

PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS MEDIA SENSITIZATION ON COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES AMONG RESIDENTS OF ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined perception and attitude towards media sensitization on COVID19 safety measures among residents of Ondo State, Nigeria during the COVID-19 first wave. Data for the study were collected from a sample of 528 residents through online questionnaire. Findings showed that the media have been very active in championing the fight against COVID-19 spread through its sensitization campaign and a very large number of Ondo State residents were exposed to such sensitization with many of them (respondents) being able to recall the issues raised in the campaign. Also, respondents' perception of the government's measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is positively skewed. However, while respondents agree with government's directives on COVID-19 protocol, such agreement minimally influenced their attitude as majority of them did not comply with some of the directives to curb the spread. It is recommended that the media should involve credible and respected people who are opinion leaders in the society to help in the sensitization message.

Keywords: Perception, attitude, media sensitization, COVID-19, social responsibility, safety measures

INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that the world today is taken aback and troubled from all fronts as a result of the outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) from Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province in December, 2019. What was first discovered in China has since spread rapidly around the globe with saddening cases of fatality. According to European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (2021), as of July 22, 2021, the disease has spread to 215 countries and territories around the world with 191,158,708 confirmed cases (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) and 4,098,967 confirmed deaths. The first confirmed case was declared in Nigeria on 27 February, 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. On 9 March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State. But this time, it is a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian. There are currently 170,306 confirmed cases of the virus in Nigeria, with 49 percent of them registered in Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja. Two thousand, one hundred and thirty people have died so far, including the Chief of Staff to Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari, Mallam Abba Kyari.

Nigeria, as Africa's most populous nation (with over 200 million projected populations in 2020), has 20 million people residing in the megacity of Lagos. Given this population figure, health experts have since raised the alarm over the impact of a major coronavirus outbreak, with the warning that the country's unprepared and underfunded healthcare system could quickly become overwhelmed if the government failed to act fast.

The Nigerian government, in order to curb the spread of the virus, has rolled out measures to fight the disease after launching lockdown procedures on 30 March, 2020. Expectedly, as a key institution in the society, Nigerian media have left no stone unturned in a bid to properly sensitize the citizenry on preventive measures and proper hygiene practices. Sensitization about the deadly virus runs on Nigerian media on a daily basis. With this, one would have expected that people be sufficiently educated on the menace of COVID-19 and possibly, take responsibility by observing measures as indicated in the ongoing media sensitization. However, the reverse seems to have been the case as observed in some parts of Ondo State. Major markets and public places still witness large crowds across the state. For instance, in Owo, residents hardly stay indoors during the lockdown. The popular market "Ikoko" is still opened for various transactions outside the essential commodities allowed by the government to be marketed. People still go out as if nothing has happened even when number of confirmed cases is increasing in the State.

Therefore, some pertinent questions beg for answer. To what extent are Ondo State residents exposed to media sensitization on COVID-19? What is the perception of Ondo State residents about media sensitization on COVID-19? And what is the attitude of Ondo State residents to media sensitization on COVID-19? Suffice to say that the final goal of any media sensitization, at a critical time like this, is usually to change individuals' behaviours, but changing people's perceptions with regards to their attitudes to or beliefs of the Coronavirus is presumed to be an important conduit. For now, several misconceptions surrounding the deadly disease are being peddled. Meanwhile, people's misconception of reality has a number of implications on any media sensitization seeking to change individuals' attitudes because such misconceptions can act as impediments to attitudinal change the media in Ondo state are seriously canvassing to stop the spread of the disease in the state.

Several studies have been conducted on the influence of media messages on audience behavior. For instance, Abimbola, Olusanya, and Omotoye (2020) examined the influence of UNICEF's *Facts For Life* radio drama on knowledge, attitudes and practices of women in four rural communities of Ondo State, Nigeria; Enikolopov and Petrova (2017) investigated Mass media and its influence on behaviour; Ferreira (2014) examined media effects on the audience attitudes and behavior; and Happer and Philo (2013) investigated the role of the media in the construction of public belief and social change. These studies confirmed that media actually influence people's behaviour to certain extents and in certain circumstances. But none of these studies examined media influence on people perception and attitude in an atmosphere of uncertainty and disinformation that the world is currently witnessing. As the World Health Organisation (WHO) termed the COVID-19 a pandemic, it has drawn media attention, leading to sensitization on the safety measures. Therefore, it is pertinent to investigate Ondo State residents' perception and attitude to media sensitization on COVID-19 safety measures.

Research Questions

1. To what extent are Ondo State residents exposed to media sensitization on COVID-19?
2. What is the perception of Ondo State residents about media sensitization on COVID-19?
3. What is the attitude of Ondo State residents to media sensitization on COVID-19?

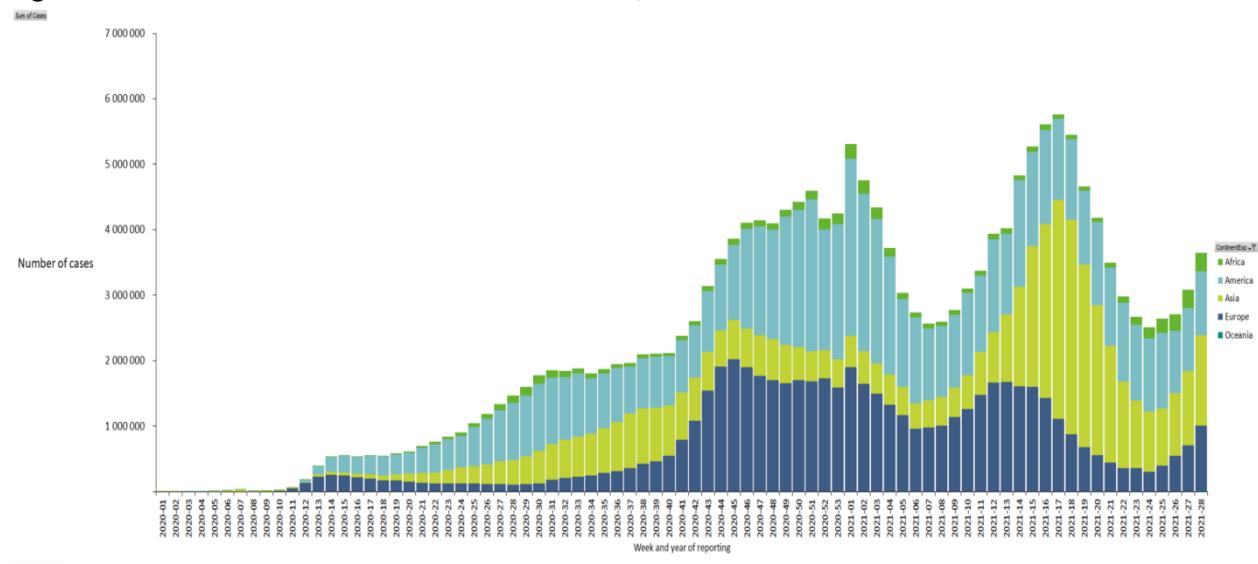
LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of COVID-19

The current global concern is the outbreak of Coronavirus spreading across the world like wildfire. First identified in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019, the disease has spread to

215 countries and territories around the world with 191,158,708 confirmed cases and 4,098,967 confirmed deaths as of July 22, 2021. According to Cennimo (2020), Covid-19 is defined as illness caused by a novel coronavirus now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; formerly called 2019-nCoV), which was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced an official name for the disease as coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, "CO" stands for "corona" "VI", for virus", and "D" for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV" (WHO, 2020). On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, its first such designation since declaring H1N1 influenza a pandemic in 2009. The disease first started as an outbreak and graduated to an epidemic and peaked as a pandemic. Differentiating the terminologies, Cleveland Clinic (2020) defines an outbreak as a sudden rise in the number of cases of a disease while an epidemic is similar to outbreaks, but generally considered larger and more widespread. Pandemic, on the other hand, is larger than epidemics and generally global in nature and affects more people.

Figure 1: Distribution of COVID-19 cases worldwide, as of week 28 2021



Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (2021)

In a bid to curtail the spread of the virus, the WHO, in conjunction with nations and governments, came up with several protective measures which include isolation, quarantine, social distancing, cloth face masks, and lockdown. Quarantine, according to Cleveland Clinic (2020), keeps people who don't have symptoms but were exposed to the disease away from others so they don't unknowingly infect anyone while isolation which serves the same purpose as quarantine, is reserved for those who are already sick to keep the *infected* people away from healthy people and prevent the sickness from spreading. Social distancing involves avoiding large gatherings by keeping 6feet (2 meters) between one and another person when possible. Citing Dr. Gordon, Cleveland Clinic (2020) says: "Social distancing is pretty much like using common sense; we don't realize how interconnected we are until we are asked to avoid people. The terms like "mass gatherings" or "congregate settings" are vague. They are used to describe things like shopping centers, movie theaters or stadiums." However, where it is hard to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between oneself and another person, it is recommended

that one wears a cloth face mask. An extreme measure is when a government shuts down all activities in a particular locality or a whole nation and restricts movement of residents, thus forcing people to stay at home. This is otherwise known as lockdown which may be partial or total. A lockdown period ranges from 14 days to weeks and in some cases even months depending on the severity of infections among the people.

In all of these, the media play a crucial role in educating the public and sensitizing them about the dangers of diseases especially the global pandemic of COVID-19 and how to curtail its spread. This is because the media are placed in a vantage position to reach a wide and heterogeneous mass of audience simultaneously. Corroborating this, Happer and Philo (2013) state that the media play a central role in informing the public about what happens in the world, particularly in those areas in which audiences do not possess direct knowledge or experience.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on social responsibility and perception/reception theories of communication. The social responsibility theory is one of the four media theories which show that political and economic systems of a country determine its media systems (Siebert, 1976). This theory emerged to check the excess of the libertarian system, which acting on the fact that man is a rational being, gives the press and its operators unconditional freedom (Anunike and Edegoh, 2014). Social responsibility theory stipulates that the media owe certain obligations to the society, as such, the need for them to act in a responsible way. The theory advocates fairness, objectivity, and balance in the presentation of media messages. Meanwhile, at a time like this when Covid-19 is spreading across the countries of the world, with Nigeria recording news cases on a daily basis, it is part of the media responsibility to not only keep Nigerians abreast of happenings on this pandemic disease but to also sensitize them on individual's responsibility to curtail its spread as well as continue to lend support to the government on lockdown directives.

Perception, according to Akpan (as cited by Anunike and Edegoh, 2014), "is an individual creative process in which one creates his own vision of the world and equally gets influenced by his vision or image of the world." Hence, in view of Klapper (as cited by Olley, Umolu, & Omosotomhe, 2018), mass communication as a mediator in persuasive communication does not influence the individual directly, but it does reinforce the individual's predisposition and the five mediating factors here are: predispositions and the related processes of selective exposure, perception, and retention; the groups, group norms, to which the audience members belong; dissemination of the content of communication interpersonally and the exercise of opinion leadership; the nature of mass media in a free enterprise society. These mediating factors directly or indirectly, relate to the context of the media; hence, interlaces perception and reception theories. Three names are recurrent in the literature on reception theories according to Olley, Umolu, and Omosotomhe (2018). These names are: Hans-Robert Jauss (1982), who developed the theory for the interrogation of the literary text; Stuart Hall (1982) who applied it to media and communication Studies and Bennett (1990) who carried the discourse into theatre/performance (Olley, Umolu and Omosotomhe, 2018). Reception theories interface the text/performance with reader/audience; and meaning is seen as residing less in the text and more in the context. That is, it is from the context that the reader/audience negotiates the meaning of the text/performance. Meanwhile, context, in this regard, is primarily seen as a function of the individual's cultural background, life experiences and preconceived notions of the text/performance; the circumstances of exhibition/performance and opinion leadership. In the light of this, it becomes pertinent to

point out that the media of sensitization on COVID-19 that are accessible to the residents of Ondo state are presumed to be mostly radio, television, newspaper and/or social media, therefore, perception context cannot, but combine two divergences which are: mass communication (the relationship of the individual viewer to the COVID-19 sensitization on radio, television, newspaper) and interpersonal communication (the relationship of the individual perception to the other rural dwellers concerning COVID-19 sensitization in the media). This is where these theories become relevant to the study.

Review of related studies

Research has shown that the media influence the society in specific terms. For instance, Abimbola, Olusanya, and Omotoye (2020) examined the influence of UNICEF's *Facts For Life* radio programme on knowledge, attitudes and practices of women in four rural communities of Ondo State, Nigeria and found out that while the radio programme enhanced the knowledge of the respondents and influenced their attitudes towards UNICEF's campaign on safe motherhood practices, exclusive breast-feeding, general hygiene, care for the new born and immunization; it has minimal influence on their practices. In another study, Happer and Philo (2013) investigated the role of the media in the construction of public belief and social change and found out that the media severely limit the information with which audiences understand the issues under investigation and that alternative solutions to political problems are effectively removed from public debate. The researchers also found other evidence of the way in which media coverage can operate to limit understanding of possibilities of social change. Also, Nnadozie (2017) investigated Nigerian's awareness of the anti-corruption campaign (social marketing) of the present APC government in Nigeria and how such campaigns shaped their behaviour. He found that the people were aware of anti-corruption campaign (social marketing) but such campaigns were yet to properly influence their behaviour towards embracing corrupt free nation. This is because more than half of the respondents indicated they were yet to know how to participate in the fight against corruption. He opined that the inability of government and other concerned bodies to raise models that the rest of the society can emulate has made the approach to look like short-term arrangement design to achieve cheap political popularity. Given this outcome therefore, the role of other forms of communication is again stressed.

METHOD

This study adopted a descriptive survey approach with the questionnaire as research instrument to elicit information from the respondents. The aim of descriptive studies is to explain an existing phenomenon. According to Wimmer and Dominick (2011, p. 185) "descriptive survey attempts to describe or document current conditions or attitudes- that is, to explain what exists at the moment ...the interest is in discovering the current situation in the area under study." This method is adopted to discover the perception of Ondo state residents on media sensitization on COVID-19. This study was conducted in 2021 between March and April before Ondo state began to top the infection chart. The media ambience was that charged with serious campaigns that were meant to sensitize the people about measures to curtail or prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Online questionnaire was adopted as the instrument for data collection and was designed in a close-ended format in order to elicit relevant information from respondents. The instrument is appropriate since it enables one to collect large data from primary sources little cost. The population of study is the residents Ondo state. The population of Ondo state as projected in 2019 is 4,671,700. This population

was adopted since no census has been conducted in 2006. Five hundred and thirty-eight (538) respondents from the Ondo state were drawn as the representative sample. This figure was arrived at using the Wimmer and Dominick Online sample size calculator with 95% confident level and 5% margin of error, with the oversampling of 40% to take into account those number of individuals that will not respond to the designs appropriately, as opined by Onyeabuchi and Fink (as cited in Nnadozie, 2017). Hence, the basic sample size of 384, realized through Wimmer and Dominick Online sample size calculator was increased by 40%. The calculation and result are presented below.

$$\begin{aligned}384 + (40\% \text{ of } 384) \\384 + (0.4 \times 384 = 153.6) \\384 + 154 = 538\end{aligned}$$

Procedure for data collection

Quota and Purposive sampling technique were adopted to select Owo and Akure for this study. Akure and Owo were picked because of their metropolitan nature, while proportionate quota sampling was used to allocate sample size to them. Purposive sampling technique was used to select only those who have relevant characteristics to the study (in this case, active social media users who are residents of Owo and Akure, Ondo state). Online research assistants in these two locations were recruited to help in the selection process. The data were collected in 2021 between March and April before Ondo state began to top the infection chart. The questionnaire was administered online to five hundred and thirty-eight respondents by sending the questionnaire link to respondents online who met the criteria for selection, through the research assistants. The researchers got their responses on the G-mail account linked with the questionnaire.

Data analysis

Data were presented in tables of frequency count and simple percentages, and a discussion and interpretation of the data followed each table based on each research question. The data were analysed with the help of online survey software that was used to administer the questionnaire.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study examines how Ondo state residents perceive the media sensitization on the COVID-19 pandemic and how such messages influence their perception and attitudes. Data that emanated from the survey clearly indicated a high exposure to media sensitization on measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Ondo state. All of the respondents (522) residing in Ondo state that were sampled were exposed to the media sensitization. The media of their exposure cut across radio, television, newspapers and social media, with the social media having the highest (490) of indication. A good number of the respondents: 307, 121 and 55 got exposed to media sensitization on COVID-19 for 6 to 7, 4 to 5 and 2 to 3 in the preceding week. Also, many of the respondents got highly exposed to media sensitization on COVID-19 the day preceding the conduct of the research, i.e., 155 got exposed 6 to 7 times, 135 (4 to 5 times) and 162 (2 to 3 times).

Meanwhile, more than half of the respondents could recall significant messages of the media sensitization on COVID-19. This also corroborates the high exposure claim as 408 respondents could recall the stay indoors order, 382 respondents could recall regular

disinfection of high contact surfaces, 413 respondents could recall the use of face mask, and 487 respondents could recall regular hand washing. Only 38 respondents could recall social distancing which is very important in curbing the spread of the virus.

The analysis further shows that the media have been very active in championing the fight against COVID-19 spread through its sensitization campaign. At a time like this when confirmed cases of people infected with COVID-19 is rising on a daily basis, it is part of the media responsibility to not only keep Nigerians abreast of happenings on this pandemic but to also sensitize them on individuals' responsibility to curtail its spread as well as continue to lend support to the government on lockdown directives. Therefore, it suffices to say that the media have performed its social responsibility accordingly. In line with this, Abimbola, Olusanya, and Omotoye (2020) found out that media, especially radio programme, enhanced the knowledge of the respondents and influenced their attitudes towards UNICEF's campaign on safe motherhood practices, exclusive breast-feeding, general hygiene and care for the new born and immunization.

Furthermore, the final goal of any media sensitization programme is usually to change individuals' attitude, but changing people's perceptions as regards their attitudes or beliefs is presumed to be an important conduit. In view of this, the data that emerged from perception measurement showed that the perception of the people of the government's measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is positively skewed. The analysis shows that 428 respondents believed that the virus is real, with 342 respondents believing that the virus is deadly. On the negative continuum, 50 respondents believed that there is no case of COVID-19 in Ondo State, with 106 respondents believing that COVID-19 is politically motivated. Also, majority of the respondents (415) were of the view that the various measures taken to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Ondo state are needful; while 43 and 33 respondents respectively said the measures could not stop the spread and were not necessary. Moreover, 382 respondents saw the lockdown measure as a good decision, while 86 respondents did not. This shows that the respondents are in support of the various measures taken by the Ondo state government to curtail the spread of the virus.

With this pattern of perception, adherence to government directive and curbing the spread of the virus in the state should not be difficult. While it could not be empirically ascertained in this study whether this perception is directly due to the media sensitization, and subsequently, its information function, Klapper (as cited by Olley, Umolu and Omosotomhe, 2018) asserted that mass communication as a mediator in persuasive communication does not influence the individual directly, but it does reinforce the individual's predisposition and the five mediating factors which are: predispositions and the related processes of selective exposure, perception, and retention; the groups, group norms, to which the audience members belong; dissemination of the content of communication interpersonally and the exercise of opinion leadership; the nature of mass media in a free enterprise society. Therefore, it is not out of place to say that this positive perception is somewhat due to the effective media sensitization of COVID-19 pandemic in Ondo State.

In addition, the attitudes of Ondo State residents to media sensitization on COVID-19 were measured. The data garnered showed that more than half of the respondents (329) were in support of the stay-at-home order by the government because it would reduce the spread of the virus within the State, while those who were not in support and undecided, remained so because staying indoors to them was not the best since cases of COVID-19 infection were recorded infrequently in the state and that hunger could kill instead of the virus if there was no palliative from the government. Meanwhile, in practice, a good number of the respondents indicated they wash their hands regularly and stay indoors to stay safe. Data showed that 429

respondents were indoors, while 424 respondents wash their hands regularly to stay safe. These two measures were highly practiced during the lockdown. However, more than half of the respondents did not disinfect high contact surfaces in their homes regularly and did not use nose mask whenever they went out of their compounds. Hence, 258 respondents did not disinfect high contact surfaces in their homes regularly, while 278 respondents did not use nose mask whenever they went out of their compounds. This pattern therefore shows a moderate compliance to government directive as regards measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. However, the media still have a lot to do so as to overcome the pandemic. What appears to be wrong here has been predicted by reception theorists who assert that audience of the media negotiates meaning of the text/performance through context. Meanwhile, context, in this regard, is primarily seen as a function of the individual's cultural background, life experiences and preconceived notions of the text/performance; the circumstances of exhibition/performance and opinion leadership. This could be the reason why there was no high compliance to the media sensitization on COVID-19. Individuals' cultural background could be responsible for not wearing of nose mask or refusal to disinfect high contact surfaces at homes regularly. In other words, strongly held attitudes are less likely to be changed through exposure to media campaign alone. This is why interpersonal communication is usually recommended to complement media campaign so as to penetrate strongly held attitudes. Attesting to the ineffectiveness of media campaign to change strongly held attitudes, Abimbola, Olusanya, and Omotoye (2020) who examined the influence of UNICEF's *Facts For Life* radio programme on knowledge, attitudes and practices of women in four rural communities of Ondo State, Nigeria equally found out that while the programme increased respondents knowledge and influenced their attitude, it however, has minimal influence on their practices. This is further supported by Nnadozie (2017). He found that the people were aware of anti-corruption campaign (social marketing) but such campaigns were yet to properly influence their behaviour towards embracing a corruption free nation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the study concluded that the media have been very active in championing the fight against COVID-19 spread through its sensitization campaign and a very large number of Ondo State residents were exposed to such sensitization with many of them (respondents) being able to recall the issues raised in the campaign which include the indoors order, use of nose mask, regular hand washing and social distancing. Also, respondents' perception of the government's measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is positively skewed. However, while respondents agree with government's directives on COVID-19 protocol, such agreement minimally influenced their attitude as majority of them did not comply with some of the government's directives to curb the spread.

Recommendation

The role of the media in the COVID-19 pandemic is next to the role of the government and the society. To engender high compliance to the media sensitization on COVID-19, it is therefore, recommended that the media should involve credible and respected people who are opinion leaders in the society to help in the sensitization message. Also, people who are custodians of tradition and culture could also be sought to speak to the people. People tend to believe message coming from their leaders rather than other sources.

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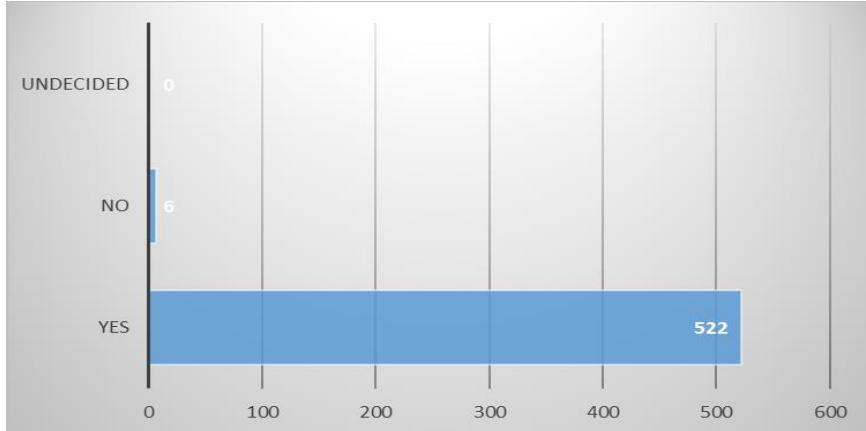
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Appendices
Data Presentation

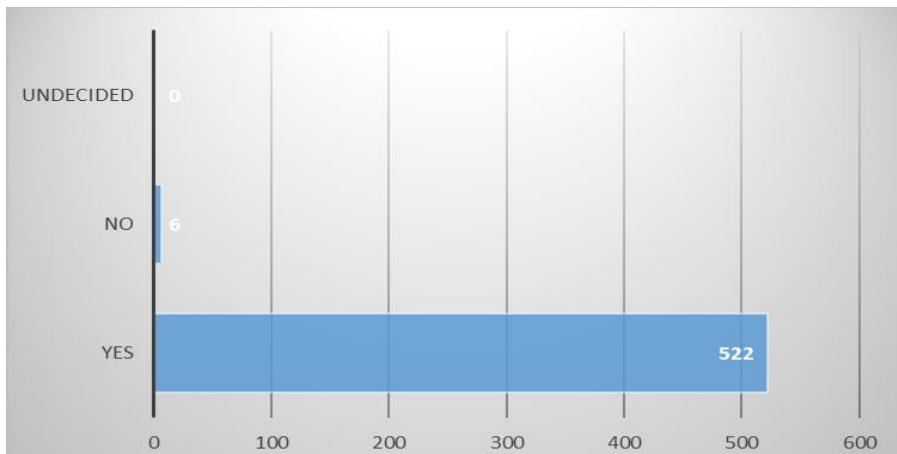
Figure 1: Showing whether respondents reside in Ondo State



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 1 shows that 522 respondents of the 528 sampled reside in Ondo State which shows that majority of the respondents reside in Ondo State.

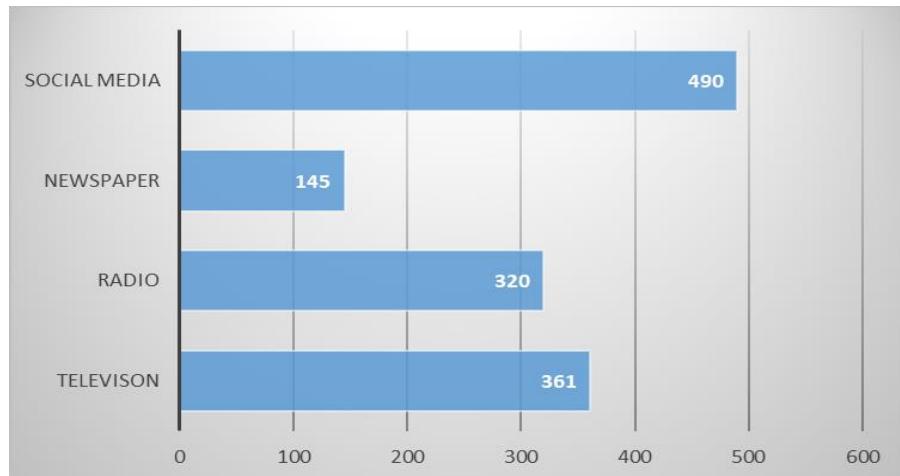
Figure 2: Showing whether respondents got exposed to the media to sensitization on Covid-19



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 2 shows that 522 of the respondents who reside in Ondo state were exposed to media sensitization on measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

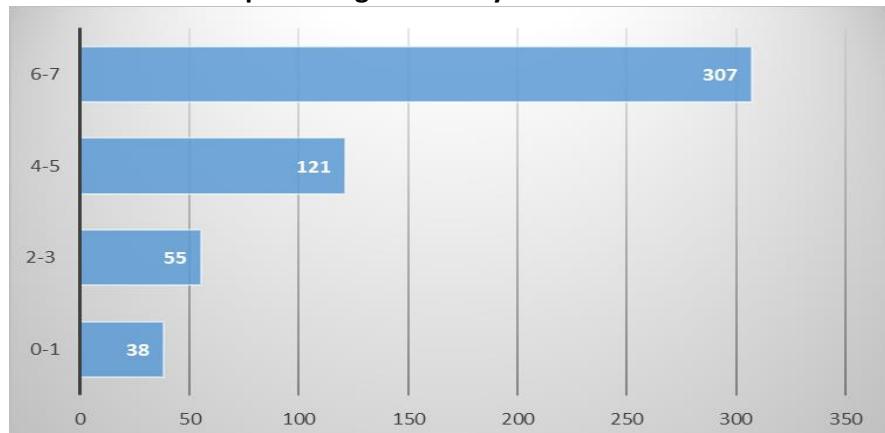
Figure 3: Showing the media where respondents got their exposure to sensitization on Covid-19



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 3 shows that newspaper was the least medium through which respondents got exposed to sensitization on Covid-19. More than half of the respondents were exposed to media sensitization on Covid-19 through radio (320), television (360) and social media (490), with the social media having the highest.

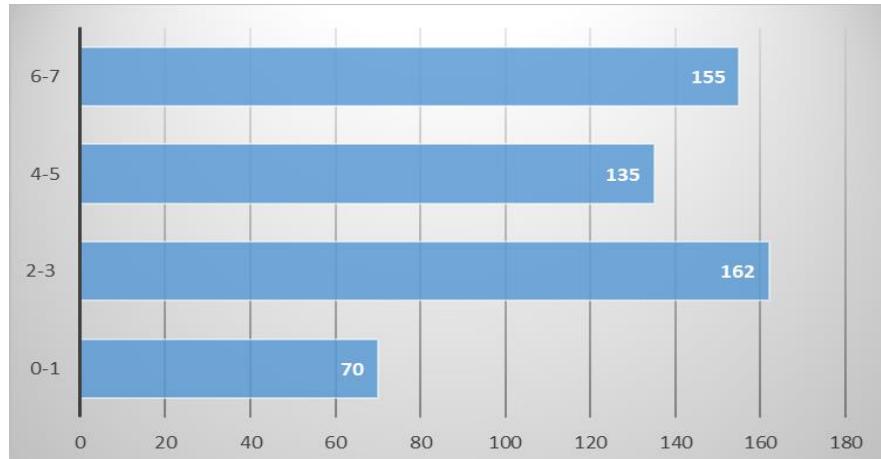
Figure 4: Showing number of times respondents got exposed to media sensitization on Covid-19 the week preceding the survey



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 4 shows that the respondents were highly exposed to media sensitization on Covid-19. This is because 307, 121 and 55 respondents got exposed to media sensitization on Covid-19 for 6 to 7, 4 to 5 and 2 to 3 days in the week preceding the conduct of the research respectively. Only 38 got exposed to media sensitization on Covid-19 once in that week.

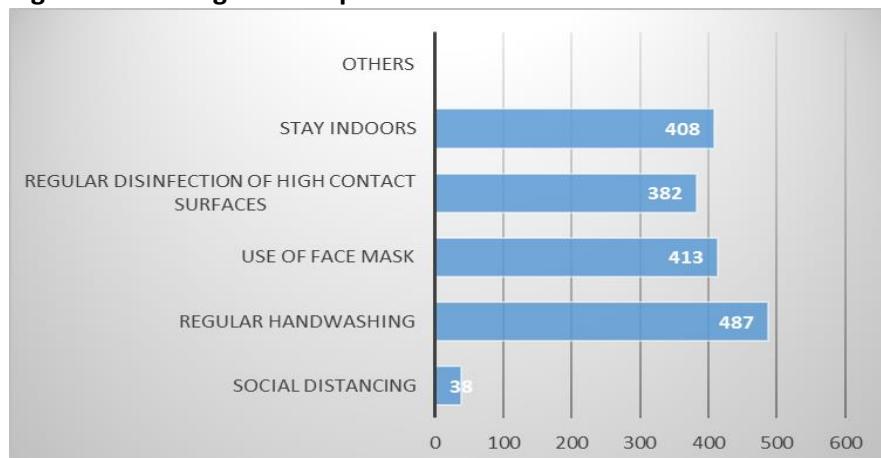
Figure 5: Showing number of times respondents got exposed to media sensitization on Covid-19 the day preceding the survey



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 5 shows that the respondents were highly exposed to media sensitization on Covid-19 when asked the number of times they were exposed to the sensitization the day preceding the research. 155 respondents got exposed to media sensitization on Covid-19 for 6 to 7 times, 135 respondents picked 4 to 5 times, 162 respondents indicated 2 to 3 times, while only 70 respondents indicated a time.

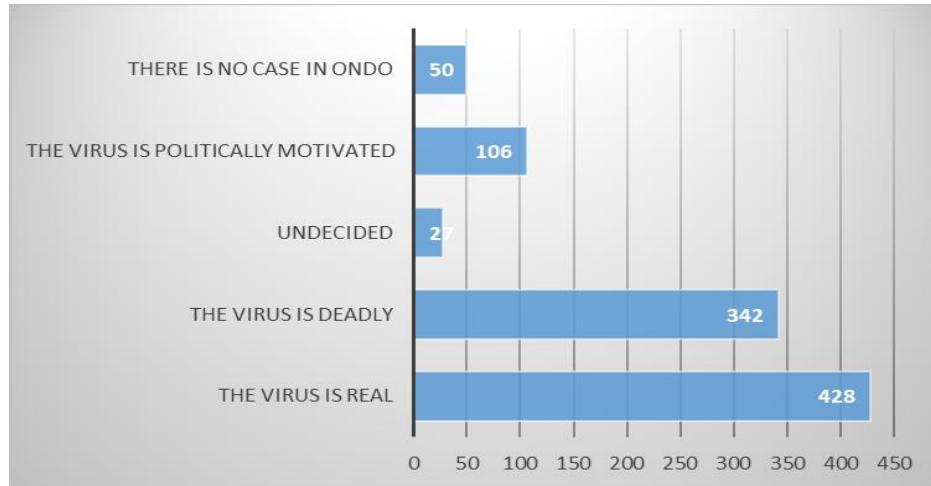
Figure 6: Showing what respondents can recall from the media sensitization on Covid-19



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 6 shows that more than of the respondents could recall significant messages of the media sensitization on COVID-19. 408 respondents could only recall "stay indoor", 382 respondents could recall "regular disinfection of high contact surfaces", 413 respondents could recall the use of "face mask", 487 respondents could recall "regular hand washing". Only 38 respondents could recall "social distancing" which is very important in curbing the spread of the pandemic.

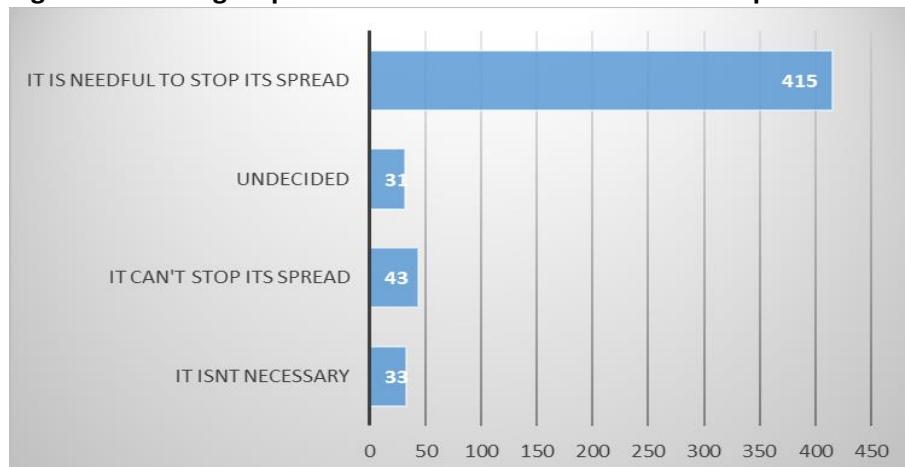
Figure 7: Showing respondents' belief about Covid-19



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 7 shows 428 respondents believed that the virus is real, with 342 respondents believing that the virus is deadly. On the negative continuum, 50 respondents believed that there is no case of COID-19 in Ondo State, with 106 respondents believed that Covid-19 is politically motivated.

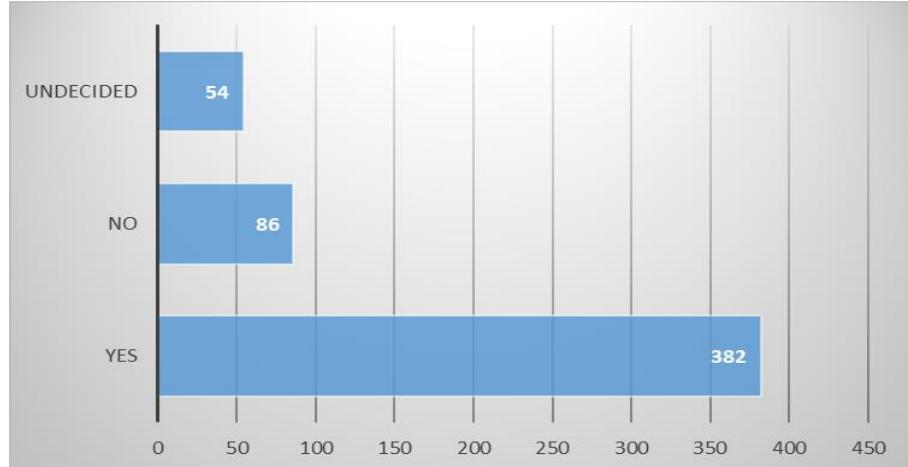
Figure 8: Showing respondents' view about the measures to prevent the spread of the virus



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 8 shows that the majority of respondents (415) were of the view that the measures were needful to stop the spread, 31 respondents were undecided, while 43 and 33 respondents said the measures can't stop the spread and it isn't necessary respectively.

Figure 9: Showing whether respondents see lockdown as a good decision to stop Covid-19 spread

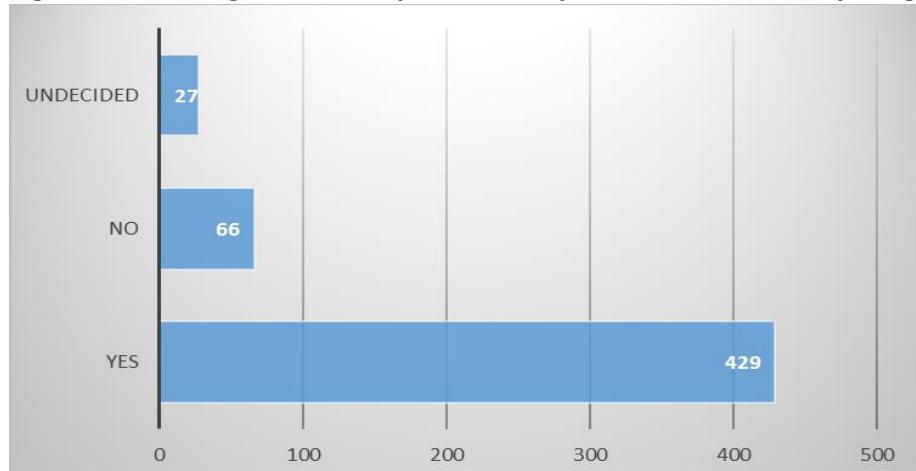


Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 9 shows that 382 respondents saw the lockdown measure as a good decision to stop Covid-19 spread, while 86 respondents did not. 54 respondents were undecided.

Research Question Three: What is the attitude of Ondo State residents to media sensitization on COVID-19?

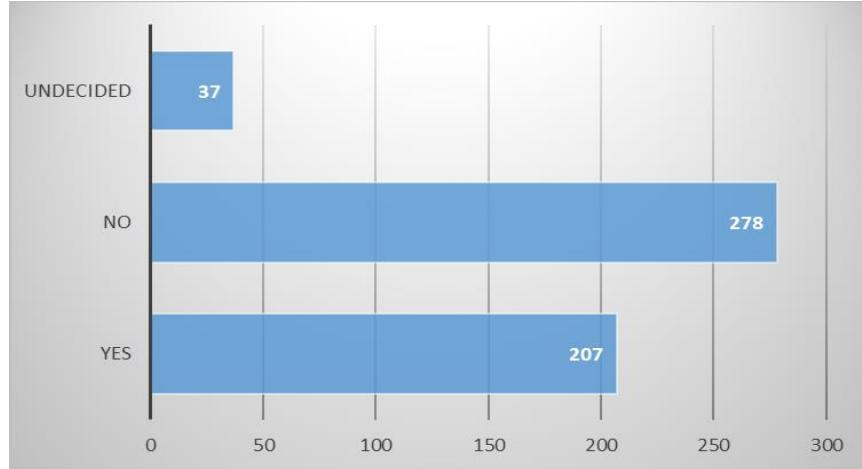
Figure 10: Showing whether respondents stay indoors as directed by the government



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 10 shows that 429 respondents revealed that they were indoors as directed by the government, 66 respondents revealed that they do not stay indoors. 27 respondents were undecided. This shows that majority of the respondents stayed indoor as directed by the government of the State.

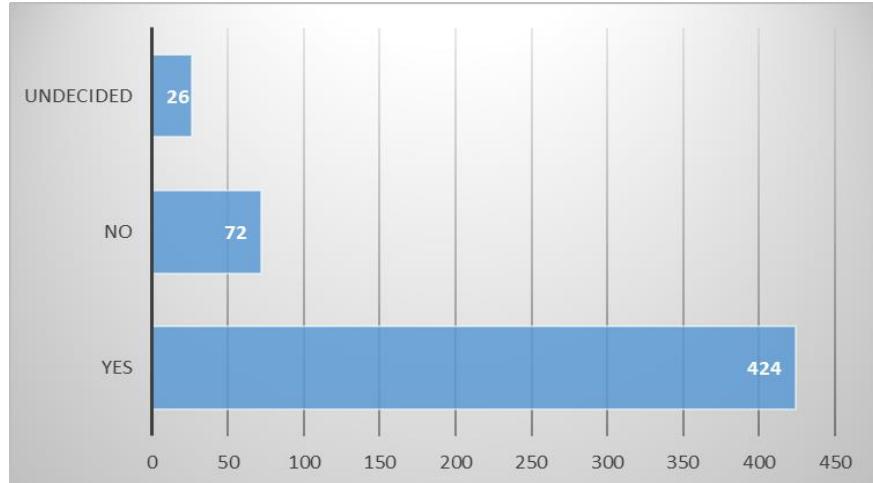
Figure 11: Showing whether respondents use nose mask whenever they go out of compound



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 11 shows that 278 respondents do not use nose mask whenever they go out, while 207 respondents use nose masks. 37 respondents remained undecided. With this, the majority of the respondents do not use nose masks as a preventive measure against COVID-19 whenever they go out of their compounds.

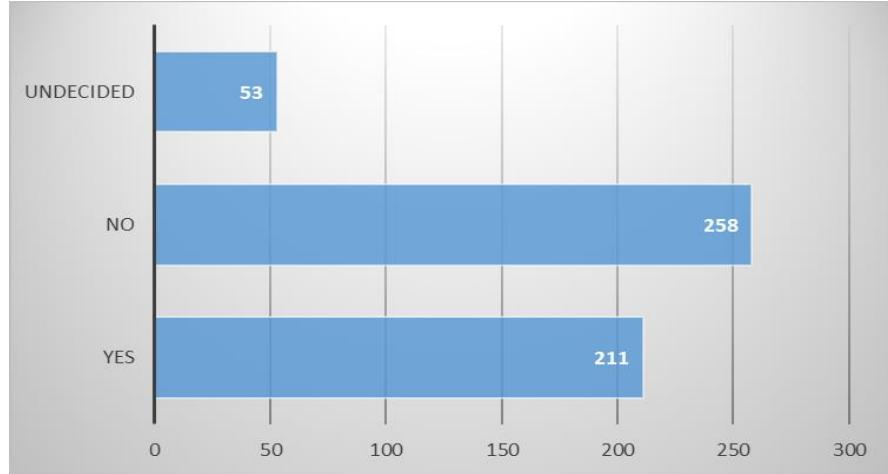
Figure 12: Showing whether respondents wash their hands regularly



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 12 shows that 424 respondents wash their hands regularly to stay safe, while 72 respondents do not. 26 respondents remained undecided. With this, the majority of the respondents wash their hands regularly to stay safe as part of the preventive measures against COVID-19.

Figure 13: Showing whether respondents disinfect high contact surfaces in their homes



Source: Field Survey (2020)

The Figure 13 shows that 258 respondents do not disinfect high contact surfaces in their homes regularly, while 211 respondents regularly disinfect high contact surfaces in their homes. 53 respondents remained undecided. With this, the majority of the respondents do not regularly disinfect high contact surfaces in their homes as part of the preventive measures against COVID-19.