one-to-one as well as one-to-many communication. The much reported rapid spread of mobile connectivity and services, as well as different forms of public and shared internet access like social media have allowed a growing number of people who may not have access to a computer or a fixed connection to take part in “the global conversation” (André-Michel, 2010, p.4).

With the internet as seen from above, people literarily have the freedom to express their opinions unhindered. This hitherto was not possible because of the sophisticated nature of the mainstream media. The advent of internet and social media opened up the hitherto barriers that prevented the people from having input on how they are governed.

Today, via the internet and social media, governance is in the public domain. Citizens can openly criticize government policies and commend good ones with such criticism and commendation getting to the appropriate quarters.

Importance of Freedom of Information in a Democratic Society

The experience of democratic countries with provisions designed to monitor and control the flow of information on the Internet reveals that restriction of the freedom of the media may

not withstand constitutional scrutiny. The degree to which the different constitutional protections in each nation can interact in this area varies across medium and nature of content. In particular, constitutional scrutiny of media access regulation has traditionally varied significantly by the predefined category of technology (print, radio and television), but constitutional debates surrounding modern digital platforms continue to be perceived in traditional terms (Blevins 2012). Media freedom is usually guaranteed or limited by media laws, but the advent of the Internet has highlighted how the traditional regulation and control policy can go beyond the regulatory mechanisms used on the traditional media. In particular, the global dimension of the Internet requires a shift from conventional media regulation. The promotion of freedom, access to information and pluralism of the media, including unrestricted media regulation, are all key aspects for supporting a concrete implementation of freedom of expression, which represents one of the basic elements of all democratic societies.

Freedom of Information Legislations: A Global Overview

Many countries around the globe have put into operation some form of Freedom of Information Act/Legislation (FOIA/FOIL). Some others are working towards introducing such laws, and many regions or countries with national legislation have local laws governing access to public data, records, and documents of state and local taxing entities. This is in addition to such country's freedom of information act/right/legislation which governs records and management of documents in the possession of government, public figures, private individuals, and public office holders charged with public duties. A basic principle behind most freedom of information legislations is that the burden of proof falls on the body asked for information. The requesters do not usually have to give an explanation for their request, but if the information is not disclosed a valid reason has to be given.

According to Wikipedia (10), 'Sweden's Freedom of the Press Act of 1766 is the oldest', hence, Sweden is the first country in the world to effect freedom of information legislation/act. In Australia, the Freedom of Information Act (FIA) was passed at the Federal level in 1982 applying to all Ministries, Departments and public authorities of the commonwealth. There are similar legislations in all States and territories of Australia. For instance, Australian Capital Territory has the FIA 1989; New South Wales has the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009; Western Australia has the FIA 2009, among others.

In Brazil the article 5, xxxiii of the Constitution states that 'everyone shall have the right to receive information of his own interest or of public interest from public entities which shall be given within the time prescribed by law'. Also Article 22 of the federal law No 8, 159/1991 in Brazil grants the right of 'full access to public documents'. There is not, however, any law specifying the manner and the timetable for the information to be given by the State. In Germany, the Federal Government passed a freedom of information law on September 5, 2005. The law grants each person an unconditional right to access official federal information. No legal, commercial, or any other kind of justification is necessary. Similarly, in April 2007 the State Council of the People's Republic of China promulgated the 'Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Open Government Information', which came into effect on May 1, 2008.

In Canada, the Access to Information Act (AIA) allows citizens to demand records from federal bodies. The act came into force in 1983, under the Pierre Trudeau government, permitting Canadians to retrieve information from government files, establishing what information could be accessed and mandating timelines for response. This responsibility is enforced by the Information Commissioner of Canada. In the United Kingdom, the FIA 2000 (2000 c.36) is the implementation on freedom of information legislation on a national level with the exception of

Scottish bodies which are covered by the freedom of information (Scotland) Act 2002 (Wikipedia 10). In South Korea, the Act on Disclosure of Information by Public Agencies was enacted in 1996 and went into effect in January 1998. It allows citizens to demand information held by public agencies as obtainable in most countries where FOIL is in operation. However, South Africans have gone a step further with their Promotion of Access to Information Act which became an act of parliament in February 2, 2000. It is intended to give effect to the constitutional right to access to any information held by the State and any information that is held by another person which is required for the exercise or protection of rights. The right to privately held information is an interesting feature of the South African legislation as most freedom of information legislations (FOILs) put in place by other countries only cover governmental bodies.

Countries with pending FOIL/FIA/AIA include Argentina, where national FOIL is pending, though some individual regions have legislations on a local level. In the Maldives, there is currently no FOIL. In 2004, the government announced that a Bill was expected to be passed in that year, but this is yet to happen. In Indonesia, the House of Representatives drafted and submitted a FOIB in 2004, but as of 2005 till date it remained dormant with the government taking no action. In Lesotho, the access and receipt of information Bill was before the parliament in 2003/2004, but the current status of the legislation is unknown. Countries like Barbados, Cayman Island, Mozambique, Fiji, Nauru, Jordan, Botswana, among others, are all on the list of nations yet to sign and implement any form of FOIL/FIA/AIA (Wikipedia 11). Nigerian, however, is one of the newest entrants into the league of countries with FOIL/FIA/AIA in place.

Obaze and Fashanu (4) assert that it is an accepted fact that in the modern space age of different and complex existence, an individual must be informed to understand and participate in the

world's socio-political and economic processes. This perhaps explains why over 86 countries across the world have implemented one form or the other of freedom of information legislation/act/right, ranging from the Freedom of Information Ordinance (FIO), Right to Information Act (RTA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Access to Information Act (AIA). In a related discourse, Omoera (61) contends that 'every forward looking and development minded nation ought to have one form of FOIL or the other enshrined in its process of governance'. This is because FOIL is a redoubtable platform for economic growth and sustenance of democracy. Thus, a transparent regime readily guarantees access to almost all national and private records, thereby engendering openness for all round development to take place.

Julian Assange of the Wikileaks fame may have taken up this campaign with intriguing dimension at the global level. He seems to be preaching a kind of 'openness' through an alleged unconventional means. His activities remind us of the 'Big Brother' phenomenon/idea that was first subtly enunciated by Eric Arthur Blair (1903-1950), popularly known as George Orwell, in his classic, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). In the novel like in his earlier work, *Animal Farm* (1945), Orwell reflected his profound suspicion of the totalitarian potential of modern technology. Julian Assange appears to have put to rest the 20th century suspicion of George Orwell by leaking the so-called 'diplomatic secrets' of the world in the hands of the United States of America (a technological giant) for all to see, hear and react. Although some persons and governments have criticized this development, it nevertheless does not obviate the fact that it directly confronts and challenges governments at various levels across the world to compulsorily make their citizens know the 'goings-on' in the governance process of their countries by making

government books, records and other documents accessible to all so that they too could constructively participate and engage those running the process.

In many ways, the media are implicated in this because of their prime role in national/transnational transformation and growth. Media scholars have debated the expected and acceptable role of the media. Most of these debates revolve round media's role as public servants, agenda setters, society watchdogs, and change agents (Balogun 25; Escobar 260; Berger 91; Momoh 20; Ekwuazi 204; Ibagere 107; Nyaole-Kowuo 265). However, the common thread that runs through the various submissions is that communication through the media (radio, television, newspaper, film, among others) is necessary for any form of development to take place in contemporary world where information supply, utilization, accessibility, and sharing is key.

The Nigerian Challenge

Across the world, press freedom is an issue of animated discussion given the role the press or media play in the socio-political and economic growth of any country. Baran (163) asserts that there is no development without communication. Whether we are communicating at the face-to-face level or through modern communication media, communication remains a critical factor in gauging the development of society. Corroborating the above but with specific reference to the Nigerian society, Darah (10) contends that mass media institutions constitute the most formidable foundation of modernization and development in the country. The press/media, in many ways serve as a barometer for the state of a nation's development. The flourishing of fundamental human rights which is an important ingredient of democracy has its taproot in freedom of expression. Adeyemi (151) had argued that throughout the history of mankind, the press has always occupied the forefront of socio-political and economic changes. The functional

imperatives of the press or mass media in any country cannot be fully explored if they are not free. Perhaps, it is in recognition of this fact that several countries all over the world have enshrined in their constitutions or sacred documents, the rights of the press to freely practice without undue interference except where an abuse is occasioned.

In the United States of America (USA), the first amendment of the constitution in 1886 fully guarantees press freedom in America. The United States Information Service in one of its 1992 publication entitled *Unfettered Press*, clearly states that it is unconstitutional for the congress to enact any law that inhibits free speech or a free press and to this effect, the freedom of information Act (FOIA) that further enhances a free flow of information was passed by the congress and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 4, 1966 and went into effect the following year (78). In Nigeria, though sections 22 and 39 of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria thrust the responsibility of upholding the fundamental objectives contained in the charter and to make the government accountable to the masses on the media, the FOIA that grants the citizenry unobstructed access to information was passed, with many clogs such as the disclosure clauses. This is a source of great worry to well-meaning Nigerians, development partners, civil society, and human rights/media organizations as the country strives towards the deepening of democratic ethos in its governance processes.

Media Rights Agenda, MRA (3) observed that despite the attainment of democracy in May 1999 and the contribution of the Nigerian media in the struggle for democracy by the Nigerian people, numerous actions of the Nigerian government all through the year 2000 tended to play down on this fact. Corroborating this view, Adeyemi (154) expressed the attitude of the Nigeria government towards the press/media, thus: ‘...Whatever the Nigerian media have contributed towards the realization of the present democratic governance counts for nothing...the

relationship between the press and the government did not show any improvement from what obtained during the military era'. Government adopted various methods to gag and keep the press under firm check. As of today, however, it may be said that there is a gradual improvement on the relationship between the government and the Nigerian media but the crises of threats to the lives and properties of media professionals such as kidnappings, arson, intimidations and even assassinations are still rife. The question that then arises is that of how effective media operations or operators can be under such hazardous working environment.

The lack of access to information in contemporary world creates room for rumour and this easily snowballs into speculations and crisis. For instance, the Aljazeera Media network in January 2011 reported a Tunisia diplomat as saying that corruption is an elephant in the room which nobody is allowed to talk about publicly in Tunisia; and after a long time of rumours, it precipitated into a countrywide violence and the eventual ousting of President Ben Ali who had ruled the country for 23 years. Another clear instance is the deliberate hoarding of information with regard to the health of the late Nigerian President, Umaru Yar' Adua between 2008 and 2010 when he died. The media and the entire populace groped for so long in the dark and dwelt largely on speculations. Prior to the death of former President Musa Yar' Adua his health condition was supposedly hidden from Nigerians as it was considered a government secret leading to wild rumours and dark prophecies about the fate of the President. The nation suffered unquantifiable image damage at home and abroad; in fact, Nigeria nearly grounded to a standstill owing to the information gap.

If a FOIA was in place in Tunisia as it is now in Nigeria it could have been a curative therapy for the cancerous menace of speculations amongst the Tunisian and the Nigerian publics particularly the media professionals who had to report 'something' whether speculative or not. The content

of the FOIA as passed in Nigeria provides that it has the power to quash the inhibitory official secret act and the penal code act. Besides, its enforcement would readily make information flow almost seamless and boost the Nigerian citizens' confidence in government vis-à-vis its decision-making and information management processes. In fact, most countries have a strong reason attached to the title they give to their legislations that guarantee information flow. This is sequel to the fact that seminars, meetings, conferences and sittings would have been done in the open to provide templates for critical thinking, transparency and accountability in governance. In the end, the rationale behind the decisions reached will be clear for all to see and verify. This ultimately projects Nigeria as a serious nation in the international arena.

Two hundred years ago, Thomas Jefferson, one of the greatest American constitutional figures, was quoted as saying that if he had to choose between a nation without government and a nation without newspaper (media) he would choose the former. This inimitable statement by Jefferson re-echoes the kind of power the media could wield. In the same breadth, O'Sullivan, Dutton and Rayner (36) argue that 'the press in the nineteenth century was the most important single medium for the communication of ideas, opinions and knowledge'. Ibagere (18) further remarks that the general functions of the media are classified into four broad groups following the Wrightian postulation: surveillance of the environment; correlation of information; transmission of culture from generation to generation; and entertainment. Perhaps, this is why Ufuophu-Biri (26) affirms that the media 'serve as a societal watchdog that prevents the perpetration of evil in the society by exposing both the planned and the real evils'.

Hence, the media enable journalists to effectively play the role of the

‘fourth arm of government’, that is, the people’s arm that is entrusted with the duty of checking the excesses of the government, the ruling class and the ordinary citizen of a state who decides to be wily.

The FOIL/FOIA is one of the greatest machinery any nation can have in the quest for justice, fairness and uprightness though some people have argued that such quality cannot confer on the media the status of a messiah. Nwakanma (17) contends that the ‘USA official reaction to Wikileaks is also telling us that there is no such thing as freedom of information. It is all a ruse. Nigerian journalists and NGOs have been funded to campaign for the freedom of information to allow access to Nigerian state secret’. But judging by the level of corruption reported in virtually all the sectors of the national economy in Nigeria, ranging from the banking to the educational sector down to the oil and gas and even the political arena, it is clear that corruption has eaten deep into the fabrics of the country. In this regard, one may disagree with Nwakanma’s position as FOIA is absolutely necessary for the free flow of information in the country which the media of radio, television and print are best positioned to do at the moment. This is in addition to the critical protection it will provide for whistleblowers in the system.

FOIA in Nigeria: Context and Media Effectiveness

The FOIA as recently passed into law in Nigeria would be of great benefit not only to the media but also to the government and the people because they have all groped for long in the dark. Though the FOIA is not a media-specific legislation, its benefit to the Nigerian populace as well as all agents of development including the media, is undeniable. This is because many governments across the globe, both national and regional have had reasons to ratify one form of FOI law or the other to increase access to information and correspondingly increase transparency and reduce corruption in their governance processes.

In Nigeria, the Federal Government's decision to make FOIL operational presupposes that it has the citizens' interest at heart. More pointedly, the issue of speculative journalism will recede as media professionals are expected to now have greater latitude in terms of access to information, which, in turn, reflects in responsible media practice aimed nation building. The FOIA will encourage excellence in journalism as it will ensure accurate reportage of events, and the public would be better informed as reporters are expected to get information cross-checked before publication. This thinking is consistent with the views of Jide Ogunluyi, Head of News and Current Affairs, Continental Broadcasting Service, Akure, in an oral interview. At the heat of the FOIB controversy in 2010, Ogunluyi had opined that the government must stop seeing the FOIB as a media Bill but as a legislation that will foster political development and economic advancement of Nigeria. Hence, government officials (whether the executive, legislative or judiciary) need not panic over the operational leverage of the legislation if they truly have nothing to hide.

Furthermore, the current federal administration in Nigeria need not have any misgivings about the accelerative propensity of the FOIA towards the attainment of its various development goals and rebranding plans. It should consider the views of the Nobel Laureate in Economics, Joseph Stiglitz (11) who asserted in his impact analysis of access to information on economic development that 'A liberal access to information could help to expose corruption in government and the corporate sector... enable markets to work better by providing reliable economic information'. In other words, apart from the economic advantage which the country will begin to enjoy, an FOIA regime helps to check different shades of corruption by fraudsters, politicians and financial institutions. Anyone who may be engaged in corruption would be wary of being

caught by the searchlights of the law (being propelled by the media) as their records could be made public without the usual bureaucratic delays.

However, all the thirty-six States must immediately begin the process of ratifying this piece of legislation in order for both the media and governments at the state and federal levels to achieve people-oriented goals. Moreover, passing the FOIA at the level of State governments will certainly reduce the so-called 'workload' on legislators, giving them ample opportunity to implement good laws and deliberate on the welfare of the people they represent.

Besides making media operations in terms of information access and purveyance almost seamless, it would readily check the excesses of 'sacred cows' who would be discouraged from engaging in high level corruption associated with their offices. In view of the legal pitfalls and challenges media organizations are often pushed into, together with the assaults, intimidations, harassments and assassinations of media professionals in the line of duty, the need to engineer an unimpeded information flow system in the Nigerian media space is pressing. Indeed, as the FOIA has sailed through in Nigeria, the media would be able to do more in terms of carrying out their functions as developmental agents. The Nigerian media with the FOIL is like a dog that can now bark and bite when and where necessary. The legislation would further empower the media or press to truly play the role of the 'fourth estate of the realm'. For instance, the current national budget in Nigeria is benchmarked with \$38 per barrel of crude oil which at present sells for over \$100 per barrel. What happens to the excess crude fund? How would it be used or deployed for national development? What happened to previous windfalls? The new FOIL regime would expectedly enable Nigerian media professionals/journalists to begin to address some of these questions in the days and months ahead.

At the level of politics and politicking, there is every tendency that the arena which is apparently always tense could become more open, more gender friendly and more issue-based because the FOIA can check some of the impunities that characterize the political space. Hitherto, the processes of governance in the country were largely shrouded in secrecy and this encourages inefficiency in governance. Such negative attitudes to governance in contemporary Nigeria need to be reversed as well as other prehistoric hangovers such as gender and ethnocentric stereotypes. Indeed, the passage of FOIL in Nigeria would encourage the politics of openness and inclusion instead of the current hackneyed politics of secrecy and exclusion in the country (Omoera 66). This will further strengthen the constitutional provision that guarantees the right to free speech as well as media reportage of happenings, occurrences and events as they affect sociocultural, economic and political development in the country.

The FOIA will further embolden the media to provide models for the flourishing of open governance, gender-balancing and unencumbered access to government affairs, not merely records and documents which may be fraught with official 'cover-ups' or distortions. While the FOIA is a welcome addition to legal instruments safeguarding the right to access to information and public records, it is important to stress that all stakeholders, especially the media should exercise self-restraint when making use of the freedom of information that the FOIA guarantees. In this regard, media professionals and organizations, including the NUJ, Radio, Television, Theatre Arts Workers Union (RATTAWU) and the Institute of Mass Communication and Information Management of Nigeria (IMIM) must work in tandem to galvanize efforts in pushing for its expeditious ratification by the various State Houses of Assembly in the country. This is largely because the manner the media operate in any society is invariably determined by the social and political dynamics of that particular society and, such dynamics determine the

balance of society. Central to this idea is the freedom of communication which connotes freedom of expression as well as freedom of information or the right to information. Hence, public institutions are urged to recognize the key role that freedom of information plays in deepening democracy and encouraging enterprise. They should therefore resist any temptation to hide under any form of legalese to scuttle the spirit of the FOIA.

As the FOIA elevates the Nigerian media in global media ranking, it is expected that the press would begin to de-emphasize personalities and focus on issues especially in news reports. With the FOIA now in place, the country's chances for rapid and sustainable development are brighter even as its media take their rightful place in global media standing.

Implications of Ban on Twitter on Information Dissemination

In order to contain information and maintain control over access, a number of countries, including the United States, UK, Canada and Australia, have made legislative attempts to regulate and monitor digital content. Virtually every industrialized country and many developing countries have passed laws that expand "the capacities of state intelligence and law enforcement agencies to monitor internet communications" (Deibert and Rohozinski 2008). The number of regulations designed to monitor and control the flow of information on the Internet increased in particular since September 11, 2001 (Deibert and Rohozinski 2008 ; Benkler 2006; Goldsmith and Wu,2006).

Online media face a massive increase in regulation at transnational and national level. Already introduced and enacted legislation like "Ley Sinde" in Spain and Hadopi law in France are directly threaten the Internet as a free, egalitarian and democratic way of communicating. The

same sort of issues comes up with proposed legislation like the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement 2010), the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) (Stop Online Piracy Act 2012) and the Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA) (Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act 2012), the Nigerian Social Media regulation bill, the 2021 Twitter ban, etc..

The aim of these new pieces of legislation is often justified to fight online piracy, digital copyright as well as newest forms of cyber-crime and cyber terrorism. But Internet activists and freedom of expression defenders fear that similar legal instruments can also be used to establish a surveillance regime that allows restrictions on freedom of movement over different access networks technologies. Such ongoing attempts to regulate the Internet “reflect the natural maturation process that previous media, such as print, radio, and television, all experienced as they evolved out of unrestrained and experimental to tightly controlled and regulated environments” (Deibert and Rohozinski 2008, p. 137).

Traditionally, most of the previous communication technologies have been linked to enhanced democratic practices or increased individual freedoms, and thus nation states have always been keen to exercise a strong influence on their development.

From the above, it is clear that freedom is a necessity for democracy to flourish. Any attempt to muzzle the means through which the people express their opinion is a murder attempt at freedom of speech this no doubt is an attempt to silent democracy.

By implication, freedom is a prerequisite for effective democracy. It is pertinent to state that silencing the media in whatever form will portray Nigeria as a state practicing authoritarianism in guise of democracy. This does not give Nigeria the best image before the international

community, considering the fact that Nigeria is a signatory to all international treaties on freedom.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The empirical aspect of this study can be best understood and analyzed from public sphere theory.

As regards ‘public sphere theory’, Jurgen Habermas proposed the theory in response to what he considered as the massification and atomization of the public by the media. Habermas (1989) conceived the public sphere as an arena where citizens have unrestricted access about matters of general interest, based on freedoms of assembly, association, expression and publication of opinions without undue economic and political control. In support of Habermas’ concept, Flichy (2010) argues that the Web 2.0 provides amateurs with opportunity to contribute to their themes of interest, confront different opinions and find an audience. In that sense, amateurs acquire an influence that not so long ago, was the exclusive privilege of professionals and experts. According to Flichy (2010), this social recognition of amateurs is particularly significant in the field of arts, popular culture, science and politics. In the case of politics, this democratization of ‘debate’ affects the fundamental parameters of the ‘public sphere’, because bloggers and internet users are not subjected to any form of control or gate-keeping. In Nigeria, the twitter has emerged as the new public sphere having undefined boundaries with respect to freedoms of assembly, association and expression, for the political class especially if they have the finance to run advertorials.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The issues intended to be studied in this study cannot be adequately treated using a single methodological approach. Thus, in the first place, we adopted the survey research design, which allowed us to investigate empirically the factors that motivate hate speech on social media networks in Nigeria, assess the moral impact of the practice in the society and examine whether this can be constricted through the enhancement of journalism ethical standards. This method was however, inappropriate to investigate the second aspect of the study, which borders on the

legal consequences of hate speech in Nigeria. The qualitative, doctrinal and analytical approach shall therefore, be adopted to investigate this aspect.

Population of the Study

The population of study of this research was people of Etsako West Local Government. According to the final result of 2006 population census of Nigeria as published by the National population Commission, Etsako West Local Government has total population of 197,609.

Research studies have their various areas of coverage or boundary limits. According to Uzoagulu (1999, p.63) “the area of study is geographical area boundaries where study is carried out”. Etsako West Local Government has been designed as the area for this study. The existence of administrative, social and cultural institutions encourages the growth and development of Etsako west Local Government. Etsako west Local Government as a local government is made up of several rural communities.

Sampling Technique

The purposive sampling technique was employed to determine the sample size of the study. According to Ikeagwu (1998, p.189), “the basic assumption behind purposive sampling method is that, with good judgment and appropriate strategy, one can hand– pick the cases to be included in the sample that is satisfactorily in relation to ones needs”

3.4 Sample Size

Many a time, an entire population would not be easy to study due to time and resource constraints. The usual approach in this situation would therefore entail taking sample. Considering the fact that the population of the area would be too bogus, sample size of 400

respondents were selected for this research population. A sample of 400 was drawn from the population using the Taro Yamane Sample calculating formula. The formula is:

Where:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(0.5)^2}$$

Where

n = Sample

N = Population

0.5 = allowable error

$$= \frac{197,609}{1 + 197,609 \times (0.5)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{197,609}{197,610 \times 0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{197,609}{494.025}$$

$$n = \frac{400}{494.025}$$

3.5 Validity of the Instrument

According to Okoro (2001, p.12) “validity refers to the accuracy of an instrument i.e how well it measures what it is supposed to measure.” In order to establish validity of the instruments the researcher used the expertise of some Mass Communication professionals who reviewed and made very useful imputes that helped to achieve high level of validity for the questionnaire. The project supervisor also did a thorough scrutiny of the instrument to ensure that it captures all relevant information before final administration.

3.6 Reliability of the Instrument

Ogbazi and Okpala (1994, p.25) posits that “reliability of an instrument or test is the degree to which an instrument is consistent in measuring whatever it purports to measure”. In establishing the reliability of the instrument, the researcher applied the Pre-test technique. The Pre-test technique is a process whereby the researcher administered the constructed questionnaire to the same sample group more than once with a view of discovering how consistent each element of the group is in the scoring of the instrument at such different times.

The researcher administered the questionnaires to twelve elements of the sample group to ascertain the reliability of the instrument, but was not used in the final analysis of the work.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

The research instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. A questionnaire consists of questions relating to the aims of the study and the research questions to be verified (Nwanna, 1990, p.121). The questionnaire for this study contains two sections demographic and psychographic sections. The demographic contained the personal data of the respondents while the psychographic questions examines the logical and carefully selected questions aimed at sourcing reasonable and accurate answers from the respondents such that can help solve the research problem.

Also it is made up of closed-ended and open ended questions with the former forming a greater percentage since the researcher intends to elicit a higher degree of measurable data.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

Quantitative data generated in the study were analyzed in frequencies, percentages and presented in tables.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The survey method of research was adopted to generate data for the study. This chapter deals with the presentation, discussion of findings, analysis of relevant data extracted from the

questionnaire administered by the researcher each question was analyzed using simple percentages, frequency, and distribution table.

4.1 Data Presentation and Interpretation

Table1: Questionnaire Distribution and Collection

Questionnaire Retrieved Rate	Frequency	Percentage
Retrieved	350	87.5%
Unretrieved	50	12.5
Total	400	100

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table one above shows that the number of questionnaire distributed were 400 while 350 were retrieved. The high percentage of return was because the researcher personally distributed by hand and collected them.

Table 2: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-29	190	54.3%
30-35	110	31.4%
36 and above	50	14.3%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table two shows the frequency and percentage of age of respondents 190 respondents accounting for 54.3% belonged to 18-29 age groups. 110 respondents accounting for 31.4% belonged to 30-35 age groups. 50 respondents representing 14.3% belonged to 36 and above age group.

Table 3: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentages %
Farmer	150	42.9%
Trader	70	20%
Students	30	8.6%
Civil Servants	40	11.4%
Unemployed	60	17.1%

Total	350	100%
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Source: Field Survey 2022

Table three shows that 150 of the respondents or 42.9% were farmers, 70 of them or 20% are traders, 30 of them or 8.6% were students, 40 of them or 11.4% were civil servants while 60 of them or 17.1% were unemployed.

Table 4: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	115	32.9%
Married	220	62.9%
Divorced	0	0%
Separated	15	4.2%
Total	380	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 4 shows the frequency and percentage of the age distribution of the respondents. 220 respondents accounting for 62.9% were married. 115 respondents accounting for 32.9% were single. 15 respondents accounting for 4.2% were separated.

Table 5: Educational Qualification of Respondents

Educational Level	Frequency	Percentage
1 st School leaving Certificate	120	34.3%
SSCE	80	22.9%
ND/NCE	150	42.8%
HND/BSC	0	0%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 5 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents educational qualifications, 120 accounting for 34.3% had primary education, 80 respondents accounting for 22.9% had Senior Secondary education, while 150 respondents representing 42.8% had either National Diploma or National Certificate of Education.

Table 6: Religion of Respondents

Religious	Frequency	Percentage
Muslims	175	50%
Christians	125	35.7%
Traditional	50	14.3%
Others	0	0%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table six shows that the respondents were dominantly Muslims. This is because 175 of the respondents or 50% are Muslim.

Table 7: respondents usage of Twitter

Variable	Frequency	Percentages %
Strongly agree	150	42.9%
Agree	70	20%
undecided	30	8.6%
Disagree	40	11.4%
Strongly Disagree	60	17.1%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table seven showed whether respondents use Twitter. Data showed that the respondents are users of Twitter. This is because 62% of the respondents agreed to be users of Twitter users. This means that they are well disposed to answer the questions.

Table 8: Responses on extent of use of Twitter

Occupation	Frequency	Percentages %
To a great Extent	150	42.9%
To an extent	70	20%
Undecided	30	8.6%
Little Extent	40	11.4%
No Extent	60	17.1%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 8 shows the respondents response of respondents regarding the extent of use of twitter.

The data revealed that 62% of the respondents use twitter to a great extent. This means that respondents are regular users of Twitter.

Table9: Factors that led to Twitter ban

Occupation	Frequency	Percentages %
Unverified information	150	42.9%
Fake news	70	20%
Constant Use of Twitter to attack Government	30	8.6%
Insecurity of Government	40	11.4%
Don't Know	60	17.1%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

The findings on table ten shows the factors that led to the ban on Twitter. Data showed that twitter was suspended because of its use to spread unverified information. This is because 42% of the respondents said so.

Table10: Respondents, view on whether they are aware of twitter ban

Variable	Frequency	Percentages %
Strongly agree	150	42.9%
Agree	70	20%
undecided	30	8.6%
Disagree	40	11.4%
Strongly Disagree	60	17.1%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Data on table 10 showed whether respondents are aware of twitter ban. The result showed that 62% of the respondents strongly agreed that they are aware of twitter ban.

Table11: Respondents, view on their level of satisfaction with Twitter ban

Variable	Frequency	Percentages %
Very unsatisfied	150	42.9%
Unsatisfied	70	20%
undecided	30	8.6%
Satisfied	40	11.4%
Very unsatisfied	60	17.1%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table eleven showed the level of satisfaction with twitter ban. Data showed that respondents were unsatisfied with Twitter ban in Nigeria. This because 62% of them were either unsatisfied or very unsatisfied.

Table12: Respondents, view on whether has implication on information dissemination in Nigeria

Variable	Frequency	Percentages %
Strongly agree	150	42.9%
Agree	70	20%
undecided	30	8.6%
Disagree	40	11.4%
Strongly Disagree	60	17.1%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table twelve showed that 62% of the respondents strongly agreed that twitter ban has implication on information dissemination. This means that ban on twitter has an implication on information dissemination.

Table13: Respondents, view on the implication Twitter ban on information dissemination

Variable	Frequency	Percentages %
Portrays Nigerian as a quasi democratic nation	250	71.4%
Shows Nigeria as rigid nation	70	20%
Shows that Nigeria does not respect human right	30	8.6%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 13 showed that respondents believe that the ban on twitter has a negative implication. This is because 71.4% of the respondents said the ban on twitter portrays Nigeria as a quasi democratic nation that does not respect human rights.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

What are the factors that are responsible to the ban on Twitter in Nigeria

From the findings, it is clear that twitter ban was occasioned by the perceived use of the social media to spread lies and falsehood by the users against government. The Nigerian Government to this end Government initiated several bills to regulate social media usage in Nigeria so that they wont be used to spread hate speeches and falsehood again.

It is obvious from the findings that the respondents are well exposed to the use of twitter and they use the social media platform on regular basis. Table seven showed whether respondents use Twitter. Data showed that the respondents are users of Twitter. This is because 62% of the respondents agreed to be users of Twitter users. This means that they are well disposed to answer the questions. Table 8 shows the respondents response of respondents regarding the extent of use of twitter. The data revealed that 62% of the respondents use twitter to a great extent. This means that respondents are regular users of Twitter. The findings on table ten shows the factors that led to the ban on Twitter. Data showed that twitter was suspended because of its use to spread unverified information. This is because 42% of the respondents said so.

What is the perception of Twitter Users of the ban on twitter in Nigeria?

The finding shows that respondents have a very negative perception of the ban on twitter in Nigeria. This is be more than 62% of the respondents were not satisfied with the ban. Data on table 10 showed whether respondents are aware of twitter ban. The result showed that 62% of the respondents strongly agreed that they are aware of twitter ban. Table eleven showed the level of satisfaction with twitter ban. Data showed that respondents were unsatisfied with Twitter ban in Nigeria. This because 62% of them were either unsatisfied or very unsatisfied

What is the implication of twitter ban on information dissemination? From the study, it is clear that the ban on twitter has a negative implication on the Nigerian information dissemination. This is because the study revealed that it will portray Nigeria as a quasi democratic society where freedom of information is not totally guaranteed. Table twelve for instance showed that 62% of the respondents strongly agreed that twitter ban has implication on information dissemination. This means that ban on twitter has an implication on information dissemination. Table 13 showed that respondents believe that the ban on twitter has a negative implication. This is because 71.4% of the respondents said the ban on twitter portrays Nigeria as a quasi democratic nation that does not respect human rights.

The implication of the above is that if Nigerian must be seen as a serious democratic nation where freedom of information is guaranteed, media practices must be guaranteed freedom. This is the only way that the Nigerian democracy will wax strong.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study examined Twitter ban and its implication on information dissemination. The objective was to examine if ban and negative legislature against the Twitter have negative or positive implications on information dissemination. The survey methodology was adopted and the questionnaire was used as instrument of data collection. The simple percentage method was used to present the data and analyse it. Literatures were derived from the internet, journals, seminar and textbooks. The study found out that over time, the Nigerian environment has been hostile towards the internet, social media and even the conventional media. This is based on the fact that at various times, decrees and laws against the media have been promulgated. From the study, it was observed that Twitter ban has negative implication on information dissemination. It in this regard that this study recommended among others that the media freedom should be guaranteed for smooth running of democracy in Nigeria.

5.2. Conclusion

This study examined the implication of ban on twitter information dissemination in Nigeria. Based on the literature reviewed, it is concluded that freedom is a prerequisite for smooth running of democracy. To this end, any attempt at media, be it social or conventional is an attempt to muzzle democracy. It is also concluded that the ban on twitter had a negative implication on information dissemination as it portrayed Nigeria as country were freedom of information and media were not guaranteed by the powers that be.

5.3 Recommendations

Following the findings of this study, the following are hereby recommended:

Since freedom is sacrosanct to effective running of democracy, the government should do everything possible to guarantee freedom of the media at all level;

Also, social media users should ensure that they don't take advantage of the liberal nature of social media to spread falsehood.

Government should ensure that any regulation of internet and social media meet international best practices of human rights.

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APPENDIX I

Department of Mass Communication,
Auchi polytechnic,
Auchi.

Dear respondent,

I am a final year student in the above named department and institution, currently writing a research project on “**Assessment of the efforts of Twitter ban on Information Dissemination in Nigeria**”.

This work is purely for academic exercise and shall be treated confidentially for this study and I assure you that all the information given will be treated in utmost confidence.

Thanks

Yours faithfully,

Chukwurah Amaka Faith

Researcher

APPENDIX II

QUESTIONNAIRES

Instruction: Please tick (√) as appropriate in the boxes below

Research question one: what are the various categories of social network sites and there

Age of Respondents

Age	
18-29	
30-35	

36 and above	
--------------	--

Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	
Farmer	
Trader	
Students	
Civil Servants	
Unemployed	

Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	
Single	
Married	
Divorced	
Separated	

Educational Qualification of Respondents

Educational Level	
1 st School leaving Certificate	
SSCE	
ND/NCE	
HND/BSC	
Total	

Religion of Respondents

Religious	
Muslims	
Christians	
Traditional	
Others	

respondents usage of Twitter

Variable	
Strongly agree	
Agree	
undecided	
Disagree	
Strongly Disagree	

Responses on extent of use of Twitter

Occupation	
-------------------	--

To a great Extent	
To an extent	
Undecided	
Little Extent	
No Extent	

Factors that led to Twitter ban

Occupation	
Unverified information	
Fake news	
Constant Use of Twitter to attack Government	
Insecurity of Government	
Don't Know	

Respondents, view on whether they are aware of twitter ban

Variable	
Strongly agree	
Agree	
undecided	
Disagree	
Strongly Disagree	

Respondents, view on their level of satisfaction with Twitter ban

Variable	
Very unsatisfied	
Unsatisfied	
undecided	
Satisfied	
Very unsatisfied	

Respondents, view on whether has implication on information dissemination in Nigeria

Variable	
Strongly agree	
Agree	
undecided	
Disagree	

Strongly Disagree	
----------------------	--

Respondents, view on the implication Twitter ban on information dissemination

Variable	
Portrays Nigerian as a quasi democratic nation	
Shows Nigeria as rigid nation	
Shows that Nigeria does not respect human right	