''Health education effort is holistic when it considers the vulnerable'' How IDPs in Nigeria fare in media reports on COVID-19 pandemic

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Abstract
Background: Although progress has been made regarding how the media report vulnerable groups, researchers are yet to focus attention on how the media factor the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in reporting diseases and outbreak in general and health pandemics in particular.
Objective: This study attempted to extend literature related to COVID-19 using a Nigerian context by investigating how the media factor IDPs in their reportage of COVID-19.

Methodology: The researchers made use of content analysis as a design and condesheet as the instrument for data collection. The researchers examined 451 media stories from two TV stations, two newspapers and one radio station.
Results: The result showed that only 33% of the stories on COVID-19 were linked to IDPs in Nigeria. Even at that, stories related to IDPs in relation to COVID-19 mostly focused on donations, thus making it look as though IDPs do not need protective gears, awareness on COVID-19 and testing. We found that a significant association exists between the media characteristics and their coverage of the issue examined. Across all media, there were very few public service announcements on COVID-19 that were related to IDPs.
Conclusion: The media in Nigeria paid less attention to the plight of IDPs in their coverage of issues related to COVID-19.
Unique Contribution: This study is among the first to examine media coverage of COVID-19 with a focus on vulnerable groups like IDPs
Key recommendation: Further researchers are recommended to examine the influence of media reportage of COVID-19 on health behaviour as well as influence of media reportage of COVID-19 on environmental practice.

Keyword:COVID-19, coverage, media, IDPs & Nigeria

Introduction

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are generally vulnerable. They are vulnerable to sexual harassment and exploitation, physical abuse, emotional abuse as well as diseases and illnesses. The vulnerability of IDPs is largely because of three broad reasons. First, they are mostly poor because their means of livelihood is usually taken away from them as a result of the displacement. Second, they are vulnerable because the displacement occasioned by either natural or man-made incidences makes them defenseless against any other unexpected circumstance that may come their way. In the third place, IDPs are largely people from remote areas with low level of education, hence poor knowledge of their rights. A good example can be seen in IDPs from terrorism like Boko Haram in Nigeria. This is even in Borno State, North East Nigeria where Boko Haram has launched series of attacks, resulting to large-scale displacements, those most affected are from rural areas who now live in Camps in Maiduguri, still in Borno State, Nigeria. This is a pointer to the fact that IDPs are generally people of low socioeconomic status as scholars (Abdullateef, Yinusa, Danjuma, Abdul-Rasheed and Adeyemi 2017; Abah, 2010; Nyagba 2009) argue that rural dwellers are largely characterized by people with low level of income and low level of education. Isaac, Danlami, Habila, Salami, Salami, and Abutu (2019) examined the demographics of IDPs and found that as high as 63% of them had only primary education and were largely poor.

Health issues of IDPs are of particular concern because of the insanitary condition under which most of them live as a result of the displacement. The situation is typically not different from those who live in IDP camps and those who make their accommodation arrangement during the period of the displacement. The similarity lies in the overcrowding of people at their temporary places of abode. For instance, at IDP camps, the places are typically overcrowded with poor social amenities. For those who make their personal accommodation arrangements, the situation is usually the same because their poor financial status limit them from renting decent accommodation. For those who put up with family relations and friends, the situation is the same as the sudden surge in the number of household members results to overcrowding. The poor condition of IDPs is supported by available literature (Adewale, 2016; Danlami & Idowu 2019; Isaac, *et al.,* 2019).

The porous condition of IDPs, as described above, makes them vulnerable in times of pandemics such as the current coronavirus disease commonly called COVID-19. This is basically because COVID-19 is said to be contracted through human contacts. Studies (Wu, Chen, and Chan, 2020; Sun, Lu, Sun & Pan 2020; Huang *et al.,* 2020; Li *et al.*, 2020) point to the fact that human-to-human is the commonest way through which people contract COVID-19. This, thus, makes IDPs most vulnerable because of the overcrowding that closely follow their displacement. In the face of this pandemic, the World Health organization (2020) has recommended some behaviour as guides to help in reducing the spread of the disease. This includes social distancing, regular hand washing, following respiratory etiquette recommendations, regular cleaning and good environmental practices. Again, observing these life-saving measures may be challenging to IDPs because of their peculiar nature. In addition, the outbreak has created another level of economic hardship to an extent that even those who are not displaced require urgent government intervention to survive the trying times. This means that the condition of IDPs is likely to be worse, hence they require more support in such trying moments than any other category of

people. To get the needed support in terms of donations and other palliatives, the media need to play a role by highlighting the condition of IDPs in their reports.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, studies have been conducted in Nigeria on different aspects of the virus. For example, there are studies (Gever *et al*., 2021, Onuora *et al*., 2020) on the role of social media in combating the virus. There are also studies on facemask (Gera, & Ugwu 2020), information exchange, (Olijo 2020; Gever & Ezeah 2020) media coverage as well as the impact of the virus (Odii *et al* , 2020; Melugbo *et al*., 2020). However, less attention has been paid to issues regarding how IDPs feature in media reports about the virus. Therefore, the objective of this was to determine how the media highlight the condition of IDPs in their coverage of COVID-19. Based on this broad objective, the researchers raised the following questions:

1. What is the frequency of media coverage of the condition of IDPS related to COVID-19?
2. What is the story format that the media used to report the condition of IDPs in relation to COVID-19?
3. What are the key issues that the media raise in reporting COVID-19 related to IDPs?
4. How do the media report the impact of COVID-19 on IDPs in Nigeria?

Literature Review
a. COVID-19 Holds the World to a Standstill

COVID-19 is currently ravaging the world. It has posed a serious challenge to world leaders and raised questions on the readiness of the global community to handle severe pandemics. It has defiled control measures, spreading at a very fast rate from one country to another. It has emerged as a new medical challenge that scientists in the medical field have to contain with. It has led to an exponential increase in demand for medical supplies. It has brought the world to its knees. COVID-19 is powerful, fearful and life-threatening. Sporting events have been suspended indefinitely as a result of COVID-19, presidential engagements have been put to hold, educational and religious institutions have been closed, social and event centres are under lock and keys. Nations have locked down their borders. Even within nations, cities and towns have been locked down. The world is on a stand still. The World Health Organization (2021) says that as at 23 April, 2021, a total of 144,353,956 cases of the virus have been confirmed with 3, 00,113 deaths. The report adds that Nigeria has a total of 164,544 confirmed cases with 2,061 deaths. Odii *et al*., (2020) in a study reported that COVID-19 has completely affected household income in Nigeria.

b. The Media and the Vulnerable Group

The social responsibility and agenda setting roles of the media place a burden on media workers to remember the vulnerable groups like the physically disadvantaged, the internally displaced persons (IDPs), children, people with mental disorder, people suffering from dementia, individuals with limited lifespan, those who abuse drugs, among others. These groups are said to be vulnerable because they lack the capacity to help themselves.

Mechanic and Tanner (2007) aver that the concept of vulnerability entails different interwoven dimensions. Persons' capacities and behaviour; the presence or absence of intimate and essential assistance; and neighborhood and community resources which may assist or limit individual coping and interpersonal relationships. Stutzki, Weber, Reiter-

Theil, (2013) in commenting on the existence of vulnerable groups aver that such people exist everywhere in the society. However, people only know that they exist, but do not have serious interest in them. In addition, people exclude the vulnerable from resources in society which are easily accessed by others. They add that vulnerable groups suffer serious stereotypes. Overall, people who are vulnerable need the media to speak for them. They need the media to draw people's attention to their direction so that they can attract sympathy and support.

The media need to highlight issues concerning the vulnerable groups so that they can receive assistance from others in the society. Sadaf (2011) affirms that media as the fourth pillar of state and an essential agent of society has the responsibility to make important information available to the general public on a specific issue or different issues. Sadaf further adds that it is not just about giving information to the general public, it is also about attempting to play a role regarding their perceptions and views reported in the media. When this is interpreted within the context of the vulnerable, it means is it not just about the media covering them, but media reports positively influencing public thinking about this group of people. Burke (2014) in illustrating the power of the media in shaping peoples' thinking about the vulnerable groups avers that even though images of drug concerning drug abuse and victims of violence, beggars on street corners with cardboard signs, and gang attachment, among minorities, are some of the instances people usually associate with the lower class, if the media do not reinforce such images, they may not be convincing. Burke's result revealed that the media largely ignore the vulnerable groups in the society. Even when they appear in the media, they are largely poorly portrayed because the media highlight and amplify class difference in the society by negatively representing the vulnerable groups. Kendall (2008) conducted a study to ascertain media representation of the poor and vulnerable. He reported that the displaced and the poor are often not given attention by the media. He reported further that when the homeless appear in media contents, they are usually discussed within the context of abstract statistics, and where the media attempt to present a human face, the frame relies on the characteristics of the vulnerable. Kendall also reported that media presentation of the classes that exist in the society does not pay attention to societal and structural realities of class positions, drivers that are clearly stressed in the sociological literature. For instance, Kendall avers that the way the media present the upper class does not take into account economic disparities that pinpoint upper class position. In the same manner, the media hardly regard large-scale drivers of impoverishment, such as educational opportunity or underemployment as result of economic shifts (Kendall, 2008).

Barbashina (2012) examined how the Russian media represent people with disabilities and reported that Russian press provide description of existing discrimination that people with disabilities experience as well as the social support provided which government offer them. The result further showed that the newspaper investigated made mention that the Russian Government makes efforts to integrate disabled people into society. Barbashina reported further that there were no significant difference in the representation of people with disabilities across the newspapers investigated. Overall, Barbashina reported that the newspapers examined did well in reporting people with disabilities. Adeyemo and Obaje (2020) conducted a study to examine Nigerian newspapers coverage of IDPs in Nigeria. The result of the study showed that the

newspapers examined did not give adequate prominence to the issue of IDPs. The results further showed that the newspapers studied mainly highlighted the vulnerability of IDPs in their reports.

Ibrahim and Gujbawu (2017) carried out a study to ascertain newspaper coverage of IDPs and reported that the newspapers mostly made use of vulnerability frame, assistance frame and security frame. Hussain (2016) investigated how   media treatment of internally displaced persons in Pakistan with specific attention to newspapers and reported that the newspapers examined made use of frames that were sympathetic to the government.

c. Characteristics of Media Outlet and Coverage

Although media outlets   typically have different characteristics, in this study, the researchers were limited to two. These are ownership and the media genre. We examined how these features play a role in moderating media reports of issues.   Apuke and Tunca (2019) examined the coverage of IDPs by blogs and Television stations and reported that both media genres significantly differed. The researchers found that blogs and private TV stations did better in coverage of IDPs than the NTA, a government owned TV station which was found to have paid less attention to the issue. Gever (2015) tested the contribution of public   and private broadcast media in resolving the Boko Haram insurgency based on five generic frames like public education, promotion of dialogue, security tips, public awareness, public education, and promotion of the spirit of patriotism. The researchers reported that publicly owned media had 60% stories on the issue as against 40% by private media. In terms of media comparison, the result showed that radio did better than TV stations. Fowler and Ridout (2009) compared TV and newspaper coverage of political advertising and reported that   TV and newspapers significantly differed in their coverage of political advertising. Van der Wardt, Taal, Rasker and Wiegman (1999) examined media coverage of health issues in Netherlands and reported a difference in coverage with newspapers having more stories than TV and magazine. The study of Héricourt and Spielvogel (2013) also showed that the impact of media messages on receivers also differ based on its characteristics. For example, they found that though media exposure is a fundamental determinant of beliefs on influence regarding issues, newspaper reading results to a more favourable views opinion whereas TV broadcast viewing results to a negative impact.

Theoretical Framework

This study made used of two theories. They are social responsibility and agenda setting theories. Agenda setting theory has its origin from the classical book of Walter Lippmann titled *Public Opinion* which he published in 1922. In that book, Lippmann noted that the news media content significantly influence the picture that people have concerning issues reported in the media. It is noteworthy that Lippmann only expressed an opinion in a book and this was not based on any shred of empirical evidence. The actual postulation is attributed to the study of   Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in their study of 1972. The researchers conducted a study wherein they studied 100 voters at *Chapel Hill*, United States and found that when news   editors make decision related to news content, they actually play a role in determining which issues to consider as important or not. According to the theory, the media play an essential role in shaping public views about issues. This is done through strategies like frequency of reportage, contents   of reportage and

placements. Gever (2015) tested agenda setting theory using a sample of 400 respondents and found that their media actually play substantial roles in influencing public views of issues. This theory is relevant to the current study because it points to the fact that the media have the ability to draw attention to issues related to IDPs, especially in times of pandemics as it is the case with COVID-19. The media have the ability to shape the thinking of the general public concerning the need to remember IDPs in critical times like COVID-19. It is the responsibility of the media to ensure that IDPs are remembered in times like this. That responsibility is expressed by the social responsibility theory.

   The social responsibility theory has its origin to a committee of communication experts of 1947. This is called   the Hutchins Commission of inquiry. The commission made a case for the need for the media to be socially responsible in their reportage. It assumes that freedom comes with a corresponding responsibility. Therefore, if the press is free to operate, it must self-regulate by demonstrating that it is actually responsible. This is supposed to reflect in the reportage of issues that affect the generality of the society. The media, based on this theory, are expected to report responsibly, while also playing positive roles in supporting important issues in the society. See McQuail (2005), Asemah (2011), Gever (2013), Gever and Coleman (2017). Within the context of social responsibility theory, the media in Nigeria have a responsibility to ensure a representation of all segments of the society when reporting COVID-19. See also Nwabuzor, and Gever , (2014). This means, therefore, that the media in Nigeria have a responsibility of ensuring that IDPs are adequately represented in their coverage of COVID-19.

Methodology
To conduct this study, the researchers made use of content analysis. The researchers regarded content analysis as very apt for the study because the objective was to examine media contents. Previous studies (Gever 2018, Gever , Ukonu & Oyeoku, Apuke & Tunca, 2019, Gever & Coleman, 2017) that have examined media contents made use of content analysis and the outcome revealed that content analysis is very suitable for studies which aim to investigate media contents.

   To conduct this study, the researchers selected two newspapers, two TV stations and one radio station. The newspapers sampled were *Vanguard* and *Leadership* newspapers. The TV stations sampled were Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and African Independence Television (AIT).   The radio station selected was Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria. We sampled these media stations with the use of a simple random sampling so as to give equal chance of selection among the different media in Nigeria. We implemented the simple random sampling through a   balloting approach.

   Our media sample had a representation of both public and private owned media. It also had a representation of both print and electronic media. To start with NTA and Radio Nigeria are owned by the Federal Government of Nigeria. AIT is privately owned by Daar Communications Limited. The *Vanguard* and *Leadership* newspapers are privately owned national newspapers in Nigeria with circulation to all the 36 states of Nigeria. They also have online versions, thus ensuring wider reach even beyond the shores of Nigeria. By selecting both private and publicly owned media outfit, the researchers were able to compare and analyze the results based on the influence of ownership pattern. By also including electronic and print media genres, the researchers were able to examine the issue

within the perspective of the different media genres.   The study covered December 1st 2019 to March 30th, 2020. This time frame was considered appropriate because it marked a time when COVID-19 attracted the attention of both government and individuals in Nigeria. For example, during this time frame, donations from business men, corporate bodies like banks, faith based foundations, among others were received. This time frame marked a time when measures were taken to assist people cope during the pandemic.

Procedure for Sample selection Stories

We first made use of stratify sampling technique to categorize the media based on ownership. The strata were public and private ownership. At the second level, simple random sampling was used to sample the media from each of the strata. Therefore, for publicly owned media, NTA and Radio Nigeria were selected. For privately owned media, AIT, *Vanguard* and *Leadership* newspapers were selected. It is important to clarify here that there is no government-owned national daily newspapers in Nigeria.   The procedure for the selection of the stories from each of the media was the motif search technique. This involved the searching of key words on the websites of the media examined.   The key words used were 'COVID-19', 'coronavirus in Nigeria' 'IDPs' and 'coronavirus'. All the stories on COVID-19 that related to Nigeria were sampled.

Measurements

In   this   study,   we   measured   the   following:

Frequency of coverage: The aim here was to ascertain the number of times issues of IDPs were mentioned in stories on COVID-19. Therefore, we counted the number of stories that related to IDPs and compared with those that did not relate to IDPs within the context of COVID-19.

Story format: The researchers determine the format in which stories that mentioned IDPs on COVID-19 issues appeared. Therefore, we made used of straight news for stories that reported without providing in-depth analysis. The second category was feature stories. These are stories that were long and focused on IDPs within the framework of COVID-19. The third category was opinion. These are stories that expressed the opinion of media houses or individuals. The last category was public servicemen announcement which sought to make public issues on COVID-19.

Key Issues :   Here, we were interested in understanding the key issues that were raised relating to IDPs. The following issues were measured:

a. **Donations**: These are stories that focus on donations to IDPs.
b. **Awareness creation:** These are stories that highlight the importance of creating awareness to IDPs on COVID-19.
c. **Testing:** These are stories that made a case for the testing of IDPs on COVID-19.
d. **Protective gear**: These are stories that highlight the need for distribution of protective gears like face mask to IDPs.

Impact on IDPs: The overall aim here was to ascertain how the media reported the impact of COVID-19 on IDPs. Stories were categorized as highlighting impact if they report how, for example, IDPs have adjusted their behaviour as a result of COVID-19, how COVID-19 will impact on the welfare of IDPs, etc .

The article was the unit of analysis for this study. We tested the   reliability of the stories by allowing two coders to conduct the coding. The randomly selected coders coded 20% of the stories. We then made use of   Krippendorff's Alpha (KALPHA) to ascertain the

inter-coder reliability using the 22 version of the statistical package for social sciences. Our analysis led to the inter-coder reliability of 0.95 for story frequency, .77 for story type, .75 for issues raised   while for impact, it was .72. The researchers made use of descriptive statics like simple percentages, mean and standard deviation. Also inferential statistics like Chi-Square and contingency coefficient were used. The results were presented in tables.

Results

Sequel to our search on the websites of the various media , we found 451 stories that were related to COVID-19 from the five media selected. We sorted out the stories and the results are presented in the tables below:

Table 1: Frequency of media coverage of COVID-19 related to IDPs

			Frequency		
			IDPs related	Not IDPs related	Total
Media	NTA	Count	29	54	83
		% of Total	6.4%	12.0%	18.4%
	AIT	Count	49	23	72
		% of Total	10.9%	5.1%	16.0%
	FRCN	Count	27	29	56
		% of Total	6.0%	6.4%	12.4%
	Leadership	Count	22	118	140
		% of Total	4.9%	26.2%	31.0%
	Vanguard	Count	26	74	100
		% of Total	5.8%	16.4%	22.2%
Total		Count	153	298	451
		% of Total	33.9%	66.1%	100.0%

In table one above, we sought to ascertain the frequency of media coverage of COVID-19 stories that are related to IDPs. The results as presented in table one showed that only 33.9% of the stories made mention of IDPs. The rest of the stories had nothing to do with IDPs whatsoever. We explored the association between the media examined and their frequency of coverage. We achieved through the use of Chi-square analysis and this yielded X^2 =66.194; df=4; p-value=0.001 at 0.05 level of significance. The coefficient contingency value C=.357. This means that the frequency of coverage was significantly associated with individual media examined. The extent of this association was found to be 35.7%.

Table 2: Story format on COVID-19

Story format				Story Content		
				IDPs related	Not IDPs related	Total
straight news	Media	NTA	Count	22	15	37
			% of Total	13.3%	9.1%	22.4%
		AIT	Count	42	8	50
			% of Total	25.5%	4.8%	30.3%
		FRCN	Count	25	0	25
			% of Total	15.2%	.0%	15.2%
		Leadership	Count	22	2	24
			% of Total	13.3%	1.2%	14.5%
		Vanguard	Count	26	3	29
			% of Total	15.8%	1.8%	17.6%
	Total		Count	137	28	165
			% of Total	83.0%	17.0%	100.0%
feature stories	Media	NTA	Count	7	23	30
			% of Total	3.6%	12.0%	15.6%
		AIT	Count	4	6	10
			% of Total	2.1%	3.1%	5.2%
		FRCN	Count	2	11	13
			% of Total	1.0%	5.7%	6.8%
		Leadership	Count	0	83	83
			% of Total	.0%	43.2%	43.2%
		Vanguard	Count	0	56	56
			% of Total	.0%	29.2%	29.2%
	Total		Count	13	179	192
			% of Total	6.8%	93.2%	100.0%
Opinion	Media	NTA	Count	0	5	5
			% of Total	.0%	8.2%	8.2%
		AIT	Count	3	5	8
			% of Total	4.9%	8.2%	13.1%
		FRCN	Count	0	7	7
			% of Total	.0%	11.5%	11.5%
		Leadership	Count	0	30	30
			% of Total	.0%	49.2%	49.2%
		Vanguard	Count	0	11	11
			% of Total	.0%	18.0%	18.0%
	Total		Count	3	58	61
			% of Total	4.9%	95.1%	100.0%
Public service announcements	Media	NTA	Count		11	11
			% of Total		33.3%	33.3%
		AIT	Count		4	4

		% of Total		12.1%	12.1%
	FRCN	Count		11	11
		% of Total		33.3%	33.3%
	Leadership	Count		3	3
		% of Total		9.1%	9.1%
	Vanguard	Count		4	4
		% of Total		12.1%	12.1%
Total		Count		33	33
		% of Total		100.0%	100.0%

In table two above, we examined the story format that IDPs issues were presented in comparison with stories that were not related to IDPs. Our results showed that stories that were related to IDPs within the context of COVID-19 were presented largely in straight news format. On the other hand, stories that were not related to IDPs came in different varieties such as straight news, features, opinion and public service announcements. The result of the cross tabulation   yielded $X^2=23.298$; df=4; p=0.001 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that story type was significantly associated with the media examined.

Table 3: Media coverage of key issues in COVID-19

Key issues				Story Content		Total
				IDPs related	Not IDPs related	
Donations	Media	NTA	Count	17	5	22
			% of Total	11.8%	3.5%	15.3%
		AIT	Count	34	8	42
			% of Total	23.6%	5.6%	29.2%
		FRCN	Count	17	23	40
			% of Total	11.8%	16.0%	27.8%
		Leadership	Count	12	0	12
			% of Total	8.3%	.0%	8.3%
		Vanguard	Count	16	12	28
			% of Total	11.1%	8.3%	19.4%
	Total		Count	96	48	144
			% of Total	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
Awareness creation	Media	NTA	Count	5	33	38
			% of Total	5.2%	34.0%	39.2%
		AIT	Count	9	15	24
			% of Total	9.3%	15.5%	24.7%
		FRCN	Count	7	0	7
			% of Total	7.2%	.0%	7.2%
		Leadership	Count	7	0	7
			% of Total	7.2%	.0%	7.2%
		Vanguard	Count	10	11	21
			% of Total	10.3%	11.3%	21.6%
	Total		Count	38	59	97
			% of Total	39.2%	60.8%	100.0%
Testing	Media	NTA	Count	3	7	10
			% of Total	8.6%	20.0%	28.6%
		AIT	Count	2	0	2
			% of Total	5.7%	.0%	5.7%
		FRCN	Count	3	0	3
			% of Total	8.6%	.0%	8.6%
		Leadership	Count	3	4	7
			% of Total	8.6%	11.4%	20.0%
		Vanguard	Count	0	13	13
			% of Total	.0%	37.1%	37.1%
	Total		Count	11	24	35
			% of Total	31.4%	68.6%	100.0%
Protective gear	Media	NTA	Count	4	9	13
			% of Total	2.3%	5.1%	7.4%
		AIT	Count	4	0	4

		% of Total	2.3%	.0%	2.3%
	FRCN	Count	0	6	6
		% of Total	.0%	3.4%	3.4%
	Leadership	Count	0	114	114
		% of Total	.0%	65.1%	65.1%
	Vanguard	Count	0	38	38
		% of Total	.0%	21.7%	21.7%
Total		Count	8	167	175
		% of Total	4.6%	95.4%	100.0%

In table three above, the researcher determined the key issues raised in media reportage of COVID-19 among the different media examined. The result of the study showed that IDPs related stories focused more on donations, while stories that were not related to IDPs focused attention on a broad spectrum of issues like awareness creation, testing and the use of protective gear. The result of the cross tabulation yielded X^2=042; df=4; p=0.001 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that the key issues highlighted was significantly associated with the media examined.

Table 4: Media coverage of the impact of COVID-19

Impact				Story content		Total
				IDPs related	Not IDPs related	
Impact highlighted	Media	NTA	Count	8	37	45
			% of Total	4.1%	19.1%	23.2%
		AIT	Count	12	0	12
			% of Total	6.2%	.0%	6.2%
		FRCN	Count	9	18	27
			% of Total	4.6%	9.3%	13.9%
		Leadership	Count	4	94	98
			% of Total	2.1%	48.5%	50.5%
		Vanguard	Count	12	0	12
			% of Total	6.2%	.0%	6.2%
	Total		Count	45	149	194
			% of Total	23.2%	76.8%	100.0%
Impact not highlighted	Media	NTA	Count	21	17	38
			% of Total	8.2%	6.6%	14.8%
		AIT	Count	37	23	60
			% of Total	14.4%	8.9%	23.3%
		FRCN	Count	18	11	29
			% of Total	7.0%	4.3%	11.3%
		Leadership	Count	18	24	42
			% of Total	7.0%	9.3%	16.3%
		Vanguard	Count	14	74	88
			% of Total	5.4%	28.8%	34.2%
	Total		Count	108	149	257
			% of Total	42.0%	58.0%	100.0%

In table four above, we sought to ascertain if the media examined highlighted the impact of COVID-19 or not. We did this with particular attention to IDPs. Our result showed that most of the stories on IDPs did not highlight how COVID-19 is impacting on this vulnerable group. However, stories that were not related to IDPs highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on Nigerian people.   The result of the cross tabulation yielded X^2=100.237; df=4; p=0.001 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that coverage of the impact of COVID-19 was significantly associated with the media examined.

Discussion of Findings
The objective of this study was to ascertain media coverage of COVID-19 as they relate to IDPs. To achieve this broad objective, four research questions   were raised with particular attention to frequency, story type, key issues raised and the impact. To enable us to properly understand how IDPs featured in media reports on COVID-19, we also compared stories that were related to IDPs with those that were not. Four key findings emerged from the study. First, we found that there were less COVID-19 stories that made

reference to IDPs among the media examined. In the second place, we found that COVID-19 stories related to IDPs were presented largely as straight news. Conversely, stories on COVID-19 that were not related to IDPs were presented in different formats like straight news, feature stories, opinion stories and public service announcement. Third, most stories on COVID-19 that made reference to IDPs focused mainly on donations, while those that did not focus on IDPs paid attention to different issues like testing, awareness creation and use of protective gear. In the fourth place, stories that pinpointed the impact of COVID-19 were largely not related to IDPs. That is to say that most of the stories that were related to IDPs did not highlight how the virus is impacting on the lives of IDPs. Finally, our results showed that there was a significant statistical   association between the media genre examined and the frequency of coverage, story format, key issues raised and impact highlighted in the stories.

The results above have revealed that media characteristics plays a significant role in determining how the media examined reported COVID-19.   The two media characteristics that were found to have moderated media reportage were media genre and ownership. In terms of media genres, our result showed that newspapers had more stories on the issue than TV and radio. TV had more stories than radio. This result was found to be consistent with that of Fowler and Ridout (2009) who reported that newspapers had more stories on coverage of political advertisement. Although Fowler and Ridout, unlike the current study, examined political advertisement, they compared different media, thus providing an insight to understand the role of media characteristics in media coverage. However, TV had more stories on COVID-19 that were related IDPs than newspapers and radio. However, radio appeared to have done better than newspapers. We also observed a difference in the story type based on media genres, key issues raised and as well as impact highlighted. This result is similar to that of Apuke and Tunca (2019), Gever (2015) whose studies reported that media genres is significantly associated with media coverage.   The result is also contrary to that of Rasker and Wiegman (1999) whose study sought to determine how the media report health issues and found that newspapers had more stories than TV and magazines.

Another media characteristics that was found to have moderated the coverage of COVID-19 was found to be ownership. Contrary to the study of Apuke and Tunca (2019), Gever (2015), we found that public TV stations did better than private TV. This is because there were more stories from government TV, the NTA than private TV, the AIT. This means that government media were doing better in projecting issues about IDPs within the context of COVID-19 than private media. The current study has extended previous studies by Adeyemo and Obaje (2020); Ibrahim and Gujbawu (2017); Hussain (2016) who examined media coverage of IDPs without linking it to any particular health issue. These studies also did not attempt to reveal how media characteristics moderate coverage. These studies also investigated only newspapers. Therefore, the current study has extended previous literature by combining different media in addition to paying attention to their ownership.

These results have implications on agenda setting and social responsibility theories. With regard to agenda setting theory, the results of this study showed that the media examined set agenda on COVID-19 in manner that does not take into account the vulnerability of IDPs. For example, the issue of testing, awareness creation and use of

protective gear were not significantly linked to IDPs. They were presented as though they were not important to IDPs. The reports set agenda for donation to IDPs without taking into account how this vulnerable group can live in times of COVID-19 pandemic. This means that the media examined fall short of their social responsibility role within the lances of COVID-19 vis-à-vis IDPs.

Conclusion and Recommendation for further studies

This study draws three key conclusion based on the results of the study. In the first place, we conclude that IDPs are under-represented in media reports on COVID-19. In the second place, we conclude that even though media story-type on COVID-19 spread across different categories like opinions, straight news, feature and public announcement, however, COVID-19 stories that are related to IDPs used mostly straight news. The third conclusion of this study is that media stories paid less attention to the impact of COVID-19 on IDPs as though it does not impact on their lives.

This study makes contribution in three areas. First, the study makes contribution in literature by extending previous studies on IDPs and media nexus. Unlike previous researches (Apuke & Tunca, 2019; Adeyemo & Obaje 2020; Ibrahim and Gujbawu 2017) that have examined how the media report the IDPs. The extension is in two ways, First, the current study has made use of different media. Second the study has linked such coverage of IDPs to a particular pandemic. The second contribution of this study is in the area of health reporting by making a case for the need to consider the vulnerable group like IDPs. Finally, the study makes contribution in studies related to IDPs and the vulnerable group. Further researchers are recommended to examine the influence of media reportage of COVID-19 on health behaviour as well as influence of media reportage of COVID-19 on environmental practice.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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