

Framing of Sexual Crimes by Select Nigerian Newspapers

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Abstract

The research was undertaken to investigate framing of sexual crimes by select Nigerian newspapers. The objectives of the study were to find out the pattern of sex crime stories as reported in Nigerian newspapers, find out the prominence given to sex crimes issues and ascertain dominant frames used by Nigerian newspapers in the reportage of sex crimes. The researcher employed content analysis research method. Four national newspapers; namely: *The Punch*, *Vanguard*, *Daily Sun* and *Daily Trust* were purposively selected and analysed. The study period was from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. The results revealed that most (67%) of the newspapers' reportage of sex crimes were presented as news stories. Further finding indicated that sex crime-related stories under the period of study were not given much prominence by the select newspapers, sixty four per cent (64%) of the items were published in the inside pages of the select newspapers. The findings further showed that the select newspapers (*The Punch*, *Vanguard*, *Daily Sun* and *Daily Trust*) used sensational frame more dominantly than any other frames. Thus, it was concluded that sexual crime issues were reported mainly as straight news items and it was not given prominence in the select newspapers. It was recommended that Nigerian journalists should do more of interpretative feature stories on sex crime cases than straight news stories since most of the straight news stories are spot news and skeletal.

Keywords: Framing, Sexual, Crimes, Rape, Nigerian, Newspapers