TELEVISION SURVEILLANCE ROLE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IN NIGERIA: AN EVALUATIVE STUDY BOKO HARAM

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ABSTRACT

This study, “Television Surveillance Role and the fight against Terrorism in Nigeria: An evaluative study of Boko Haram” examines the role of television in checking the activities of terrorist groups such as the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The paper is anchored of the Agenda Setting theory of the mass media and the Social Responsibility theory to lend it proper footing. In the papers review of related empirical studies, it establish that television in Nigeria unlike elsewhere is not fully utilized in checking the atrocities of terrorist groups in the country such as the Boko Haram activities. Hence the paper recommends among others, that television in Nigeria should play a more proactive role through adequate surveillance function by alerting the populace of impending threats of attacks that would help mitigate the atrocities of the terrorist sect.

INTRODUCTION

Amongst the core responsibilities of the broadcast media, the surveillance function takes a critical role. Here television as a core broadcast medium is expected to bring to the consciousness of the public impending dangers. This function places a demand on television to cover, analyze and report impending dangers that are a threat to lives and properties of a given society. (Kegku, 2003 p.39), while writing on media surveillance, asserts that, “it is a process of collecting and distributing information about local, national and international events and conditions”.

Lasswell in (Odigbo, 2003 p.178) observes that the television as the other channels of mass communication watch over, guard and alert society of impending problems and often proffer the way forward”. He further asserts that:

Television further exercise surveillance over the environment and alert members of the society to the realities of their environment.(Odigbo,2013 p.178) concurs that the television channels
normally report what is wrong in the society and take bold and firm stand on its inadequacies like drug addictions, fake drug importation, hard drug trafficking, robberies, political thuggery, hired assassinations, smuggling, environmental degradations, economic sabotage, lack of social amenities, high unemployment rate, downturns in education poor healthcare, the outbreak of epidemics and so on and so forth in their watchdog and surveillance functions.

Writing about media surveillance also, (Josephat, 2008.1) avers that:

The surveillance function or role of the television presupposes that the media are the eyes and ears of the public. Hence television as media channel should provide information and alert her heterogeneous audiences of the changes that take place around them. The television as a broadcast medium should consistently survey the environment and convey salient issues of mediated messages to the audience in order to reduce uncertainties and consequently react to conflict or change in a rational way. The television as an electronic medium in discharging her surveillance function, usually scout round the environment and bring news of social economic and political developments, dangers that threaten national stability, public warfare, environmental pollution as well as scandals of varying dimensions to the people.

(Mu’azu, 2002 p.49) notes that in the surveillance function of the of the broadcast media, “the media plays the role of an observer, which is a necessary component for enforcing economic, political, cultural and even moral stability”. (Chigozie, 2009 p.129) reiterates that “in this role, the television through programming content highlight aspects of the society and report as news”.

The surveillance roles of the television as a broadcast medium are two types- the instrumental surveillance and the warning/beware surveillance. According to (Dominick, 1990), the instrumental surveillance helps television through broadcast programming to transmit information that is useful and helpful to the public. Some of this news content includes what films are playing at the local theatres, stock market prices, new products, latest fashion, ideas, recipes, teen’s fads, and many more related issues.
On the other hand, (Dominick, 1990) maintains that warning or beware surveillance (which is the focus of this paper) occurs when the television through her programme content inform us about threats from natural disasters like hurricanes erupting volcanoes, and other negative happenings around us like depressed economic conditions, increasing inflation, or military attacks. “In crisis/conflict, this type of surveillance is called early warning. It generally refers to maintains (Mustify, 2009 p.194), the set of activities that aim to collect, collate and analyse data in order to detect and identify signs of an emerging crisis before it explodes into uncontrolled violence”.

Consequent on the explanations and analysis above, it is pertinent to assert here that the television’s surveillance role is imperative in combating the activities with atrocities of terrorism such as the Boko Haram in Nigeria. As stated earlier, television surveillance involves amongst others pre information on a looming abnormality, disaster, unrest or crisis. Lasswell in (Idigbo, 2003 p.178) gave credence to the above assertion when he affirmed that “they (mass media, television inclusive) watch over, guard and alert society of impending problems and often proffer the way forward”. (Chimezie, 2010 p.91) affirms that “the surveillance function of the television is critical to national security”. The implication here is that the broadcast medium while discharging her surveillance role must get the citizens informed of impending/life threatening dangers. This according to (Jones, 2011) will reduce uncertainties and salvage the people from destruction, better still imminent attacks from terrorist or extremist within or outside the country.

Contributing to the debate, (Mayor, 2009) argues that broadcast houses as television all over the world have continued to play the surveillance role with utmost responsibility. He further stress that television through her programmes in U.S.A., France, Russia, China and many other countries have effectively played the surveillance role by constantly serving the people with security/safety reports which have helped to avert many calamities that would have occurred. The function of the television as the most virile broadcast medium is very expedient to mitigating terrorism, he stresses even further.
Davidson in (Ndolo, 2005 p.219) x-rays the tasks of television as a mass medium in ensuring security/ “peacekeeping” thus:

1. Increasing the quantity and quality of public communication through televised programmes.
2. Providing early warnings of situations that might lead to conflict as well as alerting leaders and attentive publics to opportunities for increasing understanding.
3. Simulating the use of mechanism such as negotiation, mediation arbitration for conflict resolution, management and providing information and forum that facilitates these processes.
4. Helping to create a mood in which solutions are more likely to be sought and accepted.
5. Mobilizing or helping to establish contacts among those interested in finding peaceful solutions, and helping to build opinions favouring such solutions.

Amongst the various tasks of the broadcast media such as television as x-rayed by Davidson, the second task specifically highlights the surveillance function. Television as a broadcast medium must always scout around the environment and get people informed of any threat/danger. When television her news couched in informational programmes serve the public with information of an impending threat(clearly warning), it enables not only the masses but also the security agents to either avert it or minimize its effect, providing early warnings on impending dangers is indeed the major essence of the surveillance function of the broadcast media, and indeed television.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

- Surveillance: Is a term born out of the fact that the mass media are the eye and ears of the public. (McQuil, 2005 p.568) refers surveillance to the “function” of mass media for the audience in providing a view on the events of the day. Concurring in similar vein (Sambe, 2005 p.37) concurs that news media, i.e., provide information and alert us of the changes that
take place around us. He further stress that television conveys and impact to immediacy in its news reporting; viewers feel that what they see is happening at the moment, even though they may know that a great deal was recorded earlier on film or video tape. And this impactful quality or character of television makes it the most virile tool in the checking the activities of terrorism through the surveillance function of the media where rightly and maximally utilized.

➢ Terrorism: (Koh, 2002 p.148) adopts one of the official definitions of terrorism as given by the United Nations General Assembly:

“Terrorism can be seen as criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group for persons of particular persons for political purposes whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious of other nature that may be invoked to justify them”

There has been some critical response to this definition. As (Biernatzki, 2002) noted in his essay, the way in which the criminality of an action is determined is very vague and subjective. As a reaction to this criticism, the U.S. Federal Bureau of investigation (FBI) formulated the following definition, in which they use the word “unlawful” instead of the normative judgment of whether an act is criminal of not.

The FBI formulated the definition of terrorism as quote by the (Tourism Research centre, 2002):

“Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons of property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.”

Both definitions serve to clarify what the concept “terrorism” entails in this paper.

➢ Boko Haram: This Day, 2013 described the Boko Haram as an Islamic sect that have emanated from the northern part of Nigeria agitating for cancellation of western education in Nigeria and also to make Nigeria and canvassing that Nigeria be Islamized.
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

As a core social responsibility role and in recognition of the surveillance function, the broadcast media, indeed television is required to amongst others, scan the environment and get the people informed of looming dangers. This as earlier established in this study can help in checking terrorist activities on the citizenry of the country. And Nigeria is currently facing grace security challenges spear headed by the Boko Haram terrorist sect that require urgent solution. The critical question is, have the Nigeria broadcast media, specifically television (in her quest to contribute to national security) effectively played the surveillance function? The above question forms the trust of this paper

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of this paper are:

I. To determined the extent to which the surveillance function of television can help in checking the atrocities of the Boko Haram terrorist sects in Nigeria

II. Find out whether the Nigerian broadcast media, specifically television have effectively played the surveillance function in their quest to check the activities of the Boko Haram terrorist sect.

III. To evaluate government and television broadcast partnership in curbing the activities of Boko Haram.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

I. To what extent can the surveillance function of television help in checking the activities of the Boko Haram in Nigeria?

II. Have the Nigerian broadcast media, specifically, television stations effectively played their surveillance function in their quest to check the activities of Boko Haram?

III. Have the Nigerian government effectively collaborated with television broadcast stations in the country to tame the activities of the Boko Haram?
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

Theories are maps of realities. This implies that they help to give explanations as to why things occur the way they do. To this end, this paper employs both the Agenda Setting and the Social Responsibility theories to give this paper a strong footing.

Agenda Setting Theory

The notion of agenda setting can be traced to Walter Lipmann in 1922. He suggested that the media were responsible for the “pictures in our heads”. Forty years later, Cohen in 1963 articulated the ideas when he argued that the media may not always be successful in telling people what to think, but they are usually successful in telling them what to think about. Lang and Lang in (Ogbuoshi, 2011 p.32) reinforced this notion by saying that the mass media force attention to certain issues.

Core assumptions of Agenda Setting Theory, strength, relevance and weakness

(Folarin, 1998 p.68) writes that the agenda setting implies that the mass media pre-determine what issues are regarded as salient at a given time of a given society. Agenda-setting theory does not ascribe to the media the power to determine what we actually think; but it does ascribe to them the power to determine what we are thinking about. They set the agenda for political campaigns, for instance. The elements involved in agenda-setting include;

1. The quantity or frequency of reporting;
2. Prominence given to the reports- through headline display pictures, and layout in newspapers, magazines, film, graphics, or timing on radio and television;
3. the degree of conflict generated in the report ; and
4. The cumulative media- specific effects over time.

Hence through frequency of transmission of cautionary warning information by the television in fulfillment of the media’s surveillance function, it can help keep the Nigerian citizenry on alert and more security conscious to the extent of stemming the
activities of the terror sect. Moreover, by frequency of transmitting messages couched in reason on why the citizenry should eschew violence and uphold peace, and not giving support to activities that breed violence and terrorism would go a long way in checking the heinous acts of terrorism. While doing this on the one hand television programmes could also be targeted at stakeholders, government inclusive of giving attention to the issues that may have led to the springing up of such activities, and can create forum for dialogue and discussion even on air about issues if such forum would serve to ameliorate or stem the tide of terrorism.

(Ogboushi, 2011) supports the above position by stating that the agenda setting theory helps in understanding of the effects of mass media content on individuals, particularly target audience. This theory also explains the effect of the media on culture and society. It describes the powerful influence, which the media can have in determining not only the issues that members of the society talk about but also how they talk about them.

Certainly, in the popular view, mass communication exerts tremendous influence on human affairs. The ability of television as a broadcast medium and other technologies to mould the public mind and significantly influence the flow of history is widely ascribed power. Gaberna in (Kalu, 2010 p.11) maintains that a study about the agenda setting function of the broadcast media, reveals television not only make the audience learn factual information about public affairs and what is happening in the country or the world but also learn how much importance to attach to issues of topics from the emphasis placed on them by medium. According to Glady and Kurt in (Ikenna, 2011 p.86)

“...the media, lack the power to suppress concern. But they can do more than stimulate interest. By directing attention to these concerns they provide, a contest that influence how people will talk about these matters... the media more than direct attention to a problem; they influence how people will think about it”.
The ability of the media, specifically television to influence salient events on the public minds has been part of Nigeria’s political and economic culture to date maintains Gaberna.

Television as a mass medium can contribute to the fight against terrorism in Nigeria today by setting agenda on the activities of the group and through critical pieces or commentaries that can stimulate the government through, to the right approach in curbing the menace. Through discussion programmes on television the television channels could stir discussion from all shades, drawing valid opinions with suggestions that could lead to ameliorating the Boko Haram terror activities.

Also by doing so, they raise the consciousness of the people and influence them to taking precautionary measures that will engender peace and stability in Nigeria as a country.

**Social Responsibility Theory**

The social responsibility theory according to (Ndolo, 2005 p.35), “owes it origin to an American initiative- the 1947 Hutchins Commission of the freedom of the press”. The emergence of this theory was an attempt to provide restraint of the excessive press freedom advocated by the libertarian theory. The idea here is to ensure the press does not abuse the freedom at its disposal.

**Discuss of the theories’ assumptions, strength and relevance to this paper**

The social responsibility theory posits that the power and near monopoly position of the media impose on them and obligation to be socially responsible in discharging their duties. The theory explains that the media owe the society a duty to discharge their responsibility responsibly. McQuil in (Obot, 2004 p.104) highlights the main principles of the social responsibility theory, asserts, “That the media should accept and fulfill certain obligations to the society”, these include serving the political system by making information, discussion and consideration of public affairs as paramount. The media should also keep the public informed to enable it to take self determined action.(Eze,2012 p.15) confirm these obligations to include the effective discharge of the surveillance function.

Also, while writing on the media surveillance function as a social responsibility function, Sandman and Rubin in (Soola, 2004 p.133) asserts that, “people need to
know if the streets are blocked or dangerous, some of those planning to drive or walk through the area of disturbance may choose another route if they are told what is happening”. They further warned that, “A news blackout sets a dangerous precedent. Word-of-mouth rumours are likely to be even less accurate than the mass media. And if serious grievances have festered to the point of a riot, the public has a right to know”.

From the above if the Nigerian broadcast media, specifically television responsibly play their surveillance role of warning the masses including the security agents of an impending or imminent danger, then it will help to initiate proactive steps to forestall such danger in the country, thus stimulating national security by forestalling the activities of Boko Haram.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**A GLANCE AT THE EMERGENCE OF BOKO HARAM IN NIGERIA**

Boko Haram emerged in 2002, at the down of the campaigns of the presidential elections in 2003. Apart from Aguyi Ironsi (1966) for just three months. Ernest Shonekan (another three months interim government, 1993-1994) and Obasanjo (1975-1979) all the Nigerian civilian and even military presidents have come from the region. The president Olusegun Obasanjo was only allowed again into the presidency because; firstly; he was trusted by Northerners: without any grudge and suspicion, he successfully handed the presidency back to a Hausa-Fulani civilian shehu Shagari after the military background and coming from the southern part of the country, the northern political elites felt that he had the capacity to subdue the rising militancy that was speedily emerging from the Niger-Delta areas in the south. So his victory at the polls was a convenient attempt to placate the South and to project an image within the federal government that the southern region would also have its turn at the Nigerian political terrain.

Many political analyst like (Wole Soyinka, 2011) a Nigerian Noble Laureate and professor in literary studies, believes that Obasanjo was even made by the Northern political elites, who rigged him into the presidency to sign a binding document that
he will hand over power to the North at the end of his first tenure in office. But instead of handing over to the North after his first term, Obasanjo defied the Northern political elites and decided to contest for the second term. The first time they (the northern political elites who installed obasanjo) felt that they must have made a mistake was when Obasanjo dismissed all high ranking military officers, who had held political offices, few months after his inauguration. Of course, those most highly affected were the northerners. As if this was not enough, Obasnjo against the wish of his Northern godfathers, began to campaign for second term in office. These created tensions and the conditions for radical tendencies within the region.

Meanwhile the region was also engulfed in severe social and economic turmoil. More than other parts of the country, poverty and economic hardship were more prevalent in the region. In study in 2007, Chukwuma, Soludo, a Nigerian professor of Economics and the Nigerian former governor of Central Bank explained that poverty and economic hardship is more prevalent in the northern states than in other parts of the country. In comparison to its southern counterparts, the country’s “very high level of poverty is essentially a northern phenomenon”. In a similar study by (Daneil Williams and Guttschuss Eric, 2012), the two human watch researchers who conducted the extensive field research on Boko Haram and the northern region; about 70 percent of the population in the North lives on less than a dollar a day, compared ot about 50 percent in the South. The region also has the lowest literacy rate in the whole of Nigeria. Less than 23 percent of women and 54 percent of men in the north-east can read, compared to more than 79 percent of women and 90 percent of men in the South. Instead of the expected dividends of democracy at dawn of civilian rule in 1999, the generality of the citizens within the region continuously remained more impoverished. About 70% of the population in the North, especially in the North-East where the group gas its strongest stronghold live on less than a dollar a day, compared to about 50% in the south. The region also has the lowest literacy rate in the whole of Nigeria. Less than 23 percent of women and 54 percent of men in the Northeast can read, compared to more than 79% of women and 90% of men in the South.
Despite the vast endowment in human resources, the region remained characterized by corruption and deplorable social and economic under-development; lack of basic infrastructures, poor education systems, youth unemployment etc. Government public offices were not only platforms to acquire easy wealth; they were also avenues for other lucrative criminal enterprises. These inter-related conditions further weakened the public trust in the government and created a ripe condition for radicalizations and political violent contentions, for change of government. Soon, more radical calls for change of government and negative tendencies against the Nigerian state grew within the region.

With the down of Al-Qaeda-led US September 11th terrorist attacks, the situation intensified. The success of the attacks rekindled the tendencies to see Islam as an emerging supreme viable alternative to the Western Capitalistic model that dominated the Nigerian society, Capitalising on this opportunity; many politicians soon started espousing the old NPC kind of political rhetoric which fusses Islamic religion at the centre of the region’s political contentions. By the end of 2001, Ahmed Yerima, the then governor of Zamfara state (one of the central states in the North) adopted the use of Shari’a law as a binding penal code for his state. Within the next few months, twelve states in the region did the same in their respective states. This by the way, was not un-constitutional; Nigeria had by this tie enshrined in a section of its Constitution possibility for any of its 36 states to adopt a Shari’a code of conduct and Court of Appeal (subject, however to the Federal Supreme Court), thanks to the Ibrahim Babangida administration’s amendment of the constitution in 1986(see Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria).

(Soyinka, 2011) writes that it is difficult to ascertain the level of involvement of northern political elites in the region in the emergence of the group, due to the underground nature of the group. However, what is known is that most of the political elites within the region had this time tuned up the political rhetoric against the Obasanjo-led federal government. Some of them also admitted to have physically activated a secret army, sending them abroad for training with other Islamic militant groups in countries like Somalia, Pakistan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and
Sudan. (Busch,2012) reiterated that this kind of practice is not entirely anew practice in the region. It had been tradition used by the Northern Political elites to undermine Southern Christian influences in the national politics. In 1986, when Jihadist went on a killing rampage attacking Christian students of the University of Sokoto, it was alleged that the Jihadist were sponsored by the military training in the countries like Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Sudan. Whether it was this secret army that later became Boko Haram is not clear. What is known is that it was this time (towards the end of 2002) that the Boko Haram emerged; agitating for a muslim president and threatening to impose Shari’a in the entire Nigeria. This political sponsorship or seeming apparent political sponsorship offered the final needed manure for the emergence of the group within the region. By the middle of 2002, Boko Haram emerged in the region, calling for a systematic change within the Nigerian federal government.

However, despite the group’s campaigns, Obasanjo won the presidency again in 2003. Then the campaign intensified. But after a failed bid to secure the third tenure to the presidency, Obasanjo finally conceded to the wishes of the northern political elites, and rigged Umaru Yaradua (a scion of one of the most powerful northern families) into the presidency. Unfortunately, Yar’adua was more ill than anyone knew. He died during his first term after a protracted sty in a Saudi Arabian hospital. His vice, Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian from the south, became the accidental president; much as he had become the accidental governor for Bayelsa when his mentor, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, the governor was forced out of office due to corruption charges, in 2005. So, the insurgency continued again. Things became worse, when Jonathan decided to that in his own constitutional right that he had to contest the 2011 election, which he eventually did won. Since then, Boko Haram has become a very dreadful force within the Nigerian socio-political terrain; attacking every aspect of the Nigerian state parastatal, as well as schools and churches in northern Nigeria.
TELEVISION AND COUNTER TERRORIST STRATEGIES

Terrorists are completely capable of applying new methods for conducting a war, adapted to the media era, as opposed to the majority of democratic countries which are, according to the then American Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, 2006, not prepared. That they are also aware of the fact that communication eliminates borders and that a single television broadcast alert to the public about their impending attack is capable of causing as much havoc as a military attack and even forestalling the attack or dwindling its impact. (Wilkinson, 2002) aver that a key blow to the terrorist strategy may be delivered by the power of the broadcast media and political leadership to mobilize the democratic public opinion and to fortify society’s resistance as well as to provoke harsher and more efficient countermeasures that would foil terrorist efforts precisely because the objective of these efforts is to crush their opponent’s willpower by fear mongering.

(Yakovenko, 2005) hence stress that there exists a series of other important means by which responsible media, especially television in democratic society can thwart terrorists’ aims and objectives. By broadcasting in an objective manner the cruelty of terrorist violence and the killing of the innocent the television can contribute significantly to the destruction of the myth on fighters for justice for freedom as terrorists usually describe themselves. (Wilkinson, 2002 p.195) recommends the some practical steps by the broadcast media to check terrorism:

- Television channels can transmit warning issued by the police to the public as well as instructions on how to behave in dangerous situations;
- Responsible and accurate reporting on incidents would increase vigilance among the public (e.g., with respect to unusual parcels, suspicious persons and behaviours;
- The media also constitute an absolutely indispensable forum for quality discussions of terrorism’s social and political implications as well as for the development of appropriate procedures and countermeasures, and there is no better forum than television channels providing this platform;
• Broadcast media channels as their print counterpart can remind authorities that the response to terrorism should comply with the rule of law, basic rights and requirements of social justice.

Wilkinson sums that contributions by the media to the war against terrorism are so valuable that they outweigh the disadvantages and risks and the undoubted damage caused by a small minority of irresponsible broadcasters in the reportage of terrorist activities. He thereby notices that the positive work of the broadcast media, indeed television has been either gravely underestimated to ignored

BEWARE SURVEILLANCE POWER OF TELEVISION AS A MASS MEDIUM

Beware surveillance or warning (which is the thrust of this paper) occurs when the when television as a critical broadcast medium through her programmes inform the public about looming threats from terrorism, among others. The ability of the television channels to effectively gather such information and disseminate same to the public is an obvious affirmation of their effective observance of this all important role which studies have shown has capacity to contribute to national security as such stem the tide of terror and extremist activities.

A study conducted by Binga in 2011 shows that the broadcast media (through surveillance function) have helped to avert many crises that would have occurred in Cameroon. Binga further observes that the discharge of such sensitive role by the media has helped to strengthen the security in Cameroon. (Yambe, 2010 p.41) equally remarks in his study that surveillance role of the broadcast media has contributed to national security in Ghana. He affirms that the media have given overwhelming support to Ghanian security agents, which have helped to maintain peace in the country.

Furthermore, (Kem, 2010 p.34) reveals in her study that the broadcast media have continued to play the surveillance function which has led to the uncovering and abortion of mayhem in Ethiopia. (Ziya, 2011 p.11) also observes that Benin Republic
has been living in peace as result of the security reports the media unveil to the public and the security agencies.

Still yet, in another study, (Goje, 2010 p.63) argues that the surveillance function of the television has seriously contributed to security of lives of and property in South Africa. She states that in South Africa, the television channels are always collaboratively at alert in informing the people of dangers to ensure safety majors are put in place. (Elina, 2010 p.11) also agrees with the above conclusions when he estates that the mass media have contributed to the security of France. He asserts that the security agencies often collaborate with the media to ensure national security.

From the literature reviewed so far points to the fact that the situation in Nigeria is different. The Nigerian broadcast media have not effectively played the surveillance role. (Ikenna, 2011 p.87) confirms this assertion when he argues that the Nigerian media, television all inclusive may be yet to sufficiently savour the surveillance function of the media. He contends that the broadcast media are the worst in performing the surveillance role. To support Ikenna’s view above (Ugwu, 2010 p.56) argues that the incessant Jos crisis would have been averted if the broadcast channels like television through surveillance wise had lived up to expectation in helping the security agents to bring peace in the area.

(Seimo, 2010 .73) carried out a perception based study in the area of broadcast media and security challenges and found out that television as a broadcast medium did not effectively perform the surveillance role in the Niger Delta crisis. Siemo notes that there are enormous benefits derivable from the surveillance function of the media, which includes strengthening the security of a given place. He further argues that the Nigerian broadcast media displayed insensitivity to the security of the region in media coverage of the crisis. (Maxwell, 2010 p.9) corroborated Seimo’s findings when he observed in his study that the media, particularly the television broadcast medium, have not adequately contributed to the security of Nigeria. He lamented that despite the overwhelming potential of the media to help strengthen national security, the Nigerian broadcast media are yet to satisfactorily play such responsibility
In another similar study by (Nwafor, 2011) revealed that the electronic media can contribute to nations’ security, but have failed to maximize such ability for the benefit of Nigerians, Nwafor opines that when, television as a broadcast mass medium present security reports such as threats of some possible attacks by some violent groups, the citizens, the security agents and others involved will move to avert the danger.

**REVIEW OF OTHER RELATED EMPIRICAL STUDIES**

Even though some empirical researches couched in journal articles have been cited above in the review of literature, what this section does is to equally unravel the specific findings, conclusions, and recommendations as they relates to the trust of this paper, so as to make up a comparative and holistic.

1. **“Audience Assessment of Broadcast Media Surveillance and National Security”**

Udeze E. Sunny and Okechukwu Chukwuma of the University of Science and Technology(ESUT), Enugu, Nigeria and Chukwuma from Gregory University of Uturu, Abia State respectively both carried out a study in 2013 titled: “Audience Assessment of Broadcasting Media Surveillance and National Security in Nigeria”. The core objectives of the study was to determine the extent to which the broadcast media surveillance function can help improve national security; to find out whether the Nigerian broadcast media have effectively played the surveillance function in their quest to engender national security; and to evaluate government or broadcast partnership in achieving effective national security.

**Findings of the study:** base on the collected and collated data, the data found that:

I. That only when properly utilized, that the broadcast media can effectively perform their surveillance function that can help in engendering national security.
II. That, audience are not satisfied with role of the broadcast media in engendering national security in Nigeria.

III. Also the findings have shown that government is yet to collaborate with the broadcast media to achieve national security in Nigeria.

Reconciling these empirical findings with the theories

Testing the findings of this empirical study against the theories obviously serve to reinforce the theories as applied in this paper. Only where the broadcast media upholds her social responsibility role to the public by upholding certain obligations to the public as paramount such as adequately informing and stirring up discussion on salient issues of public concern or disturbance such as terrorism as been experienced in Nigeria today that it would become a virile tool in itself for tackling the terror strategies of the Boko Haram. Otherwise it could become dormant and redundant even in the face of security challenges that it would have spear head solution through her legitimate arsenal. This function can not be better achieved other than through the surveillance role of the television as broadcast medium through her informative programmes that would put the public on alert about terrorist threat or imminent attacks as such nipping their atrocities in the bud.

The agenda setting role equally comes in handing giving the findings, comparatively as the literature review indicates, broadcast channels in other countries, spear headed by television have impact in countering and checking terror activities. Why the difference in Nigeria. Until the Nigerian broadcast television channels wake up to their agenda setting function of discourse by creating forum for dialogue and expression of shades of opinion about the fragile security state, it impact in checking the Boko Haram seem to be a mirage. Intensification of information couched in efficient and effective programming also aligns rightly with agenda setting assumptions.
Study’s Conclusions base on findings

I. The surveillance function of the media can, where properly utilized by the media contribute to a large extent in garnering national security.

II. The broadcast media are yet to effectively play the surveillance function of the mass media in their quest to engender national security in Nigeria.

III. That thirdly, governments (Federal, States, and Local Government Areas) with the media are yet to effectively collaborate with the national security in the country.

Study’s recommendations base on conclusions

- The study recommended that the broadcast media as a matter of imperative concern must recognize their surveillance role and utilize it as such. They must at all times effectively carry out what researchers call “environmental scanning” to detect impending dangers and notify the public accordingly. This to a large extent would enable the public, including the security agents to either avert the danger or make adequate arrangements couched in preparations to minimize the effects. And that would engender national security.

- That government at all levels, federal, state and local governments, must as a matter of necessity collaborate with the broadcast media to curb the monster of insecurity ravaging the region.

- Also the study by extension recommended that further studies area should involve broadcast media practitioners to identify their expectations from the Government and society generally so that they could be effectively mobilized to perform the surveillance function.

2. In another similar study by (Nwafor, 2011), it revealed that the mass media can contribute to national security, but failed to maximize such ability for the benefit of Nigerians. Nwafor stated that when the media present security reports such as some possible attacks by some violent groups. The citizens the security agents and others involve will move to avert the danger.
3. In a recent study of Boko Haram, terror attacks, (Okoro and Okechukwu, 2012) further support the earlier positions which suggest that the Nigerian broadcast media, particularly television, have not effectively played the surveillance function in their reportage of the Boko Haram insurgencies in the Northern part of Nigeria.

CONCLUSION WITH RECOMMENDATION

It is obvious through the chunk of reviewed literature and empirical researches that television is where maximally utilized through her surveillance function can help in taming the activities of insurgents and other terrorist atrocities on the populace. However the situation seems different in Nigeria. Boko Haram attacks continue to ravage the lives of Nigerian citizens with little perceived to be done by this potent medium. In most cases, those attacked do not have a clue and without any alert information, not even from the broadcast medium as television.

It is a such, the basic recommendation of this paper based on the explored literature and review of studies that relate to the trust of this paper that television as core and most powerful medium of mass communication giving its ability to synchronize and transmit simultaneously sound and picture must rise up to her surveillance responsibility to help tame the activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria.

REFERENCES


