Comparative Study of Selected Nigerian Newspaper's Coverage of the Ozone Layer Depletion

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Abstract
This study analysed the Nigeria newspaper's coverage of ozone layer depletion. The objectives of the study were to: Find out the frequency of coverage given to the ozone layer depletion in Nigerian newspapers, to determine the level of prominence given to ozone layer depletion, and to find out the story formats predominantly used in the coverage of ozone layer depletion. The study was anchored on agenda-setting theory. The content analysis method was adopted. Two newspapers were selected for the study (Punch and Vanguard newspapers). Findings revealed that the ozone layer depletion issues were not frequently covered during the studied period. Also, the studied newspapers did not give prominence to the ozone layer depletion stories. The studied newspapers predominantly used straight news format to cover ozone layer depletion issues.The researchers concluded that the ozone layer depletion issues were not frequently covered during the studied period and the studied newspapers did not give prominence to the ozone layer depletion stories, thus failing in their agenda-setting role. The researchers recommended that Nigerian newspapers should report ozone layer depletion issues regularly to inform and educate the public on the need to protect the ozone layer from depletion as well as other harmful activities that may affect it.

Key Words: *Coverage, Depletion, Newspaper, Nigeria, Ozone layer.*

Introduction

Ozone layer depletion is the thinning of the ozone layer present in the upper atmosphere. This happens when the chlorine and bromine atoms in the atmosphere come in contact with ozone and destroy 100,000 ozone molecules (https://byjus.com). Ozone layer depletion has always been a serious topic of interest for scientists. The ozone layer serves as a protective covering for humans, animals, crops, and aquatic life. It protects life on earth from absorbing excessive ultraviolet rays. Thinning or reducing this layer can lead to excessive absorption of ultraviolet radiation (UV) that could destroy organic matters. Plants and plankton may not survive to play an important role in providing food to man and sea animals. In humans, it can cause skin cancer and eye diseases including cataracts (Conserve Energy Future, 2010 as cited in Liman, Msughter, and Obada, 2022).

However, the activities of man like industrial processes and man-made compounds are depleting the ozone layer excessively. These substances are CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), halons, CH3CCl3 (Methyl chloroform), CCl4 (Carbon tetrachloride), HCFCs (hydro-chlorofluorocarbons), hydro Bromo fluorocarbons and methyl bromide (NOAA, 2008 cited in Canan & Reichman, 2017). These gases remain there for a long time and are not washed back by the rain and transferred to the stratosphere where chlorine and bromine are released in the presence of UV radiation. Eventually, chlorine and bromine react with ozone molecules and break them, which results in depletion. Scientists have concluded that these substances will play an active role in destroying the ozone layer for many decades in the future (David, 2010, cited in Liman, Msughter, and Obada, 2022).

The first time the ozone layer depletion and its consequences were acknowledged was in 1977. Since then, thirty-two countries have participated in Washington D.C. with UNEP (United Nations Environmental Program) (Agada, and Satendra, (2023). It was noticed that human activities were playing a major role in this depletion and by effect, making the world environmentally dangerous, especially for man and for plants and animals.

The media have the responsibility of setting an agenda and shaping the way the public understands certain issues like those of ozone layer depletion, the politics of it, its impact, and the need for action. Journalists report events via newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and even the Internet (Santas, Inobemhe & Asemah, 2023). Thus, the media of mass communication are seen as channels through which information is disseminated to a large number of people, usually at the same time. Asemah (2020) notes that the media, often set an agenda for the public to follow. They monitor trends and events in our society and raise their agenda based on what they have monitored.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, (No date as cited in Ezegwu and Asemah, 2021) “One of the objectives of a newspaper is to understand the popular feeling of the people and give expression to it, another is to arouse among the people certain desirable sentiments; the third is to fearlessly expose popular defects.” This means that newspapers have the responsibility to report any potential threat or issue that is capable of affecting members of the public.One would reason that the mass media which has a social responsibility to provide the public with adequate information about certain incidents in the society could have paid greater attention to issues bordering on ozone layer depletion and **inform** the public accordingly. The nature of media is better appreciated in its

coverage of environmental issues like the threat of ozone layer depletion, global warming, insurgency, conflicts, and so on. These are the major stakes in the affairs of journalism. Thus, this study examined the comparative study of selected Nigerian newspaper's coverage of ozone layer depletion.

Statement of the problem

There is a widespread concern that the ozone layer which is bringing out terrible deterioration thus contributes to climatic change and global warming. So, Nigerians are facing a serious global environmental problem. Media are a central public arena through which we become aware of environmental issues and how they are addressed, contested, and perhaps resolved. Through radio, television, newspapers, and magazines people gain awareness. Communicating environmental information is very challenging due to the dynamics and complexity of natural systems. Media coverage of ozone layer depletion constitutes a communication process that leads to awareness of the issue. Studies have been carried out on both qualitative and quantitative environmental issues, and global warming, and among others, there is a gap in literature especially on the media angle about the coverage of ozone layer depletion by newspapers in Nigeria. This is the gap that this research intends to fill.

Objectives of the Study

1. Find out the frequency of coverage given to ozone layer depletion by selected newspapers in Nigeria.
2. Find out the level of prominence given to correspondence on ozone layer depletion by selected newspapers in Nigeria.
3. Find out the story formats that are predominant in the coverage of ozone layer depletion by selected newspapers in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were designed to guide the study:

1. What is the frequency of coverage given to the ozone layer depletion by selected newspapers in Nigeria?
2. What is the level of prominence given to correspondence on ozone layer depletion in selected newspapers in Nigerian?
3. What story formats are predominant in the coverage of ozone layer depletion by selected newspapers in Nigeria?

Literature Review

Overview of Ozone Layer depletion

The ozone layer is a layer in earth's atmosphere, which contains comparatively high concentrations of ozone (O3). This layer absorbs 93-99% of the sun's high-frequency ultraviolet light, which is capable of damaging life on Earth (Canan & Reichman, 2017). More than 91% of the ozone in

Earth's atmosphere is present here (Canan & Reichman, 2017). It is mostly located in the lower segment of the stratosphere from approximately 10 km to 50 km above the earth, even though the thickness varies seasonally and geographically (Hoffmann, 2012 cited in Liman, 2022 et al).

The ozone layer is a stratospheric layer, which plays an important role in the support of human lives for survival. The ozone layer is present in the upper part of the atmosphere which is about 20-48 km above the sea level. It contains different forms of oxygen constantly reacting in the presence of ultraviolet light. The ozone layer protects planet earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation allowing non-harmful ultraviolet rays to penetrate to the earth surface. Ozone would still be present near the surface and throughout the troposphere and stratosphere because it is a natural component of the clean atmosphere but when it is massively affected and reduced in amount, it leads to depletion of the Ozone layer and subsequently lead to climate change and global warming. The large amount of ODSs (Ozone Depleting Substances) released into the atmosphere has led to a significant decrease in the ozone layer.

The ozone layer was discovered in 1913 by the French physicists; Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson. Its properties were explored in detail by the British meteorologist G. M. B. Dobson, who developed a simple spectrophotometer (the Dobson meter) that could be used to quantify stratospheric ozone from the ground. Between 1928 and 1958, Dobson established a worldwide network of ozone monitoring stations which continues to operate today. The "Dobson unit", is used to measure the total amount of ozone in a column and the unit is named in his honor.

The ozone is a gas made up of three oxygen atoms (O3), instead of the normal oxygen atom which is two (O2). Ozone is formed by the action of sunlight on oxygen high in the stratosphere where the air pressure is very low and sunlight very strong. Lower down in the stratosphere, ozone is naturally destroyed in reactions with other atmospheric gases and the ozone layer is a result of the creation and destruction processes. About 300 million tons per day of ozone are involved in this cycle (Fitzka , 2012 cited in Liman et al 2022). The large amount of ODSs (Ozone Depleting Substances) released into the atmosphere has led to a significant decrease in the ozone layer. CFCs, HFCs, HCFCs, BFCs, and halocarbons are artificially synthesized gases consisting of carbon and one or more halogens released in enormous amounts thereby responsible concentration of Cl and Br in the atmosphere (Gan, 2018).

The studies indicated that the ozone layer is becoming thinner and thinner thereby decreasing in its capability and potency of both acting as a blanket shielding the earth's surface from ultraviolet radiations as well as acting as a filter to lethal rays from part of the earth that supports life (https://www.epa.gov). Ozone layer depletion is caused majorly by greenhouse gases like CFCs, Volatile organic compounds, SO2, NO2, CO2, CH4, water vapour etc.

Why Atmospheric Ozone Layer should be protected

The ozone in the stratosphere absorbs some of the sun’s biologically harmful ultraviolet radiation. Because of this beneficial role, atmospheric ozone is considered “good ozone.” In contrast, excess ozone at the earth’s surface that is formed from pollutants is considered “bad ozone” because it can be harmful to man, plants, and animals. The ozone that occurs naturally near the surface and in the lower atmosphere is also beneficial because it helps to remove pollutants from the

atmosphere. In the absence of human activities on earth's surface, ozone would still be present near the surface and throughout the troposphere and stratosphere because ozone is a natural component of the clean atmosphere, (Fahey 2007 cited in Agada and Satendra, 2023).

When ozone is massively" affected" and it reduces in amount, it leads to depletion of ozone layer which subsequently lead to global warming and climate change (Hansen, Schnitzerler, Strassmann, Doney and Roeckner, 2007 cited in Brito, Souza, and Pereira, 2019). The detailed chemistry of the processes is beyond the scope of this work. When coal, oil or other fossil fuels are burned, acid-rain precursors are emitted into the atmosphere. These include nitrogen oxides (NOx) and Sulphur dioxide (SO2). Once in the atmosphere, NOx and SO2 are transformed, depending upon atmospheric conditions, into acid nitrate and acid sulfate otherwise known as nitric acid and sulphuric acid, and fall back in rain, snow, fog, cloud water, particles, and gas. The term acid deposition encompasses all forms of inputs to acid.

How Nigerians are Contributing to Ozone Layers Depletion

Nigeria is contributing significantly to greenhouse emissions. Particularly, land-use change and the forestry sector generate about 40% of gross national emissions into the atmosphere. Also, sources of CO2 emission are gas flaring and transportation which account for 20% and 30% respectively. Anthropogenic activities such as the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas as well as deforestation and various industrial practices are altering the composition of the atmosphere and contributing to global warming (Nsikakabasi , 2008 cited in Gan, 2018). In addition, removing trees by burning is a common practice in developing countries like Nigeria. This releases CO2 into the atmosphere and prevents forests from impounding carbon in the future. The pasture or cropland that replaces the forest lacks the shade created by a forest canopy and tends to be warmer.

The IPCC has estimated that between one-quarter and one-third of anthropogenic CO2 emissions are due to deforestation and not necessarily the burning of fossil fuels (IPCC, 2007 cited in Ogunniran, 2018). It also stated that the anthropogenic cause of climate change involves human activities that either discharge huge amounts of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere that deplete the ozone layer or activities that decrease the number of carbons absorbed from the atmosphere. The human factors that emit great amounts of greenhouse gasses include industrialization, burning of fossil fuel, gas flaring, urbanization, and agriculture.

Research conducted by Dike, Onwuka, and Avanenge (2014) assesses the preference of consumers for ozone-friendly products and the extent to which the products have gained acceptance in the marketplace. The findings showed that the consumers preferred the ozone-depleting substances to the ozone-friendly products. This proves that green products have not gained much market acceptance when compared with conventional (ozone-depleting substances) products. The implication is that consumers would likely utilize the ozone-depleting substances or products if available in the market which may affect the ozone layer and contribute to global warming. Anthropogenic challenges are caused mainly by human interference with the environment.

Empirical Review

Nwabueze and Egbara (2016) studied newspaper framing of climate change in Nigeria and Ghana. The main objective was to find out how climate change stories are framed in Nigerian and Ghanaian national dailies. The scholars used the content analysis method. It was found that the overall dominant frame was an environment and action frame that focused on the predicted effect of climate change on the landscape and relief in Nigeria, Ghana and other regions. The scholars recommended that the Nigerian and Ghanaian press should use more of the information and awareness frame in writing. This reviewed work is different from the present study. The scholars studied newspapers from two countries which is cumbersome. The present study looked at newspaper coverage of ozone layer depletion and the scope of the study is Nigeria.

Ude-Akpeh & Ezeoke (2017) evaluated the knowledge, attitude, and behavior of diffusion of flood alert campaigns in Anambra State. The study is premised on the background of the warnings issued by the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency and the National Emergency Management Agency, informing residents of suburb basins about imminent flood disasters. The study adopted both the survey research design and the focus group discussion (FGD) and drew a sample of 400 respondents from a total population of 3,182,190 people living in the riverine areas of Anambra State. The results revealed that the respondents knew about the 2016 flood disaster alert. The result also revealed that the high level of awareness did not significantly motivate the respondents to relocate. The study recommended an integrated communication approach for public communication campaigns.

The study is different from the current study in terms of subject matter and approach. The reviewed work was on a flood alert campaign in Anambra State and the scholars used a survey research method and FGD. The current study is on ozone layer depletion and the content analysis method was used. The scope of reviewed work is not large while the current study scope is larger.

Ogunniran (2018) examined how ozone layer depletion and climate change act as a threat to Nigerians and strategies that should be elucidated to reduce this phenomenon. The scholar used secondary data. The review established the fact that climate change has adverse effects in Nigeria especially in the flaring region, Niger Delta area. Nigeria generally is known as a highly industrialised country and a recent study report that Nigeria has over one hundred and twenty-three (123) gas flaring sites making it one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gases in Africa. The World Bank (2008) revealed that Nigeria accounts for roughly one-sixth of worldwide gas flaring. There is sparse rainfall thereby making food production difficult in the Northern part of Nigeria, Uncontrolled logging, people in the Niger Delta region are experiencing oil exploration, deforestation, and bush burning in southern Nigeria leading to acid rain, urbanization with increasing risk of disease and the rising cost of extreme weather damage. The impacts of which are already felt all over the country. The reviewed work is different from the current study in terms of subject matter and approach. The current work is on ozone layer depletion and a content analysis research design was used.

Nwabueze, Nnaemeka, Umeora, and Okika, (2015) examined Nigerian newspapers' coverage of climate change issues.The researchers studied three national dailies (*Vanguard, Guardian,* and

Daily Sun newspapers) to determine the coverage of climate change issues for a period of four months. The objectives of the study was to determine the volume of coverage of climate change issues, to find out the forms in which climate change issues were presented in the media, and to determine the event/fora that drives the coverage of climate change issues by the Nigerian newspapers. The units of analysis of the study was volume of coverage, story type/forms of presentation, and fora/forum forms that brought about the media coverage of climate change issue, while the content categories are straight news reports, feature stories, cartoons, advertorials, editorials and letters to the editor. The sample size for the study was 190. It was found that the volume of coverage of the issue was poor and that the dominantform of presentationwas feature stories. It was also found that most of the stories on climate change reported in the Nigerian media were based on specific events on climate change. The researchers recommended among others that the Nigerian press should give priority attention to the coverage of climatechange issues as regular communication about it is the first step towards developing coping mechanisms in Nigeria.

The study is different from the current study in terms of subject matter and the number of newspapers studied. The current study looked at coverage of ozone layer depletion in Nigeria and two newspapers were studied while the reviewed work studied three newspapers. The reviewed work was conducted in 2015 while the present work was conducted in 2024.

Agada and Satendra (2023)investigated the impacts of the depletion of stratospheric ozone and global warming in northern Nigeria. Meteorological data such as maximum and minimum temperatures obtained from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency Abuja and UVB radiation data from NASA were used to carry out the study. The results of the analyzed temperature data for 40 years (1981-2020) showed that the study area is warming. An analyses of the UVB radiation data showed increasing trends in the number of days with very high UVB radiation and extreme UVB radiation. The results of this study showed that the amount of UVB radiation reaching the earth surface is increasing and has manifested in the increasing health complications associated with prolonged exposure to UV radiation. Prolonged exposure to solar radiation is linked with diseases such as cancer, blindness, skin disorders, and immunosuppression which are on the increase in the study area. Given the enormous health effects associated with prolonged exposure to UVB radiation, the study seeks to create public awareness that will help people to limit their exposure to UV radiation from the Sun.

The reviewed work looked at the impacts of the depletion of stratospheric ozone and global warming in northern Nigeria while the current study looked at newspapers' coverage of ozone layer depletion. The review adopted the library research method while the current study used the content analysis method.

Brito, Souza, and Pereira (2019) analyzed the media coverage of the impact of extreme weather events (EWE) and related risk management activities in Brazil. The researchers used documentary analysis, the authors examined the media coverage of droughts and floods from 2003 to 2013 with concomitant official reports. The results indicated that although media coverage conveys the direct impact of floods and droughts on society, it underemphasizes the importance of risk management activities. Further findings showed that the private sector rarely engages in risk management and mitigation activities, despite the documented supply chain disruptions. The authors suggested that

there is a need for private sector involvement in risk management activities to facilitate the adaptation to climate change.

The reviewed work was carried out in Brazil and the authors adopted a documentary approach. The current study is carried out in Nigeria and it used the content analysis research method, where the existing manifest was examined.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on agenda-setting theory. Theorists Maxwell McCombs and Donald L.Shaw propounded the theory in 1972. According to Orewere (2006) cited in Asemah, (2020), agenda setting refers to the ability of the mass media to influence the level of the public's awareness of issues as opposed to their knowledge about those issues. The theory assumes that the media sets an agenda for the public to follow. Therefore, in choosing and displaying news, editors, newsroom staff and broadcasters play an important part in shaping the public agenda. Readers learn not only about a given issue but also how much importance to attach to the issue from the amount of information in a news story and its position (Asemah, Nwammuo & Nkwam-Uwaoma, 2017).

In addition, Cohen (1963, cited in Asemah, Nwammuo & Nkwam-Uwaoma, 2017) asserts that the media may not be successful in telling people what to think but they are stunningly successful in telling them what to think about. Wimmer & Dominick (2000, p. 408) argue that "agenda setting by the media suggests that the public agenda or what kind of things people discuss think or worry about is powerfully shaped and directed by what the media choose to publicize.

Media experts believe that by giving a particular topic a prominent treatment in their agenda over some time, the mass media would have succeeded in making the audience believe that the issue is indeed important (Nwafor, Odoemelam & Duru, 2013). This theory explains how the frequency, prominence, and nature of the newspapers' reports of ozone layer depletion will aid the public's knowledge and understanding of the issue and the importance attached to it. This theory is relevant to this study because the information disseminated by newspapers about ozone layer depletion to the audience is what determines what they think about the implications of ozone layer depletion, some may think about adopting healthy practices that would not be harmful to the ozone layer.

Methodology

The researchers content analyzed two Nigerian dailies (*Punch* and *Vanguard* newspapers). The newspapers were considered based on defined criteria such as wide coverage, rank, ownership structure, and distribution across the country (Asemah, Gujbawu, Ekhareafo & Okpanachi, 2022). The population covers the editions of the select newspapers published from 1 September 2023 to 29th February 2024 (6 months).This is in the view that the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer. It is expected that before the date, Nigerian newspapers would carry news items and editorials to create awareness on the issue. The total population of the study is 182 (i.e. 182 x 2 = 364) weekend editions inclusive. To determine the sample size for the newspapers, the

researcher employed Nwanna's (1998 as cited in Chime-Nganya, Ezeji, and Ezegwu, 2017) stipulation of 40% for a few hundred in sample size determination
(percentage formula).

$\frac{n = NV}{100}$ $\frac{n = 364 \times 40}{100}$ n= 146

However, seeing that the sample size was small and manageable, the census sampling method was adopted to allow the researcher to study all the population elements with a major focus on the following **units of analysis**; Straight news, features, editorials, opinion/commentary and photographs. The instrument used in collecting the data was a code sheet. The code sheet is used in systematic data collection for content analytical research.

Data were generated from the select newspapers through a detailed page-by-page review of the newspapers and coded on the prepared code sheet. This ensured the easy, fast, and accurate collection of data necessary for the study.

Under each of the units of analysis, the following were used for the analysis: Prominence (using front page lead, front page, inside page, and back page), the format of the story (News, column, Feature, editorial, and photographs), frequency (number of times each unit of analysis appeared).

i. Frequency: This means the numbers of times the stories appeared in the studied newspapers.

ii. **Prominence/Placement:** This means when such stories are placed on the front page lead, front page, inside page, and back pages of the studied newspapers and are regarded as important.

iii. **Format of the story:** This refers to ways in which the stories were presented in the studied newspapers. The includes straight news, features, editorial, columns etc

The reliability of the entire method employed in this research work was calculated using holsti's formula (as cited in Wimmer and Dominick, 2003, p. 157 cited in Okoro & Odoemelam, 2013).

Reliability $= \frac{2m}{N2-N2}$

Where M is the number of coding decisions on which two coders agree, and N1 and N2 are the total numbers of coding decisions by the first and second coders, respectively. Twenty-four coding decisions were taken by the two coders on twenty-four manifest items randomly selected from the August 10, and November 10, 2023 editions of *Punch* and *Vanguard* newspapers studied). The coders agreed on eighteen decisions, the data was used to calculate the intercoder reliability thus:

$\frac{2\ (18) = 36}{24+24}$ $= \frac{36}{48}$ $= 0.75$

For the study, each of the coders identified and categorized 24 themes, but they agreed on only 18 of them. The reliability coefficient is 0.75.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The studied newspapers published a total of 31 stories within the study period. *Punch*newspaper reported a total of 17 stories while *Vanguard* newspaper published 14 stories.

Table 1: Frequency of Coverage given to the Ozone Depletion by Nigerian Newspapers

Name of the newspaper	Frequency	Percentage
Punch	17	55

Vanguard	14	45
Total	**31**	**100**

The implication of table one showed that *Punch* (55%) newspaper covered most of the climate issues.

Table 2: Level of Prominence given to Ozone Layer Depletion by Nigerian Newspapers

Pattern of prominence	**Punch**	***Vanguard***	**Total**	**Percentage**
Front page lead	0	0	0	0
Front page	1	0	1	3
Inside page	16	13	29	94
Back page	0	1	1	3
Total	**17**	**14**	**31**	**100**

Table two showed that the majority (94%) of the stories on ozone layer depletion were placed on the inside pages of the studied newspapers.

Table 3: Formats of Ozone Layer Depletion Reportage by the Nigerian Newspapers

Format of stories	***Punch***	***Vanguard***	**Total**	**Percentage**
Straight news	13	10	23	74
Feature	1	1	2	6
Editorial	0	0	0	0
Column	2	1	3	10
Photograph	1	2	3	10
Total	17	14	**31**	**100**

The data in table three indicated that Ozone Layer Depletion coverage was dominated by straight news stories, with over 74%.

Discussion of Findings

This study focused on select Nigerian newspapers' coverage of ozone layer depletion. The period of study was from September 1, 2023, to February 29, 2024. Comparatively, a significant difference was found in the coverage of the ozone layer depletion by the studied newspapers. The *Punch* (55%) newspaper covered much of the issues on the ozone layer depletion more when compared with the *Vanguard* newspaper (45%). The total numbers of stories covered by the two newspapers were 31 items. This showed that ozone layer depletion issues were not frequently covered during the studied period.

The result of these findings did not align with the principle of agenda-setting theory on the frequency of reportage on any issue that is regarded as important at any given time in a given society. The elements involved in agenda setting according to Folarin (2002 cited in Asemah et al, 2017) include: The quantity or frequency of reporting, prominence given to the reports through headline display, pictures, and layout in newspapers, magazines, films, graphics or timing on radio and television, degree of conflict generated in the reports and cumulative media specific effects over time.

Further findings showed that the newspapers did not give much importance to the issue of ozone layer depletion in terms of story placement. While 29 (94%) stories were placed on the inside pages, 0 (0%) stories appeared on the front page lead, 1 (3%) story appeared on the front page and 1 (3%) story appeared on the back page. This showed that the studied newspapers did not give prominence to the ozone layer depletion issues, thus failing in their agenda-setting functions.

The finding also showed that various news formats were used in coverage of ozone layer depletion matters within the period investigated. Although straight news was predominantly used by the two newspapers, the two studied newspapers had 23 (74%) straight news stories. However, the newspapers did well in adopting different news formats in telling the story of the ozone layer depletion, their dominant use of straight news only suggests that they did not do much in-depth in the coverage. These findings are similar to the study of Amenaghawon (2017) and Chime-Nganya, Ezeji, & Ezegwu (2017) who studied secessionist threats and framing of IPOB/Nigerian army clash and found that newspapers focused on straight news. Columns and opinion articles on IPOB/Biafra which allowed individuals to express their views regarding the issue were much lower in the coverage.

Conclusion

This study was carried out to determine the coverage of ozone layer depletion in two Nigerian national dailies (*Punch* and *Vanguard* newspapers). The study concludes that ozone layer depletion issues were not frequently covered during the studied period. Also, the studied newspapers did not give prominence to the ozone layer depletion stories, thus failing in their agenda-setting role.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion, the researcher recommends the following:

1. Nigerian newspapers should report ozone layer depletion issues regularly to inform and educate the public on the need to protect the ozone layer from depletion as well as other harmful activities that may affect it.
2. Looking at the strategic significance of ozone layer issues, newspapers in Nigeria should place such stories on their front and back pages to give them prominence.
3. The coverage of climate change like ozone layer matters should go beyond straight news as revealed in the study, more attention should be given to other news formats such as features, interviews, editorials, opinions, and use of photographs/pictures.

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