

Attitude of Television Journalists in South-South Nigeria to Citizen Journalism

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Abstract

Recognition of the ability of non-professionals to play an active role in the process of collecting, and sharing news is seen as one of the big shifts in journalism practice today. This informs the current effort to examine the attitude of television journalists in South-South Nigeria to citizen journalism. The survey design was adopted for the study. Data were obtained from a sample of 216 respondents drawn from nine television stations in six states in the South-South geo-political zone of Nigeria. Since the population of journalists was not very large, census was done. The results show that journalists have a positive attitude to citizen journalism but rarely air reports emanating from citizens for want of institutional support. It is therefore recommended that news outfits encourage the citizens to embrace the opportunities that citizen journalism offers by making use of reports sent in by citizens as long as such reports meet basic journalism standards. Recognising that the adoption of citizens' reports by television journalists is based on how credible the source is, there is need to educate the citizens on rudiments of news gathering and reporting so they can effectively complement the efforts of professional journalists.

Keywords: Attitude, Citizen Journalism, Journalists, Television, Professionalism, South-South Nigeria.