

Framing of Africans' Migration to Europe by Selected News Media the Untold Truth and Need for Media and Information Literacy.

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Abstract

International migration from countries in sub-Saharan Africa to Europe and the United States has grown dramatically since 2010. It particularly generated a huge media interest, when it reached its peak in 2015 and 2016 because of the frequent mishaps associated with the process and the crises it generated in Europe. The local and international news media are hitherto dotted with various perspectives of stories on migration, especially from Africa, which is described as big a story. This paper examines the framing of these stories by selected news media in Europe, especially the migrant's major destination countries: Spain, Italy, and Greece and news media in African countries with high number of migrants to Europe: Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya in 2015 and 2016 the peak of the migration crises in Europe. Using content analysis, the study found that the media in Europe had more negative frames and presented the African Migrants as a threat to the host communities while the African media framed African Migrants as victims, trapped in a helpless situation. The study concludes that media would continue to frame issues irrespective of where they occur and perspectives would always be centred on one form or stereotype or the other. It recommends that the media should rise above stereotype and present narratives and frames that would address a challenge than worsen it. This underscores the need for Media and Information Literacy that provide citizens with competencies for critiquing information before use, for enhanced life expectancies.

Keywords: Migration, Africa, Crises, Europe, News Media, Media Literacy

Introduction

Migration has been part of humanity for ages. Historically, migration of human population, being the movement by people from one place to another with the intention of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location, began with the movement of Homo erectus out of Africa across Eurasia about 1.75 million years ago¹.

However, the manifestation of the unusual international migration since 2010 seems to threaten stability, human rights, resources, and security in countries of origin of the migrants and especially countries that serve as the transit points as well as the recipient or destination countries². These developments placed human migration in the global public sphere.

Although Europe has been known to be a major destination for African migrants, with Spain and Italy as key entry points, the influx in 2015 of about a million people³ became a serious concern for the destination countries in Europe and it generated huge media reports. The media played a central role in providing information about the event which has been termed as Europe's refugee or migration crises⁴.

¹ Bae, Christopher J.; Douka, Katerina; Petraglia, Michael D. (8 December 2017). On the origin of modern humans: Asian perspectives. *Science Journal*. 358(6368) . doi:10.1126/science.aai9067.

² IJRC (September 4, 2015) Migration crisis: recent developments, human rights standards, and European court decision. Retrieved from <https://ijrcenter.org/2015/09/04/migration-crisis-recent-developments-human-rights-standards-and-european-court-decision/>

³ Frontex (2015) Frontex Annual Risk Analysis 2015. Retrieved from <https://frontex.europa.eu/publications/ara-2015-ZVWilr>

⁴ Georgiou, M. and Zaborowski, R. (2017). Council of Europe report: Media coverage of the "refugee crisis": A cross-European perspective. Retrieved from <https://rm.coe.int/1680706b00>

It has remained one of the central issues that have dominated the global media landscape with reports of migrants fleeing violent conflicts or losing their lives during and even after their journeys⁵. Ethical Journalism Network (2015) reported that the migration crises period, especially, 2015 was the year that journalists recorded the highest movement of people across boundaries.

The arrival of almost a million refugees and migrants to Europe in 2015 became a top media topic and controversial issue in the continent's public debate. In fact the European media played a critical role in framing the issue... of the migration crises Chouliaraki, Georgiou and Zaborowski (2015, p.2).

Henley, J. (June 15, 2018)⁶ noted that there has been a sharp drop in the influx of migrants to Europe from what it was in 2015 and 2016, there is, however, tension among the European Union as to fashioning out acceptable modalities for handling the issue. There are still reports on migrants entering Europe.

The UNHCR has reported that "Spain has welcomed 9,500 irregular migrants so far this year, Greece 12,000 and Italy 15,300. But the underlying factors that have led to more than 1.8 million migrants coming to Europe since 2014 have not gone away; most observers believe it is only a matter of time before the number of arrivals picks up again"⁶.

The media reportage on what is today termed as one of the most disturbing migration crises because of the massive influx of people (from the Middle East and Africa) into Europe⁷ hitherto show case a divergent discourse and frames.

⁵ Chouliaraki, L. Georgiou, R.M. Zaborowski, W. O (2015). The European "migration crisis" and the media. A cross-European press content analysis. Retrieved from <http://www.lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/assets/documents/research/projects/media-and-migration/Migration-and-media-report-FINAL-June17.pdf>

⁶ Henley, J. (June 15, 2018). What is the current state of the migration crisis in Europe? *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/15/what-current-scale-migration-crisis-europe-future-outlook>

⁷ Wilson, J. and Abubakar, A. (2018) Pictorial Framing of Migrant Slavery in Libya by Daily Trust Newspaper, Nigeria. *Media and Communication Currents*.1(2). 75-90.

Henley, J. (June 15, 2018)⁶ noted that “Three years after Europe’s biggest influx of migrants and refugees since the second world war, tensions between EU member states over how to handle irregular immigration from outside the bloc – mainly from the Middle East and Africa – are rising again”. That is to say the issue is still rife within the news media purview.

The media in Europe and Africa have responded and have continued to respond to the Europe migration crises and evolving issue through many daily news stories and reports. African migrants from different countries at each of the point of the event have remained in the limelight of global news headlines because of the disturbing deaths toll recorded in the Mediterranean Sea, which hitherto serves as a major route to Europe for African migrants and other migration related issues such as the popular slavery issue in Libya⁸.

These reports by the media have been presented in different perspectives and frames by the various media channels as noted by Georgiou, M. and Zaborowski, R. (2017)⁴ that: “Throughout the events of 2015-16, the media played a central role in providing information about the new arrivals and in framing these events as a “crisis”. Furthermore, from the arguments and divergent coverage of the events, the European press systematically framed the arrival of migrants as crises for Europe⁵

Similarly, Wilson, J. and Abubakar, A. (2018)⁷ noted that besides the broad-based look at media coverage, “the reports, as is always the case with the media, have been framed differently”. Considering that Africans have always been a part of the migration story as constituting the thousands who try to make the journey to Europe yearly as illegal migrants as well as the reports that irregular immigration from outside the European Union are mainly from the Middle East and Africa⁹, African Media must have framed the events differently.

⁸ Killalea, D. and AFP (December 12, 2017) Trapped in hell: Mediterranean horror stories. Retrieved from <https://www.news.com.au/world/africa/trapped-in-hell-mediterranean-horror-stories/news-story/5e9fd91ae9f27e9938d0b977de50d12b>

⁹ BBC (2017) Key facts: Africa to Europe migration. Retrieved from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6228236.stm#spain>

Moreover, there could be other frames besides the broad perspective by the European media. The European media framing of the event as “crises” relates to entire migrants which constituted Africa and, Middle East and others. It was not specific to Africans. There are also ways in which media framed the Africans migration within the crises period in the major destination countries for African Migrants: Spain, Italy and Greece as well as in African countries that constituted a large number of the migrants: Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya to Europe¹⁰.

Therefore, this paper examines the framing of African Migrants to Europe by the major destination countries (Spain, Italy and Greece) and African countries that constituted the large chunk of the migrants to Europe at that period under study (Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya). This paper examined news media in: Spain: The Local; Italy: The Italian Insider and Greece: The national Herald. It further examined news media in African countries with high number of migrants to Europe: Nigeria: Daily Trust; Ghana: News Ghana; Kenya: The Standard. The study period was 2015 and 2016, the peak of the migration crises in Europe. Objectives of the study are to:

- Examine the types of frames used by news media in the selected European and African Countries in respect of African migrant’s issues.
- To examine the tones of frames (positive or negative)
- To identify the dominant frame

Literature Review

Framing issues or events by the media are usually showcased in different content types. Tankard, J., Hendrickson, L., Silberman, J., Bliss, K., & Ghanem, S. (1991)¹¹ noted that framing is a vital element in organising media content through the use of selection, emphasis, exclusion and collaboration, so as to provide context and suggest what the central event or issue is.

¹⁰ Connor, P. (March 22, 2018) At Least a Million Sub-Saharan Africans Moved to Europe Since 2010: Sub-Saharan migration to the United States also growing. Retrieved from <http://www.pewglobal.org/2018/03/22/at-least-a-million-sub-saharan-africans-moved-to-europe-since-2010/>

¹¹ Tankard, J., Hendrickson, L., Silberman, J., Bliss, K., & Ghanem, S. (1991). Media frames: Approaches to conceptualisation and measurement. A paper presented at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Boston, Massachusetts.

Entman, (1993)¹² described media framing as an important media element that shapes the way media organizations and media practitioners shape the audience opinions and how audience perceive news content. It is primarily a process in which media organizations choose what part of media content to select and which part to leave out in the news reporting process, thus producing different angles or perspectives for audience selection once it is released as a final product. Framing enables the presentation of news content in various ways, producing different versions, different attributes for the purpose of emphasis or enhancing the salience of issues and events

12

Furthermore, Framing is about methods through which the mass media organise and present news content. It is an approach of communicating images and simplifying complex issues for members of the audience to understand and form opinion about a reported event or issue. Since the media are situated in societal norms and culture and report stories in ways that are likely to resonate with the target audience, hence, media coverage is not simply a textual element, but a data source from which inferences are drawn about public discourse¹³ pointed out that. Through news frames the media impart provide information and impart knowledge to the public, which in most cases influence the opinion and decision of the public¹⁴. According to Chilisa (2012)¹⁵. framing depicts how issues are portrayed in the news media and how messages are encoded with meaning so that they can be easily interpreted in relationship to existing ideas. Frames provide boundaries around a news story and determine what is and is not newsworthy.

¹² Entman, R. M, (1993). Framing: Towards clarification of a fractured paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43 (4). 51-58.

¹³ Fleras, A. (2011). *The media gaze: Representations of diversities in Canada*. Vancouver, Canada: University of British Columbia Press

Nesbitt-Larking, P. (2007). *Politics, society and the media* (2nd ed.). Peterborough, UK: Broadview.

¹⁴ Dimitrova, D.V and Stromback, J. (2005). Mission accomplished/ framing of the Iraq war in newspapers in Sweden and United States. *Gazette*, 67(5), 399-417.

¹⁵ Chilisa, B. (2012). *Indigenous research methodologies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
Hallahan, K. (1999). Seven models of framing: Implications for public relations, *Journal of Public Relations Research*, 11(3), 205-242.

Chime-Nganya, Ezegwu, Ezeji (2017)¹⁶ posit that framing can mould and shape a public issue which can have significant consequences for how the public view and understand an issue and noting that the way a social issue is cast can have significant effect on how the public respond to it. For example, Andrea and Erin (2017)¹⁷ have noted that “media’s coverage of migration has demonstrated the relationship between media framing and public discourse across all types of migration, including economic, family reunification, and undocumented border crossing.”

The question of how the media have represented and shaped the discourse of the migration in Europe and other associated events such as the migrants’ slavery in Libya are central to the media since it is an event that has gained global attention. IJRC (September 4, 2015)⁵ noted that the media play a significant role in symbolic construction of migrant identity and “the press representation of migration perpetuate the ambivalence of migrant as either a sufferer or a threat.”

The media coverage of the Europe migrant crises, especially during times of mass arrivals that contributed to increased asylum seekers, tends to be episodic, with attention tilted to refugee policy such that migration was covered thematically with the focus predominantly on immigrants. The emphasis on particular episodes means that most media attention to refugee issues are reported during times of crisis and framed in such a way that the focus would be on issues of legitimacy and security concerns rather than the longer term contributions that migrants may make^{18,17}. Similarly, Andrea, and Erin, T. (2017)¹⁷ pointed out that framing influences the audience to conceive of migrants as takers rather than givers, drains on the economy, using terms as “flood of migrants” or “waves of migrants” that usually emphasise on their cost to the recipient nations.

¹⁶ Chime-Nganya R. C. Ezegwu, D. T. Ezeji, A. (2017) Analysis of Nigerian Newspapers Framing of President Mohammedu Buhari’s Medical Leave to United Kingdom. *Media and Communication Currents*. 1(2). 39-56

Schmitz, F.M; Filipone, P &Elderman, M, E. (2003). Social representation of attention hyperactivity disorder. *Culture and Psychology*. 9 (4), 383-406.

¹⁷ Andrea, L and Erin, T. (2017) Deciding Who’s Legitimate: News Media Framing of Immigrants and Refugees. *International Journal of Communication* 11, 967–991

¹⁸ Hier, S. P., & Greenberg, J. L. (2002). Constructing a discursive crisis: Risk, problematization and illegal Chinese in Canada. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 25(3), 490–513

These frames point to what Esses, Medianu & Lawson (2013)¹⁹ noted as coverage that suggests dehumanization of migrants by highlighting potential threats to the host nations.

There were also frames that emphasised the quantification of the crises. Some countries had alarming figures of migrants that were making the journey to Europe at that time. Some countries in Africa at some points were framed as countries with the highest number of migrants. In 2015 there were reports in news media pointing to the large number of migrants leaving Africa for Europe and the large number of deaths in the Mediterranean Sea. For example, Ghana was reported to be among the leading nations in migration, so was Nigeria, Kenya, and Senegal among others. For example, it was reported by Graphic Online (December 21, 2015)²⁰ that:

More than 4,000 Ghanaians arrived on the shores of Italy between January and December this year to seek greener pastures in Europe. This ranks Ghana as topping the 10 countries from which migrants travel to Italy by sea and the top five in Africa.

According to Gillespie, P (2017)²¹ the migration crises has drawn a huge media coverage but the narratives are framed from two perspectives: “the emotional and highly charged reporting on the plight of migrants as victims; and on the story of numbers and the potential threat migrant pose to the security, welfare ... of the host communities”. Gillespie further notes that the second frame or narrative often overwhelms the first despite the “excellent exceptions”. Migration, in spite of its global nature is presented in different light by the media, with few of the media regularly presenting the narrative from a broader perspective. This media approach has led to media reportage reducing migration and experiences of those involved to stereotype²¹. Ethical Journalism network research on how media reported migration from Europe, middle East and Africa reported that that there is often a battle over media framing which paved way for biased reporting with the use of terminologies and newly coined words sounding demeaning²¹.

¹⁹ Esses, V. M., Medianu, S., & Lawson, A. S. (2013). Uncertainty, threat, and the role of the media in promoting the dehumanization of immigrants and refugees. *Journal of Social Issues*, 69(3), 536– 578.

²⁰ Graphic Online (December 21, 2015) Ghana among leading countries in migration. Retrieved from <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/ghana-among-leading-countries-in-migration.html>

²¹ Gillespie, P (2017) World view: Migration coverage is polarised and narrow. Retrieved from www.irishtimes.com/opinion/world-view-migration-coverage-is-polarised-and-narrow-1.3146891?mode=amp

The same study by the Network pointed out that media narratives have had a great influence on how the public views the migration issue. However, findings revealed that reports were mixed in perspectives: presenting the inhuman angle to the migration issue and the downplaying of serious discrimination against migrants. Frames are key in reporting whichever perspectives the media organization deems suitable.

Theoretical Framework

Framing theory provides an avenue for the media to situate their perspective of a given situation or event. Sometimes referred to as second-level Agenda Setting, because it closely relates to Agenda setting theory. Framing as a theory of mass communication has been credited to Gregory Bateson as being the first to posit it in 1972. It refers to how the media packages and present information to the public and highlighting certain events and issues and giving them particular context to encourage or discourage certain interpretation, thus exercising selective influence over how members of the audience view reality. Frames are means through which the media deliver their messages on issues. Framing could serve as a media way of influencing the interpretation of a given issue by the audience²². Frames are cognitive structures that guide the representation of events. Framing of information can manipulate the interpretation or the likely perspective of the audience or develop particular conceptualisation of an issue or event²³. In Framing by media volume of coverage devoted to a particular issue is not as important as the frame the media adopt and the public makes sense of its experience using interpretational packages called frames²⁴.

According to McQuail²⁵ framing theory is a philosophical postulation that provides explanation on which news content is typically shaped and contextualised by a media outlet. In other words, it is about media organizations deliberately creating, selecting and shaping news stories in particular frames to reflect the reality they wish to create.

²² Goffman, E. (1974). *Frame analysis: An essay on the organization of experience*. Boston: North-eastern University Press.

²³ Chong, D., & Druckman, J. N. (2007). Framing theory. *Annual Reviews*, 10, 103-126.

²⁴ Esses, V. M., Medianu, S., & Lawson, A. S. (2013). Uncertainty, threat, and the role of the media in promoting the dehumanization of immigrants and refugees. *Journal of Social Issues*, 69(3), 536– 578.

²⁵ McQuail, D. (2005) *McQuail's mass communication theory*. London: Sage Publications.

The media place figurative frames of images around issues, events and actions and directing audience attention to specific issues, ideas and individuals while downplaying what lies outside the frame²⁶.

In terms of tone, ²⁷notes that much of media coverage tilted more to the negative than the positive. Media report underreported the dangers that surrounded the migration crises and focused on sensationalism. News media generally use two main kinds of frames: episodic and thematic. Episodic news frames are the predominant frames on news media that depicts public issues in terms of concrete instances, focusing on events that involve individuals located at specific places and at specific times²⁸. The thematic news frames, are news frames that place public issues in a broader context by highlighting on general conditions²⁸.

Greussing and Boomgaarden ²⁹ pointed out that there are factors that influence the pattern of frame. For example, a crisis could create a pattern of frames. Crises situations have shown that media and public attention broaden to a variety of perspectives, causes, and solutions in respect of the crises. For the migration crises, there is obviously a pattern of frame dominant in the media.

Method

This study adopted content analysis as a method. News media were purposively selected in the major destination countries for African Migrants and African Countries with very high number of migrants (Spain: The Local; Italy: The Italian Insider; Greece: National Herald; Nigeria: Daily Trust; Ghana: News Ghana; Kenya: The Standard). The News media were selected because they all have English versions and online presence and are popular and within the top 10 newspapers in the selected countries.

²⁶ Boykoff, J.& Laschever, E. (2011). The tea party movement, framing, and the US media. Social movement studies. *Journal of Social, Cultural and Political Protest*, 341-466.

²⁷ Greenslade, R. (December 17, 2015) Where media fails on the reporting of migrant and refugee. Retrieved from www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2015/dec/17/where-media-fails-on-the-reporting-of-migrant-and-refugee

²⁸ Mato, K. (2012). *Issues on Jonathan's transformation agenda*. Retrieved on July 14, 2013 from <http://weeklytrust.com.ng/index.php/within-the-nation/10461-issues-on-jonathans-transformation-agenda>.

Gyong, J. E. (2014). A social analysis of the transformational agenda of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. *European specific journal*, 8(16), 98- 11

²⁹ Greussing, E. and Boomgaarden, H. G. (2017) Shifting the refugee narrative? An automated frame analysis of Europe's 2015 refugee crisis. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. 43 (11) 1749-1774. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2017.1282813>

This study built on a dataset of articles, representing a coverage of only African migrants' issues during the 2015 and 2016 peak of the migration crisis in Europe. The dataset includes news articles and editorials published in three national quality papers

A census method was used. Thus, a google search and websites search of the selected news media were conducted for available articles during the period under study (2015 and 2016). The search phrase "African migrants to Europe" "African refugees in Europe" was used to search for articles on African migrants which enabled the display of all related items. Other forms of search adopted was the use Keywords "African Migrants to Europe" + each of the selected newspaper's name + 2015 and 2016. The search platform on each newspaper was also used to get relevant archived contents. A total of 204 articles were found from the searches for the study period.

Frames Categories: using the thematic and episodic frame approaches, the content categories for the study are as follows:

1. Causal interpretation: This includes actions, variables, factors, reasons or elements responsible for the migrants' crisis
2. Victims: (Migrants portrayed as victims and helpless, trapped in camps)
3. Threats (Migrants portrayed as threats to security and welfare and culture of the host country)
4. Dehumanised and Unwanted: Migrants framed as dehumanised and unwanted by the host country. Detained in camps, open fields and prevented by barbed wires and fence erected by host countries
5. Solution: (calls for solution, offering solutions to the migration crises)
6. Political: emphasis on government policies and efforts.
7. Crises Instigation: Any coverage that supports, stimulates, advances a definition of the situation or crises
8. Success: Excellent exceptional stories. Acceptance of migrants by hosts.

Tones of Frames

1. Positive: Frames that are favourable to the migrants
2. Negative: Frames that are unfavourable to the migrants
3. Neutral: Articles that are neither in any of the two types described above.

Findings and Discussion

Total number of Frames

The study through the search frames identified in the method section found a total of 204 frames that touched on African Migrants to Europe or African refugees in Europe. These frames cut across newspaper articles (headlines and contents) that had the search phrase or keywords and limited to 2015 and 2016.

Table 1: Total number of Frames

Newspapers	Number of Frames	Percentage (%)
The Local (Spain)	49	24
Italian Insider (Italy)	21	10
National Herald (Greece)	22	11
Daily Trust (Nigeria)	36	18
News Ghana (Ghana)	42	21
The standard (Kenya)	34	16
Total	204	100%

Source: Field work, 2018

Table One shows the total number of frames found in the selected newspapers. The Local (Spain) recorded the highest number frame (49 or 24%) that relate to the African migrants to Europe among the other major recipient or destination countries in Europe. This may not be unconnected to Spain being one of the major entry points for African migrants and with the recorded influx in 2015 of about a million people³. For the African Newspapers, the table shows News Ghana (Ghana) recorded the highest number of frames (42 or 21%) among the other major migrants' nations in Africa. This could be linked to the huge number of migrants from Ghana at that point in time²⁰

Table 2: Total number of Frames in European and African Newspapers

Newspapers	Number of Frames
European Newspapers	
The Local (Spain)	49
Italian Insider (Italy)	21
National Herald (Greece)	22
African newspapers	
Daily Trust (Nigeria)	36
News Ghana (Ghana)	42
The standard (Kenya)	34
<i>Total for African Newspapers</i>	112 (55%)
Total	204 (100%)

Source: Field work, 2018

Table Two shows total frames from the selected papers in Europe and Africa. Africa has more frames on the African migrants to Europe than the European Papers. Besides the massive general reports that reflected on the entire migration crises irrespective of region or country of the migrants by the European news media, these are restricted to African migrants to Europe. Hence, African media ordinarily have more coverage and frames considering that the scope of this study is restricted to only African migrants to Europe.

Table 3: Total number of Frames in European and African Newspapers

Frame Categories	European Newspapers			Sub total	African Newspaper			Sub Total
	The Local	Italian Insider	National Herald		Daily Trust	News Ghana	The standard	
Causal interpretation	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	5
Victims	13	11	16	40	8	15	13	36
Threats	24	12	20	56	4	7	14	25
Dehumanised and Unwanted	9	7	4	20	2	1	5	8
Solution	7	2	0	9	16	8	5	29
Crises	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	6
instigation								
Political	13	5	7	25	11	4	6	21
Success	1	3	1	5	2	3	3	8

Table 3 shows the occurrence of the categories of frames. Some of the unit content codes occurred in two or more categories and thus were coded in the various categories they were relevant. For example, some content fell under the threat, as well as the victims' categories. So, they were counted twice (for each category). The table shows that the media in Europe framed the African Migrants to Europe issue more on the threat categories. Content that framed the issues as a threat to the host communities occurred 56 times. This is an indication that the media narratives during the period tilted more towards the threat perspective. This finding is in line with²¹ position that media reportage reduces migration and experiences of those involved to stereotypes²¹. This position overwhelms the positive exceptions of the migration issue. However, the African media had more frames on African migration to Europe as being more of victims, trapped in a helpless situation. This is also in line with²¹ position that one of the perspectives of the media narratives centres on emotion.

Table 4: Tones of Frame

Frame Tones	European Newspapers			Sub total	African Newspaper			Sub Total
	The Local	Italian Insider	National Herald		Daily Trust	News Ghana	The standard	
Positive	10	7	3	20	23	19	9	51
Negative	39	14	19	72	11	18	19	48
Neutral	0	1	0	1	5	5	4	14

Table Four shows the tones of the frames used by the selected media. The European media had more negative tones than the positive in framing African migrants to Europe. The African Media had more positive frames than the negative. This finding supports the position of ²¹ that narratives of the media were polarised. While the host framed it as more negative, the media in migrants' nations framed it as positive.

This study has shown that media, irrespective of location or sophistication are influenced by the gravity of events and how it affects them as a nation. This has shown the tilt of the frames in this study. The inability of the European media, especially in the major host countries to avoid sentiment in framing an issue that seemed to have a negative effect on their society was clearly seen by the tilt of the frames. The inability of the European media to see the good sides of migration to the host nations is an indication of stereotypical reportage. The African media on the other hand went in line with the thought that solution to the problem is important since the migrants are perceived as mostly helpless victims and thus calling for a lasting solution to the event.

The Untold Truth

Oftentimes, the coverages of very sensitive issues are beclouded in sentiments and emotions, with the truth being downplayed. What you get from the News Media More often than not, is slanted towards organizational sentiments rather the holistic honest/accurate views of the issues. The Media subtly persuades you to imbibe or internalize their own views. This is manipulation through framing which is very unethical. Framing manipulates audience's interpretation or the likely mis-conceptualisation of an issue or event

If an issue sensitive as the Challenges faced by African Migrants in Search of Greener Pastures in Europe could be so insensitively and sentimentally reported

merely, to suit the sentiments of and alleviate the fears of the host countries, then it means that media coverages should strictly be at the “Beholders Views”. Hence, there is need for the diverse audiences of the Mass Media to be highly discretionary in using the information presented by the Media since “all that glitters are NOT GOLD”!!!

Media and Information Literacy (MIL)

The findings of this paper underscores the value of the need for every citizen to be Media and Information Literate

Meaning of Media & Information Literacy

This refers to the skills and competencies that empowers you, as a citizen to access, retrieve, understand, evaluate and use, create, as well as share information and media content in all formats using various tools in a critical, ethical and effective way, in order to participate and engage in personal, professional and societal activities”³⁰. Simply put, “MIL equips citizens with competencies needed to seek and enjoy the full benefits of the citizen’s fundamental human right”³¹.

Suggestions

1. The media should rise above stereotype and present narratives and frames that would address a challenge or problem rather than worsen it.
- 2.(a) Every citizen need **MUST** embrace MIL for Lifelong Values and Quality Living for enhanced Life Expectancy
- (b) MIL should be incorporated into our school curricular right from the primary education level so that Children can start at their very early ages to critique information before use and hence, inculcate the habit of rebuffing hate speech and fake news which characterize and have eaten deep into the fabrics of our contemporary world!!!

³⁰UNESCO. In Onumah. Chido (2019). Engaging MIL issues: Background, Dynamics and the future. Paper presented at the **A Two-Day Curriculum Adaptation Workshop on UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy Curriculum. March 25 &26, 2019.**

³¹Onumah. Chido (2019). Engaging MIL issues: Background, Dynamics and the future. Paper presented at the **A Two-Day Curriculum Adaptation Workshop on UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy Curriculum. March 25 &26, 2019.**

Conclusion

The Media anywhere in the world obviously presents an issue the way they find suitable for several reasons. The migrations crises showed how media struggled with narratives. This study concludes that the media in the major destination countries framed the African migrants to Europe issue more of a threat and downplaying important frames as solution and success. On the other hand, the African media in countries with the leading migrants framed the issue more from the emotional perspective, which showcased migrants as victims, which by implication was a call for tolerance and solution to the crises.

The media would no doubt continue to frame issues irrespective of where they occur but perspectives would always be visible and it would always be centred on one form or stereotype or the other. The media should rise above stereotypes and present narratives and frames that would address a challenge rather than worsen it.

Being Media and Information Literate will provide skills and competencies that would enable citizens to critique information before use as access to and the use of accurate information will provide them with requisite information necessary for enhancing Life Expectancies in this 21st Century.

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