

A Discourse of Selected Cases of Media Escapes

John Ayodele Oyewole
Adekunle Ajasin University,
Faculty of the Social Sciences,
Department of Mass Communication,
Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria

Abstract. The role of the media in this modern time for tracking down criminals and getting them arrested and prosecuted is really overwhelming. With recent technological advancement and increased use of media for escape, this paper assesses the relevance of the media in exposing crimes and criminals by exploring cases of media escapes through secondary sources. This work is basically expository, as it mainly shows and explains how the media and electronic gadgets have been used and continue to be the hope of victims in various awful situations. It brings to fore the strength of the media and the electronic gadgets as an effective platform to gain immediate governments or non-governmental bodies' attention for citizens' outcry for help and rapt response to various imbroglios resulting to reformation process of a world free of threats. The theoretical approach used in the study are: uses and gratifications theory on the part of the victims and the social responsibility media theory on the part of the responsible agents in coming to the rescue of the victims. Both theories further affirm the use and the relevance of the media and electronic gadgets in our contemporary society. It is concluded that social media are not only becoming the most effective communication vehicle that provide people to share their ideas, knowledge, and thoughts, they are also becoming increasingly useful in terms of security and escaping dreadful situations.

Keywords: Media, Media Escapes, Electronic Gadgets, and Security

Introduction

Mass media are referred to a diverse array of technological means that reach a large audience via various channels of communication. They are means to air opinion, introduce the idea, and set agenda, regardless of one's stature or status. Since their inception, the media have been the channels of disseminating information to a heterogeneous audience with different cultural backgrounds, experiences, and exposures - and this is not limited to their conventional function of informing, educating, and entertaining the general public on current happenings, government policies or the issue of public interest.

Irving Fang, in his book, *A History of Mass Communication*, states how the media are made of certain characteristics consisting of both technical and institutional methods of production and distribution.* They also involve the use of symbolic forms as well as separate contexts for the production and reception of information. Their contents are disseminated to a great number of audiences. However, each medium has its particular features regarding its accessibility, reach, and audience.

In the same way, electronic gadgets, such as cell phones, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, and various forms of audio recorders have been of tremendous use for man. The telephone gives man the ability to communicate with his fellow man both near and far; the audio recorders make it easy for man to record at will, in case he chooses to listen again to what had already been communicated to him either through a direct voice medium or through an electronic medium. The CCTV cameras give man the opportunity to monitor and record what goes around him, either while he is conspicuously present - watching through his monitor

*Fang, I. (1997). *A History of Mass Communication*. Florida: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group.

at the desired location or to probably watch later, what happened in his vicinity when he was not around. Thus, these gadgets give man the confidence of relaxation, as they make life much easier for man to regulate his life at will. With the advent of the New Media (social media) and electronic gadgets, it is easy to reach out to the rescue team in case of fire outbreaks and the security personnel in case of robbery attacks, among others.

It is imperative to state that on the one hand, the mass media have been a blessing to humanity, and, on the other hand, they are misused by some individuals; for the mass media, directly or indirectly, have equally become a tool in the hands of various governments to further spread their propaganda in the time of elections, let alone those who use the media, especially the Internet to carry out heinous crimes. So also, electronic gadgets have been a strong source of blackmails where criminals interfere in people's privacy – using the same gadgets that are meant to enhance man's happiness and safety for dubious acts.

Statement of the Problem

Man, logically and over time, should have reduced his criminal nature to a bare minimum and lived in peace with his fellow man, but it is clear that the world is facing more violence daily, such as domestic violence, community clashes, bullying, assaults, rapes, robberies, assassination, forced marriages, incest, and so on. Several agents have been deployed by various governments to combat the rise of violence. A series of crimes are even recorded on video so that the culprits might be brought to justice. This research endeavour was inspired by an Aljazeera show called, *Media Escape*.[†] This programme depicts how young women in India who freely choose their spouses in defiance of their parents' wishes are guided by a non-governmental organization (NGO) in India to a safe area so that the women in question are not subjected to honour killing. Because there appears to be little or no scholarly research on media escapes, this work assesses the relevance of the media in exposing crimes and criminals and so encourages citizens to take advantage of this opportunity. Society expects the media to serve the public's interests. To that end, it is intended that the media would not only inform, educate, and entertain, but will also be used to rescue people in crisis. In recent years, societal expectations have expanded to include a venue for discussion, a watchdog function, empowerment, and many developing media functions. The purpose of this work is to examine how the media and electronic gadgets might soothe the populace's dread in the face of these crimes or disasters, as the case may be, and how to use the media or available technological gadgets promptly to avert the imminent threat. In this context, both social media and traditional media are viewed as platforms for the masses to escape.

Literature Review

Conceptual Review

On the one hand, the media is the plural of the term medium, and it refers to a collection of methods for concurrently transmitting information, entertainment, education, and the likes to a vast and diverse audience. Traditional media, such as radio and television, as well as the current media, such as social media, which include websites and applications such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as messaging services such as WhatsApp and others, are examples of media. Electronic gadgets, on the other hand, are gadgets that are used for direct communication with a restricted number of individuals, as opposed to electronic products that are used for broad communication. Depending on the situation, they are equipped with devices that can record both audio and video. As a result, when we refer to electronic communication, we refer to any type of communication that is conveyed electronically via these devices.

[†] Aljazeera (2019). *Media Escape*.

However, as used in this study, media refer to a variety of traditional media, contemporary media such as social media, and electronic gadgets that can be used to expose crimes and criminals such as domestic violence, community clashes, bullying, assaults, rapes, robberies, assassination, forced marriages, incest, and so on. Furthermore, the term "media escapes," as used in this study, refers to the many ways in which individuals have utilised the media to get themselves out of uncomfortable situations. The notion of media escapes encompasses the use of mass media to alert a potential individual or group to come to the aid of a victim whose life is in jeopardy. Security refers to the strong desire and the use of the media to be secure and free from any form of danger that threatens a person's or a group of people's existence. Because self-preservation is the most primal drive in humans; there is a strong desire to do all in one's power to safeguard one's life, if one's life is in immediate danger.

The Media and the Society

The media and society are inextricably linked; the latter is the result of the former. The influence of the media on society is apparent, much as the impact of society on the media has been studied in the normative theory of the press; but, in essence, media represent our society, how the society functions, and what the society consists of. With recent technological advancements, our society has seen an increase in people's opinions and ideas. People nowadays are just a click away from any kind of information accessible on the Internet - the medium that has transformed the globe into a global village.

Winston & Borgesson, in their book titled, *Media Technology and Society: A History from the Telegraph to the Internet* explain and describe how the media control and make the essential parts of society in various ways.[‡] Among other things, the media play their roles effectively in the following areas:

- **Information:** Access to the media means access to facts and documents which help the audience to acquire information and knowledge. The media as purveyors of news and views have a decisive role in preparing the human race for the 21st Century and now beyond. The media organisations and communication hardware expand access to information. The world has become closer and cohesive due to the transmission of information. Within seconds pieces of information reach every nook and corner of all countries. Everyone knows everything happening everywhere.
- **Public Watchdog:** The media have played a leading role in shaping, guiding, and reflecting public opinion. The media help to establish democracy, by informing and teaching citizens about the common good that helps democracy move towards its ideal state. In any corrupt society, the media play a pivotal role in exposing the corrupt activities taking place in government, trade, and profession, and make the public think and act accordingly.
- **Safeguarding the Democratic Society:** Access to media means access to public opinion which preserves and protects a democratic system. It is advantageous for both the leaders and the masses. Leaders can address masses depending upon their convenience and they can reach widely dispersed masses simultaneously through the media. One of the chief advantages of media access is that they help to correct distortion in facts, views, and attitudes.
- **Entertainment:** The media have monopolised the leisure industry. Literature, music drama, dance sport, interaction with resourceful persons, culture, entertainments etcetera, which were once admired and cherished by the masses have been put into various and

[‡]Winston, B. & Borgesson, B. (1998). *Media Technology and Society: A History from the Telegraph to the Internet*. London: Routledge.

better shapes by the media. Thus, the media play a large role in shaping the modern culture.

- **Education:** The overall human development is directly related to education. The media enable the spread of education through conventional as well as unconventional methods. Ignorance can be eradicated if adequate information is given. The media add new information to human knowledge, known as educative values. The media may also be educational in nature; for instance, the public broadcasting stations provide educational programmes to the national audience. Newspapers release a special "education Plus" supplement every week which contains materials useful to the students in various communities.
- **Economic Growth:** The media can be used for both social and business concerns; such as advertising, marketing, propaganda, public relations, and political communication. The market for goods expands and economic growth takes place through advertisements in the media. Information relating to jobs in different fields is available through the media to the public. The needed skills are being taught through the media; for instance, farmers learn the methods of modern farming, workers get information to master technical skills, people, in general, learn more about how to keep themselves healthy and strong; and of course, a health medium keeps a wealthy nation on the development track.
- **Interpreter of Reality:** The media play a crucial role in shaping public perceptions on a variety of important issues, based on the information that is dispensed through them, and through the interpretation, they place upon this information. They also play a large role in shaping modern culture, by portraying a particular set of beliefs, values, and traditions as reality. That is, by portraying a certain interpretation of reality, they shape reality to be more in line with that interpretation.

The Intrigue World of the Electronic Media

Since the 18th century, man has been enjoying technological advancement which indeed has been making life much easier for man.[§] Thus, advanced information technology has brought about incredible discovery in highly advanced electronic gadgets that man uses for his daily activities. There are face-to-face conversations, conferences, meetings via Skype, Zoom, Duo, Facebook, and live streaming, all with the aid of gadgets such as mobile phones, desktop computers, laptops, and the likes. These have enhanced global communication in trading and transactions over a long distance; more so with the introduction of online banking with machinery and gadgets like cell phones, point of sale (P.O.S) tablets, digital watches, and automated teller machines (A.T.M).^{**}

Electronic gadgets have been facilitating easy interaction and interconnectivity and making life much easier as they improved efficiency and productivity of labour in every organisation and at the same time add value to the business and digital communication. There are digital gadgets that help to simplify household tasks and help in multitasking with household chores. Such household gadgets include vacuum cleaners, microwaves, air conditioners, dishwashers, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, and other similar items.^{††} However, this research focuses more on the communication gadgets that man can use to escape from troubles. The communication gadgets include radio, satellite phone, television, computer, mobile phone, and the likes. Mobile phones are small portable devices used for digital communication. They are used for storing information, either as text messages, audio

[§]*History and Evolution of Technology*, <https://nation.com.pk/23-Jul-2018/history-and-evolution-of-technology>

^{**}*Different Types of Electronic Gadgets*, CF. <https://www.easytechjunkie.com/what-are-the-different-types-of-electronic-gadgets.htm>

^{††}*Importance of Electronic Gadgets*, <https://bamboodu.com/why-gadgets-are-so-important-in-our-daily-life/>

messages, or video messages; for sending and receiving messages, also either as text, audio, or video; for recording preferred audio and video events. Mobile phones are also used for business transactions. Computers are the most widely used electronic gadgets in every sphere of life; they are mostly used in organisations and offices for carrying out various forms of communications, as well as business transactions. Computers are equally used for entertainment. Besides, games are stored and played on computers, and of course, computers are also used for educational purposes, which have made learning to go beyond face-to-face classroom teaching and learning. Thus, one talks of online teachings/learning which has become the new order of the day. Educational gadgets like computers – laptops, and smartphones are used today as tools to aid classroom learning and for interactive tools.

Theoretical Framework

Two theoretical frameworks are used here. On the one hand is the uses and gratifications theory, which explains how users of the media bring to the awareness of those concerned about societal safety, to come to their rescue at various times of danger or distress. On the other hand, is the social responsibility theory which talks about how the media takes the necessary step to come to the rescue of the victims of various imbroglios by giving them adequate coverage as part of fulfilling their social responsibility. These theories guide one to the understanding of certain predictions in the outcome of research work.

Uses and Gratifications Theory

The media audiences may be grouped into two - using the technical term, consumers of the media texts; and so, there are passive and active audiences. The passive audience receives the media contents wholly without the choice of selection – just filled with the admiration of the media texts. Those who belong to this group could either be literate or illiterate, but uneducated in the sense that they do not necessarily use the media to serve their needs but rather make themselves available to the dictates of the media. However, in this modern time, it might be difficult to ascertain that there are passive audiences except possibly in the rural areas and within the context of poverty of mind.

In the eyes of an active audience, the media have a purpose since they are used to meet certain wants and needs. To put it in another way, the active audience is a thinker, interpreter, and creator in the sense that he or she sifts through the media content before deciding what is valuable to his or her life from it. Even though the active audience may not care about the truth of a media piece, he or she is not immune to its influence. He or she utilises the media to get what he or she wants out of it. As a result, the debate of the Uses and Gratifications Theory is sparked by an active audience.

With this research, the victims of the various crimes who use the media to draw the attention of the public to themselves are active and use the media for their gratification, which is calling the attention of the media consumers to their imbroglios for necessary actions to be taken. The Uses and gratifications theory as mentioned depicts an active audience. This theory does not constrain the audience to make choices or choices of what to consume from the media, but the audience uses the media through his or her mobile gadgets to disseminate information to the necessary agent that will carry out the rescue mission or alleviate an existing problem. In this case, the uses and gratifications theory maintains that the audience is in full control of the content or channel of the media he or she wishes to consume or disseminate as the case may be. The audience has its interests and motives for certain media texts and thus decides on the content or channel of the media that serves his or her needs and therefore, the effect of the media on the audience is determined by his or her various needs.

The audience's control over the media could also be traced to its assessments of the value of the experiences with consequences for further media use and possible applications of

benefits acquired in other areas of experiences and social activity. Wilbur Schramm, in his book, *Television in the Life of our Children* justifies this view when he says that children specifically select materials on television that best fit their interests and needs.^{‡‡} That is why two children can be seen struggling to gain possession of the television remote control when each desires to watch his or her preferred favourite programme.

Social Responsibility Theory

The social responsibility theory attempts at synthesizing the problem of the people with how the people see that the media, having what it takes to bring them out of their problem.^{§§} Hence, this paper is anchored on the Social Responsibility theory of the media.

Social Responsibility is seen as an extension of the libertarian philosophy in the media, recognising their responsibility to resolve conflicts through discussion and to promote public opinion, consumer action, private rights, and important social interests. This theory has its major premise that freedom carries concomitant obligations. According to Littlejohn, the press has an obligation to be responsible to the public; otherwise, some agency of the public must necessarily enforce it.^{***} To this research, what the media release to the audience, make the audience react and see the need to come to the aid of the victims concerned. The pain or the terrible situation that the media project that an individual or a group of people find itself, calls for an immediate intervention by the people or still the particular agent responsible for such action. We see in the case that when victims of any violent acts make his or her case via the media, it is expected that the necessary body will come to the rescue of the victim. This situation has increased the interest of the people in the media.

Data Presentation and Discussion

Using the secondary sources, this research looks into some selected human situations where the media, especially social media and electronic gadgets have been used for human escape from various ways; such as escaping from captivity, home violence, to get justice, and the likes. Selected cases of media and electronic gadgets used for escapes are examined where applicable.

Radio and Cell Phone

The radio, a medium of communication, and the cell phone, both a medium of communication, as well as an electronic gadget, are at all times relevant in the area of security, because of their ubiquitous character, accessibility, and most importantly their ability for interactivity between the presenter and the listener as in the case of the radio. While the cell phone gives room to direct and immediate dialogue or conversation between the caller and the receiver at the other end. In radio, interactivity has long been closely related to different forms of participation, such as listener panels, letters, contests, or call-ins. These models can be actualised in a digital context which enlarges the scheme of participation to interactive systems of communication in which through a navigation interface, the listener participates without interacting directly with others. The joy of this medium is that in the course of reporting the situations or making a point with the presenter especially via phone, over million listeners at the moment, are listening to what the caller is saying.

It is important to say that the radio has been used in so many ways for an escape or to correct wrongs. There is a programme on Fresh FM 105.9 Ibadan titled *Confession Night*. The

^{‡‡}Schramm, W. et al. (1961). *Television in the Lives of Our Children*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, p. 98.

^{§§}Daramola, I. (2012). *Introduction to Mass communication*. Lagos: Rotham Press Ltd.

^{***}Littlejohn, S. (2002). *Theories of Communication* (7th ed.) Albuquerque, New Mexico: Wards worth.

programme is centred on amending and solidifying relationships or marriages that are on the verge of collapse. A case whereby a male caller calls in and asks the presenter to help call his girlfriend or wife and apologise on his behalf and seek forgiveness which will be done right after he might have made such request, while the programme is still alive. This has been a blessing to many listeners across the length and breadth of the state and beyond. The other good part of the programme is that, it has a way of exposing directly men or ladies who are in multiple relationships.

Another programme titled *Bosenlo* on Splash FM 105.5 in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State, Nigeria is centred on bringing out the fact in the ordinary. It is designed to be the voice of the voiceless by calling out the politicians to do as expected in their various constituencies with full audience participation. For a good number of times, the programme has also been the platform advocating for the establishment of the newly inaugurated South West Security Network called, *Amotekun* to curb the incessant insecurity in the South West of Nigeria. Presently in Nigeria, the radio is used to constantly report the heinous crimes of the Fulani herdsmen, kidnappers, and bandits terrorising the country. Coupled with this is that the radio presenters are using their various programmes to curb social vices, human trafficking, illegal raid, police brutality, and among others, while also proffering solutions to the problems by reaching out to the concerned people or those in authority.

The cell phone has been tremendously useful in curbing or averting crimes in many ways. In September 2006, the author was one of the victims at Saint Augustine Catholic Church at Iba Estate, Lagos, when at about 1 am, armed robbers with sophisticated weapons broke into the church compound. The then parish priest, Pius Omafuma made a phone call to the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lagos, Anthony Olubunmi Okojie, who in turn, quickly called a radio station in Lagos, which at once broadcast the ugly incident on the radio. This made the police to move in, but with the Nigerian situation, the armed robbers had left before the arrival of just two police officers to face over twenty (20) armed robbers. At least, two phone calls were made that made the radio station to bring to the awareness of the public the ugly scene that was happening in the middle of the night at Saint Augustine Catholic Church, Iba Estate, Lagos. Furthermore, under the statement of problem of this research, it is stated how young Indians who are in love use the cell phone to contact members of the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) to come to their rescue – saving them from honour killing by members of their families for engaging in amorous overtures without the consent of their families. More so today, is the availability of the emergency number: 911, which indeed has been saving a lot of lives. All one needs to do in case of any danger, is to dial 911 from any available telephone, be a landline or a mobile phone, and one will be attended to instantly.

Television

Likewise, women in Nigeria now use television to raise the consciousness of Nigerian women for their emancipation from a society that is predominantly dominated by men. They raise issues on many topics among which are: the politics of polio immunization, adultery, and death by stoning of women. They also raised government awareness on the closure of fun spots in Kano State, the Taliban uprising in Yobe State, the religious crisis in Jos and Kano, the implementation of sharia criminal law in Nigeria, and issues affecting women in general.

The more these women use the media socially to speak about their plight, the more people become aware of the imbroglio women in some parts of the world are facing. Just as television became the medium of liberation for American women, so also the Arab women and African women would one day be liberated from injustices facing them.

The case of an African American, George Floyd who died as a result of racial discrimination in the hand of a Euro American, Derek Chauvin on 25th May 2020 is still vividly registered in the mind of many. Officer Derek Chauvin, putting his two hands in his pockets,

knelt on George Floyd's neck who had already been handcuffed. The various audio cum video clips taken by onlookers and the police officers at the scene were sufficient to convict Officer Derek Chauvin of second-degree murder on 20th April 2021. In one of the video clips, one could see Officer Derek Chauvin with his two hands in his pockets proudly and wickedly knelt on the neck of George Floyd for more than nine minutes, until George Floyd passed out for lack of oxygen in his chest. To support his argument, the prosecutor was able to show to the jury, the various clips of merciless treatment George Floyd suffered at the hand of the police. More so was the vivid utterance of George Floyd as he pleaded: "I cannot breathe." And thus, George Floyd gave up the spirit.

Audio and Video Recording of Sex for Grade Scandals

With hidden cameras, additional crimes perpetrated by certain people have come to light. There is the instance of Kiki Mordi, a 28-year-old Nigerian journalist who was the BBC Africa Eye's chief correspondent. She and her colleagues found various sex for grades scandals at Nigerian and Ghanaian universities, which resulted in the publishing of a video documentary based on their findings.

Mordi, who was left out of school due to sexual harassment, eventually became a journalist to reveal long-hidden sex scandal instances in the Nigerian academic institutions. Along with him are three other undercover reporters who employed concealed cameras to capture audio-visuals of teachers at the Universities of Lagos and Ghana for at least three months. Some academics were captured on covert camera harassing and trying to extort undercover journalists in their offices.

The publication of a documentary based on hidden camera video has caused a nationwide outcry against sexual approaches by teachers toward students, with the Nigerian Senate passing legislation to criminalise such behaviour and impose mandatory prison sentences on lecturers found guilty of it. This comes after university officials suspended the instructors recorded on tape.

In another video clip, a postgraduate student in Business Administration Faculty also seized the bull by the horns when she recorded an audio discussion between herself and an Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) instructor in Ile-Ife, Osun State, demanding five (5) rounds of sex to improve her grades. The audio recording of the discussion was made public, resulting in public demand for justice. Following that, the University formed a commission to further examine the matter and deliver justice. The suspected professor was suspended to serve as a deterrence to other instructors who intend to or are currently engaged in such heinous behaviour. If these sex for grades scandals had not been recorded on audio or video recording devices, they would have gone unreported and the evil perpetrators would not have been convicted.

The Social Media

The social media, with the help of the Internet, have been of immense assistance to victims of different crimes; as individuals utilise every chance to publicise whatever horrible condition they may be in at any moment. The emergence of the social media has made a place for citizen journalism, which means that a person may voice his or her thoughts without having to go via a traditional media outlet. The present media have made it difficult for the person to voice his or her views; since the individual would have to go through the rigors of payment to the medium of choice, censorship, and even in the process of gatekeeping, one's ideas may be harmed. People, on the other hand, may use the social media to express themselves in whichever manner they want and whenever they want. Thus, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and other social media platforms are used to highlight human rights violations and police brutalities, among other things. For example, in the case of Nigeria's Benin-Ore Road, which

has become a safe haven for kidnappers and other types of armed robbery assaults, there is a lot of overwhelming evidence with images and video clips of different crimes published on the various social media for public notice and responses.

Indeed, the social media have emerged as a formidable force on the Internet. In 2019, there was a case involving a prominent church in Akure, the capital city of Ondo state, Nigeria. It was claimed that the church's Senior Pastor, Pastor Alfa Babatunde, also known as *Sotitobire* (tell of his greatness), was implicated in the unexpected disappearance of a youngster named Kolawole Gold. The involvement of social media users seeking justice is certainly commendable. The problem became popular on social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, among others. There were hundreds of short video clips on different social media platforms, that the church was burned down by irate teenagers, which resulted in the immediate arrest of the aforementioned Pastor, who was then detained in jail and finally sentenced to life in prison. Unfortunately, the court of appeal overturned the life imprisonment of Pastor Alfa Babatunde and was released from Olokuta Correctional Centre, Akure on 3rd December, 2021 as a result of some questionable judicial practices in Nigeria. Justice Gamma Barka ruled that the circumstantial evidence the high court based its judgement was not enough to convict Alfa Babatunde. Thus Justice Barka discharged and acquitted Prophet Alfa Babatunde of the offence. Further information states that members of the family of the lost child, especially the mother, Modupe Kolawole, have been afraid for their dare lives even before the said pastor was eventually released from prison.

Another example was a situation at the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA), Ondo State, Nigeria when several students ganged up to beat up a 100-level student who was accused of poking her nose into a topic she was not supposed to be a part of. The victim was gang-raped and beaten up in the video, which was shared on Twitter. People's emotions were high, and they wanted justice. Among the renowned social media users who have called for justice are Segun Awosanyo, the Convener of #EndSARS#, Oluyemi Fashipe, CEO at YemiFash media, and others who have demanded that the school prosecute the students who assaulted their colleague and that failure to do so will result in legal action.

In addition, in 2019, a female 400-level student of International Relations at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, in Osun State, Nigeria released an audiotape on social media accusing one of the university's renowned lecturers at the Faculty of Administration of sexual harassment after being threatened with course failure if she did not comply with the lecturer's amorous overtures. The image of the claimed instructor was widely circulated on social media, with many people requesting that the lecturer be fired by the University administration. According to the released tape, the Lecturer said that if the woman did not sleep with him, she would fail his course three times. Thus, if it had not been for social media, which allowed the lady to report her case as it was with raw evidence, seeking justice through the traditional media could have put her life in danger, due to delays in the gatekeeping process, ownership influence, framing, fear of defamation, and so many other factors to consider in news processing.

It will be remembered that in this same faculty, one of the Professors was accused of threatening another female student that if she did not sleep with him, she would have to repeat the course. Following the publication of the discussion, an inquiry was performed, a fair hearing was provided for both sides - justice was done, and the said Professor was sentenced to twenty-four (24) months imprisonment by the Federal High Court of competent jurisdiction.

On the international stage, there is the example of the Iranian scientist, Shahram Amiri, who was allegedly abducted by the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on May 31st, 2009, on his pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. After the Iranian government stated that one of its nuclear experts had gone missing on his pilgrimage to Mecca, video footage appeared on the Internet on 15th July, 2010. The alleged Iranian scientist said in the video (where he performed an Internet recording of himself) that he was detained against his will by the American

government and transferred to an unknown place, but he managed to escape, and thus he asked for his safety and urgent release. This videotape rapidly went viral, prompting the then-American Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, to issue a public statement declaring that the scientist was a spy at will and was never forced to be one and that he was free to return to his nation if he no longer wanted to be a spy. That is how the Iranian scientist obtained his liberty. Unfortunately, when Amiri returned to Iran, he was found guilty of treason, assuming that he must have disclosed a lot to the American government but using the kidnapping pretext to explain himself. After ten years imprisonment, he was eventually executed on 3rd August 2016.^{†††}

Closed Circle Television (CCTV) Camera

The Zenith Bank Heist

The zenith Bank robbery in Imo state in 2019 is an excellent illustration of the necessity of the Closed Circle Television (CCTV) cameras. The clip was captured on a CCTV camera, and it showed a brave inspector police officer standing strong to fight the robbery onslaught, which regrettably took his life. A few days later, it was revealed on the Internet that the Nigerian Police Force had left the family of the slain police officer unattended. This prompted others to set up a "Go Fund Me" page for the family and created a domiciliary account, with over \$15,000 raised in less than 12 hours. Some individuals offered to finance the children's schooling, and the Zenith Bank was urged to take an action and assist the family. If it had not been for the social media, this family might not have been able to reach out to the individuals who would help them. Thus, the CCTV camera footage illustrates how the heroic cop involved in a gunfight with the criminals appealed to the public, prompting even those in the diaspora to rush to the family's aid.

The case of Jamal Khashoggi

Many people are still perplexed by the killing of the Saudi writer, Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Turkey. According to Turkish reports, the Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi was murdered on 2nd, October 2018 inside the Saudi Arabia Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. The Saudi journalist recorded his own assassination. Jamal Khashoggi was a Saudi dissident, journalist, Washington Post writer, former Al-Watan editor, and former General Manager and Editor-in-Chief of the Al-Arab News Channel. This heinous murder would have gone unnoticed and thrown under the rug, but Khashoggi's last moments were recorded in an audio recording, providing forensic scientists with evidence as to how, when, where, and who were allegedly engaged in the killing. Investigations were launched based on the audio recording's contents, which included Khashoggi's final words urging the assassins not to cover his mouth since he is asthmatic, as well as the struggle between him and his murderers. After the audio recording's transcripts were made public, private and public forensic specialists and investigators relied on the information gathered on it. There is no doubt that the Saudi journalist, Khashoggi, was slain inside the Saudi consulate in Turkey, based on the CCTV footage and the self-audio recording of Khashoggi.

The Maid Suspect and the Elderly

Murni Panengsih, a 25-year-old Indonesian maid, was sentenced to ten months in prison in 2015 after being found guilty of assaulting the elderly lady she was assigned to care for. The bedridden victim had a weak kidney and diabetes and was placed in the care of Panengsih, who had abused her employer's mother on many occasions. Murni Panengsih was seen on the videotape beating the ailing old lady, violently - putting her head back to the pillow, and forcefully placing a water bottle on her lips; these attacks continued for over a year.

^{†††}www.apnews.com. Cf. en.m.wikipedia.org.

When the victim's daughter saw bruises on her 96-year-old mother, she decided to view the CCTV tape, after seeing the maid's terrible attacks on her mother. The following day, a police complaint was filed, and a medical examination of the elderly mother revealed injuries such as a black eye, bruises across her face and arms, an abrasion on her right ear, and swelling on both ankles.

Murni received a ten-month prison term after pleading guilty to the allegations against her. Despite this, a psychiatric evaluation presented in court revealed that Murni had been suffering from adjustment disorder, which had contributed considerably to the offenses. No one could have predicted such situations, since the old grandmother often praised the maid, who also seemed to be a lovely lady. However, the CCTV camera did not go undetected, nor did the offender go unpunished, as she was imprisoned for her bad conduct.

The media in the twenty-first century have gone beyond their traditional advantage of informing, educating, and entertaining the populace; the media are now used to agitate for something better to enhance humanity while also acting as a watchdog for a given organisation to checkmate anyone or a group of people in power and set an agenda either for a positive personal or collective purpose.

Conclusion

This article highlights the expanding use of the media by consumers globally for security purposes. Even here, the theory of Uses and Gratifications is evident, in the sense that victims of violence or unjust situations must inevitably inform the media audience of their perilous conditions, so asking or daring the public to act quickly. In this circumstance, media consumers utilise the media to meet their urgent desire to be rescued from a perilous condition, such as emancipating themselves from kidnappers or an unfair situation. The tremendous growth in the number of users as well as involvement of users, demonstrates the potential of these communication channels, particularly for societal safety. Apart from this, individuals may engage with anybody in any location by utilising a communication device; this, in turn, has boosted the usefulness of social media by enabling people to seek out aid in urgent situations. To summarise, the social media are becoming the most effective communication vehicle for people to share their ideas, knowledge, and thoughts, which strengthens social organisations, forms public opinions, and meets people's needs such as understanding, explaining, and education for the safety and good of the society at large.

Indeed, technological devices have shown to be quite beneficial in terms of security. Individuals should be aware of their surroundings to make the most use of them, and in the event of any questionable scenarios, they should be prepared to click the recording button on their audio or video recording device a few minutes before entering any suspected scene of danger.

References

- Al Jazeera English Broadcast. (2019). *Audio transcripts of Jamal Khashoggi's murder revealed*.
- Baym, N. K. (2006). Interpersonal life online. In L. A. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone (Eds.), *Handbook of new media*. London: Sage.
- Daramola, I. (2012). *Introduction to mass communication*. Lagos: Rotham Press Ltd.
- Dearing, J. W. & Rogers, E. (1996). *Agenda-setting*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications.
- Jenkins, H. (2006). *Convergence culture: where old and new media collide*. New York: NYU Press.
- Khashoggi, J. (2018). *BBC News*. 7 October 2018. Archived from the original on 9 October 2018. Retrieved 18 February, 2021.

- Kirkpatrick, D. D. & Cumming-Bruce, N. (2019). Saudis called Khashoggi 'sacrificial animal' as they waited to kill him. *New York Times*.
- Littlejohn, S. (2002). *Theories of communication* (7th ed.). Albuquerque, New Mexico: Wardsworth.
- McQuail, D. (1987). *Mass communication theory: An introduction* (2nd ed.). New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- McQuail, De. (2005). *McQuail's Mass communication theory*. New Delhi: Vistaar Publications.
- Picard, R.G. (2016). *What society needs from media in the age of digital*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Sen, A. (1999). *Development as freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- UNESCO (2013). *Media and informational literacy. Policy and strategy guidelines*. Paris: UNESCO.
- Van Dijk, J. (2012). *The network society*. London, United Kingdom: Sage Publications.
- Wimmer, R.D. & Dominick, J.R. (1997). *Mass media research*. Belmont: Wardsworth Publishing Company.
- Winston, B. & Borgesson, B. (1998). *Media technology and society. A history from the telegraph to the internet*. London: Routledge.
- <https://coconuts.co/singapore/news/10-months-jail-indonesian-maid-who-abused-96-year-old-bedridden-woman-over-year/>
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2019/10/25/771427782/how-undercover-journalists-exposed-west-africas-sex-for-grades-scandal>
- <https://etico.iiep.unesco.org/en/sex-marks-scandal-student-appears-oau-panel>
- <https://www.easytechjunkie.com/what-are-the-different-types-of-electronic-gadgets.htm>
- <https://bamboodu.com/why-gadgets-are-so-important-in-our-daily-life/>
- <https://nation.com.pk/23-Jul-2018/history-and-evolution-of-technology>