

# Entertainment Function of the Press and Advocacies against Politically-motivated Youths' Restiveness: Trends and the Implications for Nigeria

Obinna Johnkennedy Chukwu & Acha, Odion Victor

## Abstract

This paper examines the entertainment function of the press and advocacies against politically-motivated youth restiveness and its implications for Nigeria. The researcher embarked on this study with the intent of achieving two objectives. Based on the objectives of this study, two research questions were formulated to serve as a guide for this study. This study was anchored on the conflict theory and the strain theory. The secondary method of data collection was adopted in this study. Findings reveal that one of the reasons why the entertainment function of the press distracts Nigerian youths from engaging in politically-motivated activities is the lack of interest in politics. Many Nigerian youths are not interested in politics and are unaware of the impact of their actions on the political landscape of the country. The constant bombardment of entertainment stories by the press further reinforces this apathy towards politics and diverts their attention from issues that affect them. Findings further revealed that one of the implications of youth restiveness on Nigeria is the loss of lives and property. This study therefore recommends that the media should strike a balance between entertainment and political discourse. While the entertainment function of the press is essential for keeping audiences engaged, media outlets should also prioritize political reporting, especially on issues that affect the youth. This will encourage young people to participate in political discourse and make informed decisions.

*Keywords: Entertainment-Function, Press, Advocacies, Politically-motivated, Youths, Restiveness, Trends, Implications.*

## Introduction

The press plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and providing information to the masses. One of the primary functions of the press is to provide entertainment to its readers, viewers, and listeners. However, in Nigeria, politically-motivated youth restiveness has become a significant concern. Entertainment in the press refers to the dissemination of information and news that is not only informative but also engaging and entertaining.

Obinna Johnkennedy Chukwu, Ph.D, BL Department of Mass Communication, Edo State University State, Uzairue, Edo State, Nigeria obinnakennedy@yahoo.com chukwu.obinna@edouniversity.edu.ng.

Acha, Odion Victor Department of Mass Communication, Edo State University State, Uzairue, Edo State, Nigeria.

This function has become increasingly important in recent years as the media landscape has become more diverse, with the emergence of new platforms and the proliferation of social media.

According to Kalu (2018), the entertainment function of the press refers to the provision of news, stories, and features that are designed to amuse, entertain, and engage the audience. He further noted that the entertainment function of the press has become increasingly important in modern times, as consumers have become more demanding and sophisticated in their media consumption habits. The press uses various forms of entertainment to keep its audience engaged, including music, movies, celebrity news, sports, and humor.

Oladele (2017) noted that in Nigeria, the entertainment industry is a significant contributor to the country's economy, providing employment opportunities for thousands of young people. The press has played a critical role in the growth of the entertainment industry in Nigeria by promoting and publicizing the works of artists and entertainers. The entertainment function of the press has also helped to shape the country's cultural identity. Nigeria has witnessed a growing trend of politically-motivated youth restiveness in recent years. This trend is characterized by young people engaging in violent activities such as vandalism, looting, and arson, often in response to political grievances. These grievances may include issues such as youth unemployment, poor governance, and police brutality. The #EndSARS# protests that rocked Nigeria in October 2020 are a classic example of politically-motivated youth restiveness. The protests began as a peaceful demonstration against police brutality but eventually degenerated into violence and destruction, resulting in the loss of lives and properties.

According to Gboyega (2014), politically-motivated youth restiveness refers to the activities of young people who engage in violent or disruptive behavior due to political grievances. In Nigeria, politically-motivated youth restiveness has become a significant issue, with many young people joining political groups and engaging in violent or disruptive behavior.

According to Nsidibe (2017), youth-led unrest has been on the rise in nearly all communities in Nigeria, especially recently. Since the founding of our fledgling democracy, there have been several incidents of uncontrolled violence, the murder of innocent bystanders, and most recently the upsurge in violence in the North East, insurgency in the Niger Delta, and the roving attacks by Fulani herdsmen across the nation. When young people are not happy, there is frequently a situation of anarchy, the destruction of lives and property. At this point, youngsters' acts are seen as criminal in character since they frequently express themselves violently and interfere with social order and numerous activities. Most often, controlling youth violence requires the use of force, such as enlisting the police.

Youth believed they should work in the oil sectors during the Niger Delta's oil boom because the sector had facilities in many of their local villages. This left the oil businesses at a disadvantage because many of them lacked the credentials, know-how, and experience required to work in the oil sector. However, they resisted focusing on other forms of self-employment including agriculture and other empowerment initiatives. They had hope that everyone would be employed and play equally because of the attention paid to the money paid to the few local adolescents who were employed in the area. They did not understand that the oil sector cannot accommodate everyone, especially those without skills and experience, due to their lack of awareness, exposure, education, and knowledge.

Nigerian youngsters struggle with issues like their failure to adapt to their surroundings, desire for fortune, and lust for fame. As a result, kidnapping, oil pipeline vandalism, an increase in armed robberies, bomb attacks, thuggery, murder, property destruction, increased insecurity, and crude oil theft (bunkering), to name a few, have all grown common among young people. In order to reduce young restlessness, the goal of this study is to identify, examine, and discover solutions to the challenges that youths face.

Adolescents restiveness is occasionally used by adolescents to defend their society. The young sometimes use a competitive management style to accomplish their goals. It entails being extremely aggressive and disobedient. They are willing to harm the other party, whether it be the government, in order to further their own interests as well as the interests of their societies. This situation has actually resulted in a near breakdown of law and order, low productivity since production activities are disrupted, an increase in crime, interethnic hostility, harassment of potential developers, and other criminal inclinations.

The causes of politically-motivated youth restiveness in Nigeria are multifaceted and include unemployment, poverty, inequality, corruption, and lack of opportunities. Many young people feel marginalized and excluded from the political process, which has led to frustration and anger. The lack of adequate education and access to information has also contributed to the issue.

To address the issue of politically-motivated youth restiveness in Nigeria, Ibrahim (2021) noted that various advocacies have been suggested. One of the most critical advocacies is the need for greater youth participation in the political process. Young people must be given a voice and actively involved in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Another advocacy is the need for improved access to education and information. Education plays a crucial role in shaping the values and attitudes of young people, and access to information enables them to make informed decisions. The press can play a critical role in providing young people with the information they need to make informed decisions. The government must also address the issue of unemployment and poverty, which is one of the primary causes of politically-motivated youth restiveness. The government can create employment opportunities and provide social safety nets to support those who are most vulnerable.

The entertainment function of the press can play a critical role in addressing the issue of politically-motivated youth restiveness in Nigeria. The press can use various forms of entertainment to engage young people and provide them with information that will enable them to make informed decisions. The press can also promote positive values and attitudes that will discourage violence and disruptive behavior.

To address the challenge of politically-motivated youth restiveness and promote the entertainment function of the press, there is a need for a multi-faceted approach. One of the most effective ways to address politically-motivated youth restiveness is through dialogue. Government officials, civil society organizations, and youth leaders should engage in constructive dialogue to address the grievances of young people and find ways to address them. The media can also play a vital role in promoting dialogue by providing a platform for constructive debates and discussions.

Onah (2014) noted that education is a powerful tool for addressing youth restiveness. The government should invest in education programs that equip young people with the skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The media can also support this effort by

providing educational content that promotes critical thinking and creativity. The media can promote positive youth engagement by highlighting the achievements of young people who are making a positive impact in their communities. This promotion can inspire other young people to engage in constructive activities rather than resorting to violence and destruction

### **Statement of the Problem**

The press has long served as an avenue for entertainment, providing news on sports, celebrity gossip, music, and movies. However, the entertainment function of the press can also be used to distract the public from important political issues and events. This distraction can be exploited by political actors to further their own interests, particularly in cases where there is a growing youth population that is politically motivated.

Nigeria, like many countries in Africa, has a large and growing youth population that is increasingly politically aware and motivated. This has led to increased restiveness, particularly in the form of protests and demonstrations, which have been organized to demand political change, social justice, and economic opportunity. However, some political actors have used the entertainment function of the press to distract the youth from these issues, by providing them with entertainment content that is designed to appeal to their interests and distract them from political activities.

Advocacy against politically-motivated youth restiveness is necessary because it undermines the democratic process and can lead to violence and instability. The use of entertainment to distract youth from political activities is also problematic because it can reinforce existing social inequalities and perpetuate the marginalization of youth voices in the political process.

The trends in politically-motivated youth restiveness in Nigeria indicate a need for greater engagement with youth populations, as well as for policies that address their concerns and provide them with greater opportunities for political participation. This requires a multi-faceted approach that involves education, dialogue, and policy reform, as well as a commitment to promoting youth participation and engagement in political processes.

The implications of politically-motivated youth restiveness in Nigeria are significant, particularly in terms of the country's political stability and economic development. Addressing this issue requires a commitment from political leaders, civil society organizations, and the media to promote greater youth participation in the political process, as well as to ensure that the entertainment function of the press does not undermine democratic processes or perpetuate social inequalities.

Therefore, it is in the light of this that this paper examines the entertainment function of the press and advocacies against politically-motivated youth's restiveness in Nigeria and the Independent Television and Radio Benin will be the focus.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are as follows;

1. To assess the extent to which the entertainment function of the press distracts Nigerian youths from engaging in politically motivated youth's restiveness.
2. To ascertain the implications of youth restiveness on Nigeria.

## Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated based on the objectives of this study;

1. To what extent does the entertainment function of the press distracts Nigerian youths from engaging in politically motivated activities?
2. What are the implications of youth restiveness on Nigeria?

## Literature Review

### Concept of Youth Restiveness

Youth restiveness is a term that refers to a social phenomenon where young people, typically between the ages of 15 to 35, express their dissatisfaction with the prevailing socio-economic and political conditions in their society. This expression of dissatisfaction often takes the form of violent protests, strikes, or even criminal activities, and it is a growing concern in many parts of the world, particularly in developing countries.

The root causes of youth restiveness are multifaceted and complex, but they generally stem from the lack of opportunities and resources available to young people, as well as from the perception of injustice and inequality in society. In many cases, young people feel marginalized and excluded from mainstream society and the political process, leading to frustration and a sense of hopelessness. This can also be caused by a lack of education, unemployment, and poverty.

In many developing countries, youth restiveness is exacerbated by poor governance, corruption, and political instability. The lack of access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water, coupled with high levels of inequality and social injustice, fuel the feeling of frustration among young people. This frustration can lead to protests and civil unrest, which can further destabilize already fragile societies.

Youth restiveness can take many forms, ranging from peaceful demonstrations and strikes to violent protests and even terrorism. In some cases, young people may turn to criminal activities such as theft, drug abuse, and gang violence as a way of venting their frustrations and seeking to gain power or control over their lives. This can lead to a cycle of violence and criminality that can be difficult to break.

Addressing youth restiveness requires a multi-faceted approach that involves addressing the root causes of the problem. This includes providing young people with access to education, skills training, and job opportunities, as well as promoting social inclusion and participation in the political process. This can be achieved through the development of policies that prioritize youth empowerment and the creation of opportunities for young people to engage in the political process.

Governments and policymakers also need to address the structural and systemic issues that contribute to youth restiveness, such as corruption, poor governance, and inequality. This can be achieved through the implementation of policies that promote transparency, accountability, and good governance, as well as through the provision of basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water.

In conclusion, youth restiveness is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that requires a holistic and multi-faceted approach to address. Young people need to be empowered and provided with opportunities to engage in the political process and to improve their socio-economic status. Governments and policymakers need to address the root causes of the

problem, including poor governance, corruption, and inequality. By working together, we can create a more equitable and just society that provides opportunities for all young people to thrive and reach their full potential.

### **Causes of Youth Restiveness**

There are several reasons why young people get restless. The majority of young people no longer want to shoulder responsibilities, which is alarming. They constantly search for the quickest solution, which is frequently illegal and counterproductive. In the past, it was common to see young people engaged in farm work, trading, household duty assistance, and other respectable activities. Even when they lack the qualifications for a white-collar work, today's youth insist on being employed by local businesses because they perceive themselves as superior to such duties. These days, it can be challenging to locate young people who are focused, honest, good, responsible, and hardworking. Young people appear to view responsibilities as being excessively demanding and demeaning. They consequently decline to complete such tasks, whether they are paid or not. They may demand excessive money for the work they desire to undertake. The society's values are not what they should be. The issue of being unable to complete tasks properly or avoiding labour could be brought on by poor home teaching, a lack of discipline, resistance, laziness, and a lack of self-assurance. According to Ofem and Ajayi (2008), "the reasons for persistent youth restiveness" include a lack of social and humanitarian welfare, poor governance, official corruption, inadequate training programmes, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities, and a lack of high-quality education. The following factors are responsible for Nigeria's persistent youth unrest:

#### ***Negligent governmental actions***

There is a need for the government to study her masses and find out their urgent needs in order to make sure that it is meant. When a government policy is unfavourable to a people, it tends to foster opposition from the masses because they feel oppressed and neglected. According to Oromaregahake (2013), "the politics of access to the oil fund is that of the escalating state of violence between the Niger Delta youth and the Nigerian Government." An adult who is at least 18 years old and does not have a job is provided housing and allowances in industrialised nations like the United States of America. Nigeria should pass a measure like this. Since they will have the resources to care for themselves until they find something worthwhile to do, this will lessen their restlessness. There can't be national growth and development if the right laws aren't passed. A faulty policy causes societal division, fosters youth unrest, raises crime rates, and devastates society and governmental systems. The budget of a nation must be prepared by the government in order to divide its natural resources fairly and prevent turmoil.

Bad governance is correlated with bad government policies. Fundamental human rights of the people are violated by bad governance, which also encourages corruption, is not answerable to the people, is irresponsible, and lacks adequate transparency. A terrible government's reign is typically marked by a rise in crime, the absence of free expression, the practise of centralising power, financial misappropriation, and resource mismanagement, among other things. These characteristics contribute to the general discontentment of the populace as well as that of the youth.

#### ***Limited job opportunities***

The alarmingly high rate of unemployment in Nigeria today. Onuba (2019) claims that "the labour statistics report released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed that the number of unemployed Nigerians rose from 11.92 million in the first quarter of 2017 to 13.58 million and 15.99 million in the second and third quarters, respectively". According to Ozohu-Suleiman (2006), "Nigerian youth are trapped by unemployment." The majority of

Nigerians rely primarily on the government or the oil industry for jobs. Nigerians are failing to build enterprises and provide jobs for the general public by leveraging their initiative, talents, resources, and knowledge. Additionally, the kids aren't taking the programmes for self-empowerment seriously. The level of reliance on the government and a small number of oil firms is causing significant unrest and is harmful to the wellbeing of the country.

According to Zakaria (2006), youth restiveness in developing countries is caused by a lack of employment possibilities, which has severe effects. The government has not established a sufficient functioning infrastructure to create jobs for the majority of people. Government involvement is required in the production of home-made items and in ensuring that there are regional industries nearby where young people may find work and income can be created for the nation. This will assist in involving the youth and reducing the amount of inactivity that might otherwise encourage bad vices.

The youth are more susceptible to irrational politicians, religious extremists, and rich people because they are unable to find or create jobs. They are employed to carry out illegal actions in exchange for payment. According to Zakaria (2006), "the youth in African countries have become more susceptible to the manipulation of agents provocateurs due to the rising tide of unemployment and the fear of a bleak future."

### ***Low Quality of Life***

Living in poverty makes young people more restless. The saying "a hungry man is an angry man" is a prevalent adage in Nigeria. People are considered to be poor when they are unable to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Poor living conditions define poverty. According to Aworawo (2010), there is a link between young unrest, poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and violence against the Nigerian government. Typically, there is a wide disparity between the rich and the poor. The impoverished experience segregation, oppression, dehumanisation, and dejection. Most young people look for ways to generate quick money rather than taking on responsible work to get money. These encourage young people to engage in criminal activity in order to support themselves and their families, regardless of the repercussions. Today, there are more instances of online scammers (yahoo guys), dishonest behaviour (419), kidnapping, and ritualistic behaviour. All of them contribute to the state's insecurity.

### ***Poor Educational System***

A nation's growth, development, and stability are greatly influenced by its educational system. In an educational setting, one acquires the fundamental knowledge necessary for one's educational and social development. The Nigerian educational system currently has a problem with a lack of infrastructure, equipment, qualified teachers, and adherence to the work schedule, particularly in rural areas.

Due to budgetary constraints, the majority of youth in rural areas do not attend school; some of these restrictions also apply to urban youth. The nation won't benefit from this. In Nigeria, payments are still provided to the government-run schools. By guaranteeing free primary and secondary education, the government should encourage everyone to go to school. The fees should be significantly decreased at the university level.

The irony of this is that graduates still struggle to obtain employment. This also includes the issues that affect their families and young people. To eliminate this threat, the populace and the government must unite to support education investments across the nation.

### ***Lacklustre Infrastructure***

Nigeria generally lacks adequate infrastructure. Due to improper administration of funds, misuse of funds, and unfair distribution of national resources, there were not enough facilities. Nigerians lack access to healthcare, clean water, roads, and educational institutions, among other things. The effort to put these facilities in place may also cause restlessness in young people.



### ***Lack of knowledge***

Making essential and crucial decisions requires the use of information. The decision-making process might be severely harmed by incorrect information because it will drive everyone to make the wrong choice. As a result, providing the youth with inaccurate information is a contributing factor in their restlessness in society. These will cause them to become hostile and, if necessary, engage in violent protest. According to Hidon and Ahiauzu's (2005) research in the Niger Delta, a lack of communication and an inadequate flow of information might cause youth unrest. Leaders and the general people should exercise caution when sharing information since it has the power to both create and destroy. To exchange information, people should interact. Lack of communication and inaccurate or inadequate information might cause young restlessness to emerge.

### ***Implications of Youth Restiveness in Nigeria***

Youth unrest is an issue for both local communities and the nation as a whole. Youth's use of agitation to attain their goals has slowed down social growth and damaged the degree of productivity in society. They make things worse for themselves as they fight to defend their interests by taking advantage of youth unrest. These behaviours worsen their circumstances by encouraging them to commit crimes for which they might be arrested. The consequences of youth unrest include:

#### ***Increase in Crime***

According to Schaefer (2005), a crime is an infraction of the law that results in formal sanctions from a governmental body. Laws categorise crimes into several groups. Depending on the seriousness of the offence, the perpetrator's age, the likely sentence, the court with jurisdiction, and the case. All facets of society, including the political, social, economic, religious, and educational ones, are at risk from crime. Crime hinders the establishment of friendly relations between nations, results in the loss of life and property, dampens the desire of both domestic and foreign investors to invest in the nation, and therefore fosters insecurity and underdevelopment.

Increasing young restlessness has led to an increase in criminal activity. Youths are driven to crime because they want better lifestyles but lack the educational background and relevant skills to achieve those goals. Security in society is at risk from crime.

#### ***Unsecured Environment***

Youths' criminal behaviour is a result of their uncertainty or anxiousness. They stop believing in themselves. Everyone in the Niger-Delta appears to be wary of their surroundings out of concern for being abducted and to avoid any potential conflict. Oromareghake (2013) claims that the oil boom has increased violence in the Niger delta, which led to a 25% decline in Nigeria's oil exports in 2006. The nation's treasury loses billions of naira every year as a result of the widespread insecurity brought on by the actions of the unruly young and the security forces. It should be emphasised that the government has employed techniques ranging from direct negotiations with the Militants to full-on Military assaults on them in order to quell unrest and increase output. These approaches haven't worked, though. The pipeline vandalism by young people is not stopping. "Securing the pipelines and other oil and gas assets in the country has become a heavy burden for the government," according to Oromareghake (2013). The government continues to spend a lot of money on security to guard the nation's natural resources against youth unrest, bunkering, and smuggling activities. Both foreign and local investors have fled the area due to the problem of insecurity, which has increased unemployment. This may encourage young people to engage in illicit activity, which will cause issues for society.

#### ***Decline in Economic Growth***

According to Pettinger (2017), "low economic growth can result in higher unemployment." Financial crisis is inevitable in a nation when there is inflation, financial mismanagement,



and financial theft. The demand for goods by the general public will decline, and industries will only need a minimal amount of services when there is an improper flow of money throughout society. The youth will suffer as a result of this. If a nation's finances are in decline, certain industries will close down, leaving many workers without jobs.

### ***Rising Rates of Unemployment***

In Nigeria, the unemployment rate is rising rather than falling. The youths are being greatly impacted by this, and as a result, they are willfully participating in initiatives that are harmful to both themselves and society. According to Kazeem (2023), the National Bureau of Statistics estimates that the jobless rate will be 33% in the final three months of 2022. The unemployment rate has increased for nine straight quarters. As businesses struggled in Nigeria's first recession in two decades, employment declined. Due to a severe lack of dollars, these enterprises who depend on overseas transactions are also struggling.

### ***Disobedient communal behaviour***

The youth's persistent demands for the fulfillment of their interests are what fuel their rebellious communal action. According to the Advocates for the Advancement of Youth Development Initiatives (AAYDI), youth restiveness has a detrimental impact on the nation through low production of products and services, chaos, and the disruption of law and order in society, such as militancy. The rise in crime rates, the escalation of interethnic and interreligious strife, the unsettling of investors, and several other criminal tendencies. Marginalisation, unemployment, excitement, poverty, and limited educational prospects are issues related to rebellious community activity.

Youth restlessness has resulted in self-destruction because of the potential severity of the punishment if caught by government law enforcement. They may receive a prison term or a death sentence, and their actions may result in fights among young people, which may leave some of them disabled. They may also receive a prison term or a death sentence. Youth restlessness has a detrimental impact on social and economic activity, which results in difficulty.

Youth pipeline vandalism has a harmful impact on civilizations, especially because it kills flora. The community's river's water and fish are destroyed by the spill. Because of teenage insurgency, youth restiveness has resulted in fatalities and poverty-stricken individuals now live in fear.

## **Entertainment and Advocacies as Tools in the Fight against Politically-motivated Youth Restiveness in Nigeria**

The press especially the Independent Television and Radio Benin play a vital role in shaping public opinion and providing entertainment to the masses. In Nigeria, the entertainment function of the press has been leveraged to engage and educate the public on various issues, including politically-motivated youth restiveness. Advocacies, which are campaigns or efforts aimed at promoting a particular cause or issue, have also been used as a tool in the fight against politically-motivated youth restiveness in Nigeria.

Youth restiveness is a phenomenon that has plagued Nigeria for several years. It refers to the tendency of young people to engage in violent or disruptive behavior, often as a result of political or socio-economic factors. This problem has been particularly acute in the Niger Delta region, where years of neglect and environmental degradation have led to widespread poverty and unemployment among young people.

Onah (2014) noted that the press, through its various forms such as print, broadcast, and online media, has played an important role in addressing this problem. One of the ways in which the press has contributed to the fight against youth restiveness is by providing entertainment to young people. The press has created platforms for young people to express

themselves through music, movies, and other forms of art. This has helped to keep young people engaged and focused on positive activities, rather than engaging in violent or disruptive behavior.

In addition to providing entertainment, the press has also used its platform to educate young people on the dangers of engaging in politically-motivated violence. The press has highlighted the negative consequences of such behavior, including loss of life, destruction of property, and disruption of economic activities. By shining a light on the consequences of youth restiveness, the press has helped to deter young people from engaging in violent or disruptive behavior.

Advocacies have also been used as a tool in the fight against youth restiveness in Nigeria. Advocacy campaigns have been launched to address the root causes of youth restiveness, such as poverty, unemployment, and political marginalization. These campaigns have focused on promoting policies and initiatives that can help to create jobs, reduce poverty, and promote political inclusion.

Advocacy campaigns have also been used to promote peace building and conflict resolution. These campaigns have focused on promoting dialogue and reconciliation between different groups in conflict, as well as promoting the use of non-violent means to resolve disputes. By promoting peace building and conflict resolution, advocacy campaigns have helped to reduce the incidence of politically-motivated youth restiveness in Nigeria.

In conclusion, the press and advocacies have played important roles in the fight against politically-motivated youth restiveness in Nigeria. The entertainment function of the press has helped to keep young people engaged in positive activities, while the press's educational role has helped to deter young people from engaging in violent or disruptive behavior. Advocacies, on the other hand, have focused on addressing the root causes of youth restiveness and promoting peace building and conflict resolution. By leveraging the power of the press and advocacies, Nigeria can effectively address the problem of politically-motivated youth restiveness and promote peace and stability in the country.

## **Theoretical Framework**

Youths' descent into restlessness has been fueled by issues with the unfair distribution of national resources, marginalisation, poverty, and unemployment, which has led to instability in the social order.

In this study, two theories were used to provide an explanation for the restlessness of young people. The theories are the theories of conflict and tension. According to the conflict theory, tension and conflict develop when resources, states, and power are unequally allocated among social groups. This conflict then serves as the catalyst for social transformation, according to Crossman (2019). In this context, power can be interpreted as having control over material resources and accumulated wealth, politics, and the institutions that make up society. It can also be interpreted as one's social standing in relation to others, which is influenced by factors such as race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, and religion rather than class.

The focus of the strain theory is on deprived youth. Young people are driven towards crime by their incapacity to reach predetermined goals (Britannica, 2019). According to Merton (2013), pressures resulting from social issues such a lack of resources or a lack of a good education lead people to commit crimes. In addition, Crossman (2019) pointed out that the strain hypothesis describes deviant behaviour as an unavoidable result or the strain an individual experiences when society does not give appropriate and ok ways of accomplishing culturally desired goals. For instance, when a community places cultural importance on economic success and wealth but only provides legal ways for a tiny

percentage of the population to accomplish these goals, those excluded may turn to unorthodox or illegal means of reaching them (Crossman, 2019).

Government should treat everyone fairly in light of the aforementioned. To prevent crime and social underdevelopment, segregation, deprivation, misappropriation, and embezzlement of funds should be reduced. In order to promote societal development and growth, it is basically necessary to meet the requirements of the masses in the areas of economics, politics, education, society, medicine, and technology.

## **Research Methods**

This paper adopted the use of secondary data from already published materials and interview method from respondents in 10 out of the 18 local Government Areas of Edo state. The researcher relied mainly on relevant documents and the interviews conducted as significant sources of knowledge.

## **Results and Discussions**

Extent to which Entertainment Function of the Press Distracts Nigerian Youths from Engaging in Politically-motivated Activities

The Nigerian press is an essential medium of communication that serves as a link between the government and its citizens. It serves as a tool for educating, informing, and entertaining people. In recent times, however, the entertainment function of the press has been perceived to be a distraction for Nigerian youths from engaging in politically-motivated activities.

Entertainment has become a significant aspect of the Nigerian press, as it helps in increasing the readership and viewership of media platforms and the Independent Television and Radio Benin has the largest electronic medium audience in Edo state with viewership across the 18 Local Government Areas of the state. The press in Nigeria has become more concerned with generating revenue by publishing stories that entertain their readers rather than those that inform or educate them. As a result, there is an increase in the publication of celebrity gossip, sports news, and other entertainment-related stories.

While it is essential to provide entertainment to the masses, the press's primary role is to educate and inform the public on significant issues affecting their lives, including politics. However, the current trend in the Nigerian press, where entertainment stories take the front seat, has led to a situation where youths are more concerned about their favorite celebrity's latest news or who won the last football match than the critical issues that affect their lives, such as governance and policymaking this was evident in the 2023 general election where the youths campaigned vigorously for the candidate of Labour Party Peter Obi and participated in the election. In the just concluded election there was low report of electoral violence and this according to interview was as a result of youth orientation against politically motivated activities that could endanger their lives.

Adeyinka (2018) noted that one of the reasons why the entertainment function of the press distracts Nigerian youths from engaging in politically-motivated activities is the lack of interest in politics. Many Nigerian youths are not interested in politics and are unaware of the impact of their actions on the political landscape of the country. The constant bombardment of entertainment stories by the press further reinforces this apathy towards politics and diverts their attention from issues that affect them.

Another reason is the negative impact of the entertainment function of the press on the quality of journalism in Nigeria. The pursuit of revenue generation by publishing entertainment stories has led to a decline in the quality of journalism in Nigeria. The press has become more concerned about the number of clicks and views generated by their stories rather than the accuracy and relevance of their reporting. This has resulted in a situation where many youths do not trust the press's information on politics, further distancing them

from politically-motivated activities.

Okolo (2021) opined that the entertainment function of the press has also been perceived to be a tool used by politicians to distract Nigerian youths from engaging in politically-motivated activities. Politicians use the media to create a diversion from the pressing issues affecting the country by sponsoring entertainment events or using celebrities to endorse their policies. This strategy has been effective in diverting the attention of Nigerian youths from critical issues affecting the country and creating a sense of complacency among them.

The programmes of the Independent Television and Radio according to the interviews conducted are youth's oriented and such programmes such as Campus life, Man around Town, reggae time and others have really dissuaded the youths from participating in activities that could make them restive in the society. Several entertainment packages also go with advocacies against politically motivated youth restiveness thereby preventing them from thuggery and other forms of negative political fight.

Although in some Local Government Areas, the Television station is not seen but the radio station has stood in the gap to give the content to the public, from all the sources, activities of the medium has gone a long way to prevent youth restiveness in Nigeria.

### **Implications of Youth Restiveness on Nigeria**

One of the implications of youth restiveness on Nigeria is the loss of lives and property. Youth restiveness is characterized by violence and social unrest, which has led to the loss of many lives and the destruction of property. In the Niger Delta region, for instance, the activities of militant groups have led to the loss of lives and the destruction of oil installations and pipelines. This has negatively impacted Nigeria's economy, as oil accounts for a significant percentage of the country's revenue.

Another implication of youth restiveness on Nigeria is the negative impact on the economy. Youth restiveness has led to the disruption of economic activities, which has affected the country's GDP. The Niger Delta region, which is the hub of Nigeria's oil industry, has experienced a decline in oil production due to the activities of militant groups. This has led to a loss of revenue for the government, which has affected the country's economy as a whole.

Youth restiveness also has significant implications for Nigeria's social development. The activities of militant groups have led to the displacement of people, especially in the Niger Delta region. This has resulted in a breakdown of social infrastructure and the disruption of social services, such as education and healthcare. The unrest has also led to a rise in crime rates, which has negatively impacted Nigeria's social development.

Furthermore, youth restiveness has implications for Nigeria's political development. The activities of militant groups and other disaffected youths have led to a breakdown of law and order in some parts of the country. This has affected the country's democratic process and its reputation in the international community. The activities of these groups have also led to a loss of confidence in the government, which has affected Nigeria's ability to attract foreign investments.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the entertainment function of the press has become a prevalent trend in Nigeria, and it has been argued that this function has distracted Nigerian youths from engaging in politically-motivated restiveness. While it is true that the media can be a powerful tool for shaping public opinion, it is essential to note that entertainment and politics should not be mutually exclusive. The media can serve both functions and provide a platform for youths to engage in political discourse while still being entertained.

The implications of youth restiveness on Nigeria are vast and far-reaching. The loss of lives

and property, negative impact on the economy, and breakdown of social and political infrastructure are significant concerns that need to be addressed. It is imperative that the government and other stakeholders in Nigeria take proactive measures to address the root causes of youth restiveness, such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality. The government must engage disaffected youths in constructive dialogue and provide opportunities for them to participate in the country's economic and political processes. Advocacies against politically-motivated youth restiveness are crucial for Nigeria's peace and development. The government must prioritize the welfare of its citizens and ensure that they are adequately catered for. It is also essential that the government ensures that there is a level playing field for all citizens, regardless of their social, economic, or political status. In conclusion, the entertainment function of the press should not distract Nigerian youths from engaging in politically-motivated activities. Instead, it should serve as a platform to promote political discourse and active citizenship. By addressing the root causes of youth restiveness, Nigeria can achieve sustainable peace and development.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the various literatures and findings of this study, the following recommendations were made;

The media should strike a balance between entertainment and political discourse. While the entertainment function of the press is essential for keeping audiences engaged, media outlets should also prioritize political reporting, especially on issues that affect the youth. This will encourage young people to participate in political discourse and make informed decisions.

The government should invest in programs that provide opportunities for youths, such as skill acquisition programs, entrepreneurship programs, and education. This will help to reduce youth unemployment and poverty, which are major factors that contribute to youth restiveness. Additionally, the government should create avenues for young people to participate in the political process and provide a platform for them to voice their opinions and concerns. This will help to address the root causes of youth restiveness and promote sustainable peace and development in Nigeria.

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