

# The Trial of Nigerian Media in the Court Of Public Opinion: An Analysis of Radio Nigeria Coverage of the Kidnap of School Girls in Chibok

Ifeanyi F. Didiugwu<sup>1</sup>, Ph.D., Mercy I Ezugwu<sup>2</sup>, and Andrew C Apeh<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Senior Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu, Nigeria.

<sup>2</sup> Doctoral Student, Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

<sup>3</sup> Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, (ESUT), Agbani, Enugu State.

## Abstract

In recent times, Nigeria has witnessed increasing number of security problems and developments that constitute threats to the lives of its citizens. These security concerns are diverse and complex ranging from political disagreements to criminal activities with alarming dimensions and consequences, such as the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State. This paper is therefore assesses public perception of Radio Nigeria, Enugu, coverage of the kidnap of secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State. Survey research method was used. The population of study was 722,664 (residents of Enugu metropolis) with sample size of 278 drawn using Taro Yamane formula. Systematic random sampling technique was used with questionnaire and interview as the instrument for data collection, while tables and simple percentages were used in analyzing the generated data. The findings revealed that Radio Nigeria Enugu has not given adequate coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State. The study also identified ownership influence and lack of investigative journalism as part of the weaknesses in the information dissemination on the Chibok girls. The study recommends amongst others for adequate infrastructures to enable investigative journalism and create enabling environment for journalists.

**KEYWORDS:** Public, Perception, Radio, Coverage, Kidnap, Girls, Chibok

## INTRODUCTION

Security is one of the most important pre-conditions for human existence. Public safety and security is a sine qua non for a viable and sustainable society. Normal human activities that enable a society exist, thrive and grow will be severely compromised without a measure of public safety. The security situation in Nigeria deteriorates every day. Ironically, in the early 1990s, Nigeria played key roles in peace-keeping operations in many African countries; acting as a big brother to other African nations in crises. It is now a normal phenomenon to wake up to the news of bombings, butchering of children in their sleep, kidnapping, communal clashes, Fulani herdsmen fuss and recently the abduction of over 200 secondary school girls from their hostel at Government Girls' College, Chibok, Borno State. The girls were moved to an unknown destination in Sambisa forest.

This height of insecurity is as a result of accumulation of national problems ranging from bad leadership, corruption, unemployment, illiteracy and unnecessary wrangling among the political class. The desperate, intolerant and ruthless contest among political parties, political leaders and their followers is partly responsible for insecurity in the country. Nigerian politicians disrupt the peace enjoyed by the citizens just to succeed at the polls. Unfortunately, some of those perpetrators of instability have a way of escaping from their actions, leaving the women and children who are the vulnerable members of the society to inherit the unpleasant consequence. The parents of the girls in Chibok, Borno State who were abducted are desperate and anguished; angry that the government is not doing enough to address the issue and bring the girls back.

In this face of current despair and apparent laxity on the part of the government, one expects the mass media to hold the government accountable and insist on the rescue of the girls. The media is also expected to initiate the kind of coverage that could drum support for the safe rescue of the girls by setting the needed agenda. Media and terrorism experts maintain that terrorism is next to nothing but media coverage of it is everything. This means that media coverage could either fuel terrorism or discourage it. Expectedly, the media institution in Nigeria should be at the forefront in campaigning for the rescue of the girls (Dowling, 1986, Gerbner and Gross 1979, p.368),

Enthusiastic position held by UNESCO and some academics, assigns the mass media a decisive role not only in national development, but in bringing about peace and stability (Ndolo, 2005, p. 213). The media as the fourth estate of the realm has a role to play for the society and the individual. However, how this role is played is a subject of discourse. Hence this study was initiated to investigate how the media has so far covered the kidnap of the Chibok girls.

### Statement of Problem

Nigeria suddenly has become the main topic on CNN, BBC, Twitter and other social platforms. The abduction of over 200 girls by Boko Haram members in Chibok, Borno State has now become an international affair. In the face of this horror, one expects the mass media to be at the forefront in campaigning for the safe return of the girls. The mass media have the responsibility to play the surveillance role to members of the public, creating awareness, updating and keeping them abreast with recent developments/happenings in the country especially on the abducted girls in Chibok, Borno State.

However, opinion is divided on the role the media, especially the radio, has played so far in ensuring the safe return of the Chibok girls. While some maintain that the media have done creditably well, others insist that not much has been done.

Hence, this study is geared towards assessing the perception of the public on Radio Nigeria (FRCN) Enugu coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State.

### Objectives of the Study:

1. To assess the public perception of FRCN Enugu coverage of the kidnap of the girls in Chibok, Borno State.
2. To ascertain the weaknesses in the information disseminated about the kidnap in the eyes of the public.
3. To determine if FRCN Enugu has given adequate coverage to the kidnap of the Chibok girls.

### Research Questions:

1. What is perception of Enugu residents on FRCN Enugu coverage of the kidnap of the girls in Chibok, Borno State?
2. What were the weaknesses in the information disseminated by FRCN on the kidnap of the Chibok girls?
3. Has FRCN Enugu given adequate coverage to the Chibok girls kidnap?

### Insecurity Challenge in Nigeria

The greatest challenge facing Nigerian society today is insecurity. This problem is strongly influenced by the socio-economic and political history of Nigeria. This rate and extent of insecurity in Nigeria require historical exploration to comprehend its roots and implications on the future of this country.

The current general state of insecurity in Nigeria has now lent weight to the CIA report of 2005 prediction of the collapse of Nigeria in about 15 years time. While the report was released at the heat of Niger Delta crisis, since then, several acts of bombings and killings by the extremist Islamic sect, Boko Haram, the carnage between ethnic Birom and the Hausa/Fulani in Jos, and the political violence that followed immediately after the 2011 Elections results, mostly in the northern part of the country, having further cemented the insecure state of the country (Akintokunbo, 2011).

Starting with the usual religious/ethnic oriented conflicts, to the Jos ethnic/religious/political of conflict of 2008, regrettably, the northern states have shown that security of persons and properties is still far from being realizable. However, the current crisis which started in Bauchi and has engulfed other states in the north, has elements of theocratic opinionated ambitious in it. While the fundamentalist group – Boko Haram's demand for the jettisoning of a western behavioral pattern and the imposition of strict Sharia law can be described as absurd to say the least, which should equally be viewed with all the seriousness it deserves.

What the current trend of violence is imprinting on the psyche of Nigerians is that the government security apparatus is incapable of guaranteeing the safety of its people. This would, therefore, impact on the general human security of the people as the situation promotes fear, while at the same time limiting the peoples' ability to develop economically. The state's capacity to attract at the same time, becomes limited as a result of the insecurity (Akintokunbo, 2011).

Ethnic and criminal activities collectively create insecurity and breach of the peace that are likely to or indeed affect legitimate social and economic activities in the country. These problems also have the very damaging consequence of giving the signal to the rest of the international community that Nigeria is not a safe and secure place and as such not suitable for economic investment and activities. This is particularly important in view of the efforts being made to create the desired atmosphere to attract foreign investment.

Beyond the effects of security concerns on the economic fortunes of the country, the nature of the security challenges facing the country also have implications for the country's political system. Social cohesion among various groups and interest is important in the process of national political development. Therefore, the constituent parts of the country must be and indeed feel that they are being carried along in the process of national governance.

Experience has shown that widespread discontent and loss of confidence in the system have ways of affecting national political stability invariably continuing escalating of violence and crises across the country will impinge on the survival of the country's democracy.

According to a post on the blog by Akintokunbo Adejumo in his article on the problems and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria on December 16, 2011 at 10:52pm, pointed out that there is the challenge to rethink and improve on policy and institutional means of dealing with security concerns arising in the country. He suggested that at the political level, the federal, state and local governments should evolve programmes of cultural and political education and orientation that seek to enthrone the fundamentals of democracy so that the political contestants as well as the generality of the citizens imbibe principles and practices essential for sustainable democracy. Such programmes must also address specific tendencies that create security breach and concerns in the country. Akintokunbo in addition, wrote that a process of legislative and constitutional review should be initiated to assess the country's constitution and amend or erase necessary areas that have been found to give rise to conflicts and security problems. The process should also introduce new provisions and legislations that will ensure better and more effective interplay of interests among the groups and stakeholders in Nigeria. (Akintokunbo, 2011).

### **Some Causes of Insecurity**

According to Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people as cited by Billikis Bakare in admin pm news published on May 6, 2014, "a lack of transparency results in distrust and a deep sense of insecurity." Our leaders lack transparency which is making the people to have the belief that the former are insincere and lacking the feeling of empathy. The underprivileged in the society resort to evil and cruel acts such as kidnapping, ritual killings, vandalisation of public properties, and, bombings as a way of settling scores with their perceived oppressors (those in power and collaborators who flagrantly display affluence).

The situation of unemployment in the country to some extent promotes insecurity. According to World Bank statistics, youth employment rate in the country is 38%, but in reality, 80% of Nigerian youths are unemployed with secondary school graduates found mostly among unemployed rural population, accounting for about half of this figure while universities and polytechnic graduates make up the rest of the figure. Our tertiary institutions ironically, continue to produce over 150,000 graduates annually. This results to having a large number of idle youths who are ready made tools for illegal. Since an idle hand (mind) is the devil's workshop, most of our unemployed youths are now used as tools to destabilize the country. Reports have it that the insurgents in the North lure idle youths into the group through pecuniary gains (Bakare, 2014).

Illiteracy is also a major cause of insecurity and a major factor of instability in our polity. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reports that one out of every five Nigerian children is out of school, topping the table of 12 other countries with which it accounts for 47% of global out of school children population. The sizeable number of these out of school children are found in the Northern part of the country, where Boko Haram influence, do anything to survive because they lack formal trainings or skills acquisitions. It is easier to brainwash an uneducated mind normally with religious and other primeval sentiments that could lead to instability in the society (Bakare, 2014).

### **The Kidnap in Chibok**

In the dead of the night hours on April 14–15, 2014, approximately 276 female students (mostly christians) were kidnapped from the Government Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria. The suspected kidnapers were claimed by Boko Haram, an Islamic Jihadist and Takfiri terrorist organization based in North-East Nigeria. (<http://news.naij.com/65689.html>).

The insurgent group, Boko Haram, is opposed to the "westernization" of Nigeria, which they maintain is the root cause of criminal behaviour in the country. Thousands of people have been killed in attacks perpetrated by the group, and the Nigerian federal government declared a state of emergency in May 2013 in Borno State in its fight against the insurgency. The resulting crackdown has led to the capture or killing of hundreds of Boko Haram members, with the remainder retreating to mountainous areas from which they have increasingly targeted civilians. However, the campaign has failed to stabilize the country. A French military operation in Mali also pushed Boko Haram and al-Qaeda terrorists into Nigeria. (<http://news.naij.com/65689.html>).

Boko Haram since 2010 has targeted schools, killing students in their hundreds. The group's spokes man said such attacks would continue as long as the Nigerian government continued to interfere with traditional Islamic education. About 10,000 children have been unable to attend school as a result of the activities by Boko

Haram. Boko Haram has also been known for kidnapping of girls in recent times, who it believes should not be educated, and use them as cooks or sex slaves, thus the kidnap of over 200 secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State.

Boko Haram's attacks intensified in 2014. The group killed more than 100 Christian men in the villages of Doron Baga and Izghe in February. Also, 59 students in February were killed in the Federal Government College attack in north eastern Nigeria. The group in March attacked the Giwa military barracks, freeing captured militants. The abduction occurred on the same day as a bombing attack in Abuja in which at least 88 people died. Boko Haram has been blamed for nearly 4,000 deaths in 2014. According to the US government, al Qaeda training in recent years has helped Boko Haram intensify its attacks (<http://news.naij.com/65689.html>).

A group of militants on the night of 14th April 2014 attacked the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria. They broke into the school, shooting the guards and killing one soldier. A large number of students were taken away in trucks, possibly into the Konduga area of the Sambisa Forest where Boko Haram was known to have fortified camps. Houses in Chibok were also burnt down in the incident. The school had been closed for four weeks prior to the attack due to the deteriorating security situation, but students from multiple schools had been called in to take final exams in physics.

There were 530 students from multiple villages registered for the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination, although it was unclear how many were in attendance at the time of the attack. The children were aged 16 to 18 and were in their final year in the school. Initial reports said 85 students were kidnapped in the attack. Over the 19–20 April weekend, the military released a statement that said more than 100 of 129 kidnapped girls had been freed. However, the statement was retracted, and on 21 April, parents said 234 girls were missing. A number of the students escaped the kidnappers in two groups. According to the police approximately 276 children were taken in the attack of which 53 had escaped as of 2 May. Other reports were that 329 girls were kidnapped, 53 had escaped and 276 were still missing. (<http://news.naij.com/65689.html>).

The students are being forced into Islam and into marriage with members of Boko Haram, with a reputed "bride price" of ₦2,000 each (\$12.50/£7.50). Many of the students were taken to the neighboring countries of Chad, Cameroon and Sambisa forest. The forest is considered a refuge for Boko Haram. Local residents have been able to track the movements of the students with the help of contacts across north eastern Nigeria.

The police on 2<sup>nd</sup> May said it was still unclear the exact number of students who were kidnapped. They asked parents to provide documents so an official count could be made since school records were damaged in the attack. On 4 May, the Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan, spoke publicly about the kidnapping for the first time, saying the government was doing everything it could to find the missing girls. At the same time, he blamed parents for not supplying enough information about their missing children to the police.

A video emerged on May 5 in which Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau claimed responsibility for the kidnappings (full video). Shekau claimed that "Allah instructed me to sell them...I will carry out his instructions and slavery is allowed in my religion, and I shall capture people and make them slaves" (The Punch, 2014). He said the girls should not have been in the school instead they should be married out since girls as young as nine were suitable for marriage. Following the kidnapping incident, Boko Haram again abducted eight girls (ages 12–15) from north East Nigeria. At least 300 residents of the nearby town of Gamboru Ngala were killed in an attack by Boko Haram militants after Nigerian security forces had left the town to search for the kidnapped students.

On 9th May 2014, former Boko Haram negotiator, Shehu Sani stated that the group wants to swap the abducted girls for its jailed members. Amnesty International has stated that it believes the Nigerian military had four hours advanced warning of the kidnapping, but failed to send reinforcements to protect the school.

#### **Mass Media and the Attainment of Peace in Nigeria:**

Peace is "a state of quiet or tranquility, freedom from war or hostility; public tranquility and order, in a state of harmony" (Encyclopedia dictionary). Peace is defined as national integration (Ndolo, 2005). One of Nigeria's greatest needs is to promote socio-political integration that will make the nation amenable to national, rather than ethnic and parochial thinking. This need to achieve national development which is marked by peace

is couched in certain prevailing circumstances that characterize the nation of Nigeria (Ndolo, 2005, p. 212). The mass media is assigned with a decisive role not only in national development, but in bringing about peace and stability.

Nwankwo et al (1984) as cited in Ndolo (2005) argued that the media are essential to the effective functioning of each of the four major sectors of any society, such as the economic and technological sector, political sector, legal and administrative sector and the cultural sector. He opined that as a result of these functions, there is a general belief that societal peace can be achieved through the media.

According to Ndolo (2005), in Nigeria, the media and peace are like Siamese twins. The media operate best in achieving their primary functions to individuals and society where there is peace and stability. The media, much more than any institution in the society are one of the best instruments to attain peace.

### Theoretical Framework

This study is based on Agenda setting theory.

#### Agenda Setting Theory:

The term 'agenda-setting' was coined by McCombs and Shaw (1972, 1993). The core idea is that the media dictate to the public what the main issues of the day are and this is reflected in what the public perceives as the main issues.

The agenda setting theory of mass communication 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 society talk about, but also how they talk about them. The media can also place pictures in our minds (Okenwa, 2000).

This theory implies that the mass media predetermine what issues are regarded as important at a given time in a given society. The theory does not ascribe to the media the power to determine what we actually think; but it does ascribe them the power to determine what we are thinking about and how we think about them. They set the agenda by the quantity of frequency of reporting; prominence giving to the reports through headline display, pictures and layout in newspapers, magazines, film, graphics, or timing on radio and television; the degree of conflict generated in the reports; and cumulative media-specific effects over time (Okenwa, 2002).

This theory is relevant in the study because it ascribed to the media the power to confer status. According to McCombs and Shaw (1972, 1976), audiences not only learn about the public issues and other matters through the media, they also learn how much importance to attach to an issue or topic from the emphasis the mass media place upon it.

### METHODOLOGY

Survey research design was adopted for this study. The population of study was 722,664 residents of Enugu metropolis, made up of Enugu East – 27,089, Enugu north, 244,852, and Enugu South – 198,723. Sample size of 278 was drawn using Taro Yamane formula. The sampling technique used was systematic random sampling method and the instrument for data collection was questionnaire and interview, while tables and simple percentages were used in analyzing the data generated.

Taro Yamane formula states thus:

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

Where  
n= desired sample size  
N= population size under study  
E= level of significance of error of limit of tolerable error assumed to be 6% or 0.06  
1= Unity (always constant) in value  
n=  $\frac{722664}{1 + 722664 (0.06)^2}$

$$n = \frac{722,664}{1 + 722664 (0.0036)}$$

$$n = \frac{722,664}{1 + 22601.5904}$$

$$n = \frac{722,644}{22602.5904}$$

$$n = 277.67$$

Approximately 278 (Desired sample size)

**Table 1: Proportional Representation of the population size**

Local government	Population size	Sampling representation	%
Enugu East	279,089	108	38.84%
Enugu South	198,723	75	26.97%
Enugu North	244,852	95	34.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>722,664</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table showed that 108 (38.84%) copies of questionnaire were distributed to Enugu East residents (with Abakpa Nike, Emene and New haven selected at the intervals of two); 75 (26.97%) copies of questionnaire were distributed to Enugu South (with Uwani Achara Layout and Awkunanaw selected at the intervals of three); and 95 (34.2%) questionnaire distributed to Enugu North (with Obiagu and coal camp selected at the intervals of two).

Proportional representation table was used to ensure adequate distribution of questionnaire to respective local government areas that make up Enugu metropolis. This statistically and accurately gave every local government what they deserved.

**Table 2: Personal Data of Respondents**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Gender distribution</b>		
Male	192	69.06%
Female	86	30.91
<b>Age distribution</b>		
18-24	29	10.43%
25 – 34	58	20.86%
35 – 44	88	31.65%
45 and above	103	37.05%
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		
WAEC/SSCE	48	17.27%
Tertiary	230	82.73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

Information in the table above shows the biographic details of the respondents used in the study.

**Table 3: Question no 4: Do you listen to Radio?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	203	73.02%
No	70	25.18%
Can't say	5	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table showed that 203 (73.02%) respondents listen to radio, 70 (25.18%) do not while 5 (1.8%) can't say.

**Table 4: Question no 5**  
**Which radio station do you listen to more?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Radio Nigeria Enugu	139	50
Dream FM	79	28.42
Solid FM	32	11.51
Coal city FM	28	10.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table, 139 (50%) respondents listen to Radio Nigeria Enugu, 79 (28.42%) listen to Dream FM, 32 (11.51%) listen to Solid FM, while 28 (10.07%) listen to Coal City FM.

**Table 5: Question no 6**  
**How often do you listen to Radio Nigeria Enugu?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Most times	121	43.53
Moderate	116	41.73
Sometimes	37	13.31
None	4	1.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table indicated that 121 (43.53%) respondents listen to radio Nigeria Enugu most times (often), 116 (41.73%) listen to it moderately, 37 (13.31) listen to it sometimes while 4 (1.44%) do not listen to it at all.

**Table 6: Question No 7**

**Are you aware of any programme, news, or discussion on Radio Nigeria Enugu about the kidnap of the Chibok girls in Borno State?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	123	44.24
No	121	43.52
Can't say	34	12.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

The table above showed that 123 (44.24) are aware of a programme, news or discussion on radio Nigeria Enugu about the kidnap of the Chibok Girls on Born State, 121 (43.52%) are not aware, while 34 (12.23) can't say.

**Table 7: Question No 8**

**Radio Nigeria Enugu has given adequate coverage to the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State.**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	24	8.63
Agree	98	35.25
Disagree	108	38.85
Strongly disagree	48	17.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

In the table above, 24 (8.63%) strongly agreed that radio Nigeria Enugu has given adequate coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State, 48 (17.27%) agreed, 108 (38.85%) disagreed while 98 (35.25) strongly disagreed.

**Table 8: question No 9**  
**How would you rate Radio Nigeria Enugu coverage of the Chibok girls?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
High	50	17.99
Moderate	122	43.88
Low	81	29.14
Can't say	25	8.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table indicated that 50 (17.99) respondents rated Radio Nigeria Enugu coverage of the Chibok girls high, 122 (43.88) rated it moderate, 81 (29.14) rated it low while 25 (8.99) can't say.

**Qualitative Analysis**

Also, in the interview conducted on whether there were variations in the coverage of the kidnap and also the likely weaknesses in the information dissemination (coverage) by Radio Nigeria Enugu. While responding to that, the respondents pointed out some variations especially as it relates to the controversy and contradictory information disseminated by FRCN. For instance, the exact number of students differs.

The respondents indicated the followings as the weaknesses identified in the information dissemination (coverage) by Radio Nigeria Enugu: regional factor, ownership, ethnicity/religious influence, lack of imbibing code of conduct by media practitioners, lack of investigative journalism. Also in their responses while being interviewed, the respondents said that the above listed weaknesses/factors affected Radio Nigeria, Enugu in their coverage of the Chibok girls abductions. Since Radio Nigeria Enugu is situated in the eastern part of Nigeria which is dominated by Christians, some reports on the Chibok girls are one sided; portraying people in the North and Muslims as threat to the country's security. Also, Radio Nigeria Enugu is a government owned media and most times plays the tune dictated by he who pays the piper and there is no strict adherence to journalistic code of conduct.

More so, in the interview question no 3, the respondents were asked to suggest how radio Nigeria Enugu coverage and the mass media as a whole can improve their coverage. In responding to that, the followings were suggested:

- Imbibing code of conduct by journalists
- Avoiding influence by government in it's coverage
- Lack of regional, ethnic and religious factor
- Allowing people to air their view
- Provision of infrastructure for investigative journalism
- The public should be put into consideration to avoid creating tension in the society over unconfirmed information, avoid politicized reporting and put truth as its guideline (social responsibility).

In the interview also, the respondents also stressed the need for investigative journalism, pointing out that there was no media interview on the parents of the abducted girls, or the principal or even any eye witness interviewed.

**Research Question:**

The three research questions raised in this study were analyzed individually using the questions on the questionnaires.

**Table 9: Research Question One**

**How did the residents of Enugu metropolis perceive Radio Nigeria Enugu coverage of the kidnap of the girls in Chibok, Borno State?**

The responses in question no 9 in the questionnaire were used.

**How would you rate Radio Nigeria Enugu coverage of the Chibok girls?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
High	50	17.99
Moderate	122	43.88
Low	81	29.14
Can't say	25	8.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>



The above table indicated that 50 (17.99) respondents rated Radio Nigeria Enugu coverage of the Chibok girls high, 122 (43.88) rated it moderate, 81 (29.14) rated it low while 25 (8.99) can't say.

This implies that the residents of Enugu metropolis perceive that Radio Nigeria Enugu coverage of the Chibok girls is moderate since the number of respondents who rated the coverage moderate outweighed the number who rated it high, low and can't say.

**Table 10: Research Question two  
 Has Radio Nigeria Enugu given adequate coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State?**

In answering (analyzing) this research question, responses in question no 8 in the questionnaire were used.

**Do you think radio Nigeria Enugu has given adequate coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	24	8.63
Agree	98	35.25
Disagree	108	38.85
Strongly disagree	48	17.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100</b>

The table above showed that 24 (8.63) strongly agreed that Radio Nigeria Enugu has given adequate coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State, 98 (35.25) agreed, 108 (38.85) disagreed, while 48 (17.27) strongly agreed.

This means that Radio Nigeria Enugu have not given adequate coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State, since the number of respondents who disagreed and strongly disagreed outweighed those that strongly agreed and agreed.

**Research Question Three:**

What were the weaknesses in the information dissemination of the kidnap of the Chibok girls, Borno state?

The responses in the interview question no 2 were used. The respondents identified the followings as part of the weaknesses in the information dissemination of the kidnap of the Chibok girls. Thus: Regional factor, ethnicity, religious factor, lack of adherence to journalism code of conduct, poor investigative journalism, ownership influence.

**Discussion of Findings:**

The findings of this study remarkably suggest that residents in Enugu metropolis perceived that radio Nigeria Enugu have not done enough in the coverage of the kidnap of the Chibok girls. As shown in table 9, a good number of respondents (43.88% & 29.14 scored) rated their coverage moderate and low while (17.99 score & 25 score) rated them high and can't say. This implies that greater number of residents indicated that radio Nigeria Enugu need to do more in its coverage of the kidnap of the Chibok girls.

It could also be seen from the data in table 10 that over 68 percent of residents disagreed and strongly disagreed that radio Nigeria Enugu have given adequate coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok Borno State. This goes a long way to buttress the fact that radio Nigeria Enugu have not investigated and done indepth reportage on that issue. No key person (such as the parents of the girls) was interviewed and reported on that case.

Findings on this study also show that regional factor, ethnicity, religion, lack of adherence to journalistic code of conduct, poor investigative journalism and ownership influence affect Radio Nigeria Enugu and contributed to its inadequate coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State.

**Conclusion:**

The study assessed public perception of Radio Nigeria Enugu coverage of the kidnap of the secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State. Two hundred and seventy eight (278) residents of Enugu metropolis were used as respondents for the study to determine how residents in Enugu metropolis perceived the coverage of the kidnap of the Chibok girls by Radio Nigeria Enugu and the factors that affect their coverage.

Findings revealed that residents in Enugu metropolis believe that Radio Nigeria Enugu have not really given adequate coverage on the kidnap of the Chibok girls. This means that more efforts need to be put as it regards interviewing key persons such as the parents, principals of the kidnap girls or even witnesses to the kidnap.

More so, carrying out investigative journalism so as to avoid so many variations (non uniformity) and contradictions emanating from the report. Ownership influence was pointed out as part of the weaknesses that affected their information dissemination, hence, the radio station being a government owned station, was not objective in its coverage because “he who pays the piper dictates its tune.

### **Recommendations:**

To address these weaknesses, the study recommended that:

1. Adequate adherence to journalistic codes of conduct in their practice to avoid undue ownership influence and observe objectivity.
2. Provision of infrastructures to enable investigative journalism and create enabling environment for journalists
3. Internalization of ethnic/regional/religious sentiments and absence of class consciousness to ensure that all reference to ethnic, state or other communal ties are removed from the news media.
4. The media should increase the quantity and quality of public communication.

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