PERCEPTION OF REDEEMER'S UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE ON SOCIAL MEDIA USE AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
In light of the ENDSARS protest movement that occurred in 2020. There is clear distinction between the duties of the NPF and the actions in which they execute. For a very long time the NPF has had its powers unchecked as police brutality has become one of the main social issues in the country. over the years this has caused an outcry and revolution from the citizens but in more recent times social media has become the major communication tool to spare head the campaign against police brutality in Nigeria. The study is to discover the perception of undergraduate's students in Redeemer's University on the usage of social media against police brutality in Nigeria. The study findings also reiterated that the use of social media enabled people to contribute their voice in the fight against police brutality. Where 35% of the respondents strongly agreed that they use social media to contribute their voice on the fight against police brutality, 60.8% of the respondents agreed that they use social media to contribute their voice on the fight against police brutality. Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations were made; Social media should be geared towards productive activities, just like how it is been used to uncover and combat police brutality. The Police Force should be properly trained on relations with civilian and how to handle criminality without necessarily engaging in brutality. Government should ensure proper monitoring of police officers, and sanction officers engaged in any form of brutality.

Keywords: Perception, Social Media, Police and Brutality

Introduction
'Power tends to corrupt and absolute power, corrupts absolutely' (Dalberg, 1887). In many ways, one can see how this statement has come to apply time and time again in Nigeria. From the grassroots level of community affairs, to the highest level that is the Federal Government, there are reports of abuse and misuse of power; of office and position – time and time again.
The Nigerian Police Force (NPF), is tragically, not exempt to this. Police brutality, use of torture as an interrogative technique and other wanton abuses of human rights are merely a few of the non-constitutional actions this body has been seen to take. The Nigerian Police Force (NPF) has for a very long time, had its powers unchecked. Many have traced the inception of the human rights violations they are found to commit to the introduction of gun holding to the police in 1964 (Hazen & Horner, 2007). Though the government had

thought it wise to hand over arms and ammunition to help them better protect the citizens, it quickly backfired and opened an avenue for all sorts of atrocities in the force. With time, the once orderly fashion gave way to the unorthodox; extortion, bribery, police bullying and harassment became the order of the day. So much so that need not distinguish between the subjects for one to know who the harasser and the harassed is in the above statement. This is not to say that the whole force should be written off, as some officers undeniably conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. The plague has however, eaten so deep that it has become nearly impossible to differentiate between the good and bad cop.

The resultant effect unsurprisingly, was an outcry of and for revolution from the people. 'STOP POLICE BRUTALITY', they chorused in unison. The banners they held up read 'STOP KILLING US', 'END POLICE KILLINGS', 'THE POLICE IS NOT YOUR FRIEND'.

What is however considerably shocking, is the wave of silence that followed, closely ensued by even more unscrupulous activities by even more 'bodies', agents, 'organs' and 'arms' of the Government. Then the 'head' of government declared the constitutionally granted right to protest the inadequacies of the system, illegal.

And so, the masses who had fought at the forefront of the battle lines against bad governance with regards to the extra judicial killings by those sworn to protect the citizens, retreated and joined forces with their equally agitated counterparts who had taken on the duty of ensuring that the world was watching, through the instrumentality of the internet, and more particularly; social media.

This somewhat secondary liberty is however, not a solution without its own problems. As a result of the seemingly impenetrable nature of the internet, individual answerability continues to be a struggle, consequently paving way for the infusion of literally any content by literally anyone for whatsoever purpose (usually best known to said person) – inasmuch as she or he fulfils the not-so-porous conditions required to access the world wide web. This in turn, opens an avenue for numerous formulators of propaganda.

Statement of the problem
Amnesty International described police brutality as a term used to refer to various human rights violations by the forces; which might include beatings, racial abuse, unlawful killings, torture, or indiscriminate use of riot control agents at protests. Since time immemorial, the police forces in Nigeria (as stated above) have been widely condemned for these acts of blatant police brutality. Various reasons have been proposed for this situation.

One is that in the police force, members are not exactly well paid. As such the consequences of this, extend beyond the instillment of desperation in the minds of those who believe they have to resort to extortion of civilians to feed their families. The standoffish attitude of the government towards the Force heavily impacts the composition of the body. This is because persons who are better qualified for the job would be repelled by the employment conditions thereby giving room for infiltration by amateurs, to whom the letters in the Constitution, the statutes and police PR Campaigns, mean nothing (Agary, 2017).

All in all, one can rightfully say that this problem persists as a result of the even bigger problem that is bad governance. This is why the fight against police brutality more often than not, goes hand in hand with protests against bad governance. Such protests have been seen to occur frequently (as the fight for a better Nigeria is one that precedes us by many

years). After all, it is constitutionally provided that in a democratic system, citizens can arise to criticize the actions and inactions of those they appointed to stand as their representatives.

When juxtaposed with the rate of its prevalence, police brutality and the influence of the media in combatting it, is not a topic often discussed. There are not many empirical studies detailing the manner of abuse and systematic brutality that arrestees are exposed to while in police custody and even at the point of arrest, nor is there a large number of dissertations highlighting the impact of social media in the fight against this plight. This may largely be due to the difficulty in gathering data on the subject matter from police departments across the country as a result of the "code of silence" with which such matters are treated, amongst other things.

Objective Of the Study
The main objective of this study is to examine the perception of undergraduate students of Redeemers University, towards the use of social media as a combatant for police brutality. More specifically, this paper seeks to:
1)   Examine the perception of Redeemer's University undergraduates towards police brutality in Nigeria.
2)   Investigate the perception of Redeemer's University undergraduates on the use of social media against police brutality in Nigeria.
3)   The role social media plays against police brutality in Nigeria.
4)   Determine the level of engagement of Redeemer's University undergraduates in the usage of social media against police brutality in Nigeria.

Research Questions
To achieve the above objectives, this study is acquainted by the following research questions:
1)   What is the perception of Redeemer's University undergraduates towards police brutality in Nigeria?
2)   What is the perception of Redeemer's s University undergraduates on the use of social media against police brutality in Nigeria?
3)   What is the role social media plays against police brutality in Nigeria?
4)   How is the level of engagement of Redeemer's University undergraduates in the usage of social media against police brutality in Nigeria?

Operational Definition of Terms
I.   Social Media: social media is a platform that allows Redeemer's university undergraduates create, share and exchange information, ideas, activism, campaign and other forms of expression through virtual communities and platforms.
II.   Social Networking Sites: Social Networking sites are the websites that allows Redeemer's university undergraduates to create public profiles within. Examples: Facebook, Instagram, twitter etc.
III.   Undergraduates/Students: In this study, these are students of Redeemer's university registered under Faculty of social sciences. Within the age of 18 to 25 years.
IV.   Perception: perception is the way in which Redeemer's university undergraduates regards, understand and interprets the use of social media against police brutality

V.   Police: in this study, police refer to the Nigerian police force which is the principal law enforcement and the lead security agency in Nigeria.

VI.   Police brutality: is the different way in which police abuse their power by oppressing the citizens

VII.   Usage: habitual or customary practice, especially as creating a right, obligation, or standard.

VIII.   Level of engagement: this refers to the rate at which Redeemer's university undergraduates participate in the fight against police brutality through the use of social media

LITERATURE REVIEW
Conceptual Review
Perception

In a general sense, perception is the ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses. Psychologists describe it as the neurophysiological processes, including memory, by which an organism becomes aware of and interprets external stimuli. The idea of perception connotes an immediate response to something; that is, one's opinion/mindset about a subject matter. The Cambridge Dictionary offers a definition more befitting to the scope of this study, which is that: 'a perception is a belief or opinion held by many people, based on how things seem' (Cambridge Dictionary). Thus, perception to a large extent nurtures not only a person's stance regarding a subject matter, but also that of a large number of people who have witnessed same, or perceived the stimuli through any of their senses.

According to Huffman and Vernoy, perception is the process of selecting, organizing, and interpreting sensory data into useable mental representation of the world. On the other hand, according to Worchel and Shebilske, perception is the process of interpreting information

Szilagyi and Wallace defined perception as a process by which individuals attend to incoming stimuli, organize, and interpret such stimuli into message that in turn indicate an appropriate action or behavior. Thus, perception is an action in which someone gives the stimulus and response about something which happens in the reality.

According to Leavitt cited by Desmita in developmental psychology students, the term perception comes from the English "perception", taken from the latin "perceptio", which means to accept or take. In addition, the perception in the mean Levit narrow sense is "the vision", that is how someone sees something, whereas in a broader sense, the perception is "view", namely how someone looked or mean something.

Police Brutality

The term "police brutality" is commonly used to refer to various human rights violations by police. This includes beatings, racial abuse, unlawful killings, torture, or indiscriminate use of riot control agents at protests. (Amnesty International, 2017). It refers to the unwarranted use of force by members of the police force against civilians. Common examples of police brutality include violence or physical attack, shootings, strip search, usage of Tasers or sun guns, and restraints (Hupy & Abraham, 2020).

Asides physical brutality which is the most common forms of police brutality, it also covers physical or verbal assault during police procedures such as apprehending or interrogating

a suspect which is done in such a way that it exceeds the amount of force necessary to create a safe environment whilst respecting the rights of a suspect. Hence, it covers the usage of language which is degrading and insulting to an individual.

By virtue of law, police officers are permitted to employ an amount of force which is legitimate and appropriate in a given situation. The activities of police officers hence amount to police brutality where such activity or response to a situation is. This however may create problems in interpretation where one is to determine just what amount of force is considered appropriate in a given situation. The distinction between reasonable and excessive force is often drawn by case-by-case examination. In other words, each event is examined by its unique circumstances. For example, the way that a police officer will apprehend two unarmed people who are caught shoplifting is not the same way that a person brandishing a loaded rifle will be treated. Other factors such as whether the police officer believed himself to be in danger, whether the suspect was unarmed, and lastly, what a reasonable police officer would have done in similar circumstances are also put into consideration (Hupy & Abraham, 2020).

Furthermore, definitions of police brutality have been proffered in reference to social factors such as race, class, financial standing, etc. Thus, police brutality has been described as a conscious and deliberate action which a police officer undertakes towards suspects who are usually members of a 'powerless' social group such as members of a minority race (Skolnick and Fyfe, 1993). Essentially, police brutality extends but is not limited to any act of the officers, which goes against the postulations in their code and system of conduct.

Police Brutality in Nigeria

In Nigeria, police brutality only just began to be addressed by its name. Prior to that, it was deemed a regular occurrence; loosely referred to as one of those things, It became so normalized it was almost adopted as the average Nigerian's rite of passage.

To have the word police and brutality used conjunctively is like hearing of a fire fighter who is an arsonist by night. In essence, the term 'police brutality' is a grammatical and even paradoxical irony which would be laughable if one did not examine the gravity of the implication of the term; what it describes and the scenario it paints. Indeed, it complimentary presents a satirical illusion/ a satire. It tells the tale of an even deeper malaise – bad governance. A report by the National Human Rights Commission found that in the first two weeks of the country's coronavirus lockdown in March, more people died at the hands of the security forces than from COVID-19. (Arisekola, 2020)

Theoretical Review

A theory, which may be considered to be one of the most important terms in contemporary sociology vocabulary (Abend, 2008), is defined as 'a statement of relationships between units observed or approximated in the empirical world' (Wacker, 1998). In simpler terms, a theory or set of theories, as the case may be, exist to throw light on several concepts which are observed in real-time by establishing links between such events and other occurrences. In this section of the work, the theories that attest to this study and assist in explaining its focal points will be discussed thoroughly.

The hypodermic needle theory, media dependency theory and framing theory is adopted to be used to shed more light on the subject of discussion.

Hypodermic Needle Theory

The basis of this theory (also known as the magic bullet theory and hypodermic syringe model) is that the mass media is viewed as having a direct, powerful, and immediate effect on its audiences and furthermore, an intended message is directly received and wholly accepted by the audience (Nwabueze, 2018). It also is one of the earliest theories in mass communication. While this theory has gained a considerable degree of acceptance, there have been counterarguments to its postulations, perhaps the most famous of which is that by Lazersfeld who argued that media did not act totally as a 'magic bullet' and that the audience had the power to make decisions for themselves (Lazersfeld, 1944). Also, they had the power to decide the manner in which content would be utilized.

Media Dependency Theory

This approach to the study of the effects of mass media on audience aims to explore the relationships which exist between social systems, media, and audiences. It was first proposed by Melvin DeFleur and Sandra Ball-Rokeach in 1976. According to this theory, there is a dependency between media and an audience and the fulfillment of the audience's needs is dependent on the resources of the other party. Hence, in an information-driven society, people tend to develop a dependency on the media so as to satisfy their various needs which may range from the need to stay aware and informed on various matters and also for other purposes such as entertainment and relaxation.

The basic propositions are that: the greater the functions provided or performed by a medium for an audience, the greater the dependency of the audience on said medium and, the greater the extent of social instability, the greater the level of the audience's dependency on the media and thus, the greater the effects the media will have on the audience (Ball-Rokeach &DeFleur, 1976). There are three types of effects which may arise from the audience's dependency on the media which include: behavioral, cognitive, and affective. Behavioral effects tend to affect behavior such as doing something or refraining from acting in a certain way as a result of receipt of information, affective pertains to the development of feelings or emotions, such as fear and anxiety of being attacked by the police and lastly, cognitive affects attitudes, beliefs, and values.

Methodology

This chapter discusses the methodologies that are significant and adopted for this study. It contains the research design, population of the study, the sample size, the sampling technique along with the method used for the gathering of data and the method of analysis. All components are significant to the study and are stated clearly in this chapter.

Research Design

In this research, the quantitative method of research was adopted in obtaining data needed to address the issues which arise in the course of addressing pertinent issues in the work. The specific design used is the survey method. This may be described as a method of research which deals with the quantification, analysis and study of variables in order to get results. It answers questions like who, how much, when, how, where, when and how many with the use of statistical techniques (Apuke, 2017). The rationale behind this is that under

the survey, a general perspective of how students perceive the usage of social media in the fight against police brutality.

Population of the Study

The population selected for the study constitutes the male and female population of final year students in the Faculty of Social Sciences in Redeemer's s University, Ede. Hence, a criterion for participation in the study is that the students must be registered and attending Redeemer's University actively. The School consists of five departments namely: mass communication, business administration, political science, economics, and lastly, Public Administration. According to information gotten from each final year class, the total population size is 692.

Sample Size

The sample size for the study will be gained through an intentional and purposive sampling of all the final year students of Faculty of social sciences. This was obtained through the Taro Yamane (1967) formula.

A1

95% confidence level and a 0.05level of marginal error was assumed for the equation

$n = N/ [1+ N (e) 2]$

Where:

n= sample size

N= Total population (692)

e= sampling error (0.5)

n= 692

    1+692(0.05)2

n= 692

1+692(0.0025)

N= 253.47

Estimate: 253

Discussion of findings
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS
The results obtained are presented in tables below;

Gender	Frequency	Frequency%
Male	127	50.2
Female	126	49
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

Gender of the respondents

This table shows the gender of the respondents. 50.2% of the respondents are males, while 49% are females. This demonstrated that both genders were fairly represented in the research.

Age years	Frequency	Frequency%
16-18	103	40.7
19-21	119	47
22-25	29	11.4
Total	253	100%

Table 4.1.2: Age group of the respondents
This table shows the age group of the respondents. 40.7% of the respondents are between 16-18 years, 47% are between 19-21 years, while 11.4% are between 22-25 years. This result shows that majority of the respondents were between the ages of 16-25 years.

Department	Frequency	Frequency%
Mass communication	71	28
Public Administration	50	19.7
Economics	45	7.5
Business administration	42	16.6
Political science	45	17.8
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023
This table shows the department of the respondents. 28% of the respondents are in Mass communication department, 19.7% are in Public Administration, 7.5% are in economics, 16.6% are in business administration, while 17.8% are in political science department.

Police brutality is a major social issue in Nigeria	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	139	55
Agree	112	44.2
Neutral	2	0.8
Disagree		
Strongly Disagree		
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023
knowledge of respondents on police brutality as a major social issue in Nigeria.
This table shows the knowledge of respondents on police brutality as a major social issue in Nigeria. 55% of the respondents strongly agree that police brutality is a major social issue in Nigeria, while 44.2% agreed that police brutality is a major social issue in Nigeria. This result shows that majority of the respondents believe Police brutality is a major social issue in Nigeria.

Police brutality is rampant in Nigeria especially towards the youths	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	142	56.1
Agree	109	43
Neutral	1	0.4
Disagree	1	0.4
Strongly Disagree	-	-
Total	253	

Source; Field Survey, 2023

Knowledge of respondents on police brutality as been rampant in Nigeria especially towards the youths.

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on police brutality as been rampant in Nigeria especially towards the youths. 56.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that police brutality is rampant in Nigeria especially towards the youths, 43% of the respondents agreed that police brutality is rampant in Nigeria especially towards the youths, while 0.4% of the respondents disagreed that police brutality is rampant in Nigeria especially towards the youths.

knowledge of the respondents on how the unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria

The unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	109	43
Agree	143	56.5
Neutral	1	0.4
Disagree	-	-
Strongly Disagree	-	
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of the respondents on how the unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria. 43% of the respondents strongly agree that the unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria, 56.5% agreed that the unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria, while 0.4 % are neutral that the unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria.

knowledge of respondents on how police brutality needs to be eradicated in order for the Nigerian community to thrive.

Police brutality needs to be eradicated in order for the Nigerian community to thrive	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	155	61.2
Agree	90	37.5
Neutral	-	-
Disagree	-	-
Strongly Disagree	3	1.2
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on how police brutality needs to be eradicated in order for the Nigerian community to thrive. 61.2% of the respondents strongly agree that police brutality needs to be eradicated in order for the Nigerian community to thrive, 37.5% agreed that police brutality needs to be eradicated in order for the Nigerian community to thrive, while 1.2% strongly disagree that police brutality needs to be eradicated in order for the Nigerian community to thrive.

knowledge of the respondents on social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria.

Social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria.	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	112	44.2
Agree	138	54.5
Neutral		
Disagree	3	1.2
Strongly Disagree	-	
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of the respondents on social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria. 44.2% of the respondents strongly agree that social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria, 54.5% agreed that social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria, while 1.2% disagreed that social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria.

knowledge of respondents on social media as the most effective platform/ communication tool to fight against police brutality in Nigeria.

Social media is the most effective platform/ communication tool to fight against police brutality in Nigeria.	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	142	56.1
Agree	109	43
Neutral	2	0.8
Disagree		
Strongly Disagree		
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on social media as the most effective platform/ communication tool to fight against police brutality in Nigeria. 56.1% of the respondents strongly agree that social media is the most effective platform/ communication tool to fight against police brutality in Nigeria, 43% agreed that the social media is the most effective platform/ communication tool to fight against police brutality in Nigeria, while 0.8% are neutral.

knowledge of respondents on how social media makes it easier to participate in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria.

Social media makes it easier to participate in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria.	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	135	53.3
Agree	118	46.4
Neutral		
Disagree		
Strongly Disagree		
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on how social media makes it easier to participate in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria. 53.3% of the respondents strongly agree that social media makes it easier to participate in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria, while 46.4% agree that social media makes it easier to participate in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria.

knowledge of respondents on how social media has contributed positively in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria

Social media has contributed positively in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria.	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	118	46.6
Agree	132	52.1
Neutral	3	1.2
Disagree		
Strongly Disagree		
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on how social media has contributed positively in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria. 46.6% strongly agreed that social media has contributed positively in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria, 52.1% agreed that social media has contributed positively in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria, while 1.2% are neutral about it.

knowledge of respondents on social media creates awareness about police brutality in Nigeria

Social media creates awareness about police brutality in Nigeria..	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	140	55.3
Agree	109	43
Neutral		
Disagree	1	0.4
Strongly Disagree	3	1.2
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on social media creates awareness about police brutality in Nigeria. 55.3% strongly agreed that social media creates awareness about police brutality in Nigeria, 43% agreed that social media creates awareness about police brutality in Nigeria, while 1.2% strongly disagreed that social media creates awareness about police brutality in Nigeria.

 knowledge of respondents on how social media serves as a source of information on police brutality.

Social media serves as a source of information on police brutality	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	126	49.8
Agree	124	49
Neutral		
Disagree	1	0.4
Strongly Disagree	2	1.5
Total	253	100

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on how social media serves as a source of information on police brutality. 49.8% strongly agree that social media serves as a source of information on police brutality, 49% agreed that social media serves as a source of information on police brutality, while 1.5% strongly disagreed that social media serves as a source of information on police brutality.

knowledge of respondents on how social media inspired the fight against police brutality in Nigeria

Social media inspired the fight against police brutality in Nigeria	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	129	50.9
Agree	109	43
Neutral	6	2.4
Disagree	4	1.6
Strongly Disagree	5	2
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on how social media inspired the fight against police brutality in Nigeria. 50.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that social media inspired the fight against police brutality in Nigeria, 43% agreed that social media inspired the fight against police brutality in Nigeria, 2.4% are neutral, 2% of the respondents strongly disagreed that social media inspired the fight against police brutality in Nigeria.

knowledge of respondents on how social media serves as a platform that unifies the voice of the people in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria.

Social media serves as a platform that unifies the voice of the people in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	109	43
Agree	134	53
Neutral	4	1.6
Disagree	3	1.2
Strongly Disagree	3	1.2
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on how social media serves as a platform that unifies the voice of the people in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria. 43% of the respondents strongly agreed that social media inspired the fight against police brutality in Nigeria, 53% of the respondents agree that social media serves as a platform that unifies the voice of the people in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria, 1.6% of the respondents are neutral, while 1.2% strongly disagreed that social media serves as a platform that unifies the voice of the people in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria.

knowledge of respondents on the use of social media to in enhancing awareness of police brutality in Nigeria.

I use social media to enhance my awareness of police brutality in Nigeria	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	98	38.7
Agree	145	57.3
Neutral	2	1.3
Disagree	5	2
Strongly Disagree	6	2.4
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on the use of social media to in enhancing awareness of police brutality in Nigeria. 38.7% of the respondents strongly agree that they use social media to enhance their awareness of police brutality in Nigeria, 57.3% of the respondents agreed that they use social media to enhance their awareness of police brutality in Nigeria, 1.3% are neutral, 2% disagreed that they use social media to enhance their awareness of police brutality in Nigeria, while 2.4% strongly disagreed that they use social media to enhance their awareness of police brutality in Nigeria.

knowledge of respondents on sharing or haven shared content regarding police brutality in Nigeria

I share/ have shared content regarding police brutality in Nigeria	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	103	40.7
Agree	141	55.7
Neutral	2	1.3
Disagree	3	1.2
Strongly Disagree	-	
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on sharing or haven shared content regarding police brutality in Nigeria. 40.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that they have shared content regarding police brutality in Nigeria, 55.7% of the respondents agree that they have shared content regarding police brutality in Nigeria, 1.3% are neutral, while 1.2% disagreed that they have shared content regarding police brutality in Nigeria.

I actively source through social media for information regarding police brutality in Nigeria	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	115	45.4
Agree	129	51
Neutral	6	2.4
Disagree	3	1.2
Strongly Disagree		
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

knowledge of respondents on how the use social media to contribute my voice in the fight against police brutality

I use social media to contribute my voice in the fight against police brutality.	Frequency	Frequency%
Strongly Agree	88	35
Agree	154	60.8
Neutral	8	3.1
Disagree	2	1.3
Strongly Disagree	1	0.4
Total	253	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2023

This table shows the knowledge of respondents on how the use social media to contribute my voice in the fight against police brutality. 35% of the respondents strongly agreed that they use social media to contribute their voice on the fight against police brutality, 60.8% of the respondents agreed that they use social media to contribute their voice on the fight against police brutality, 3.1% are neutral, 1.3% disagreed that they use social media to contribute their voice on the fight against police brutality, while 0.4% strongly disagreed that they use social media to contribute their voice on the fight against police brutality.

Discussion of findings

From the results above it shows that police brutality has been a rampant phenomenon in Nigeria especially towards the youths. Where 56.1% of the respondents strongly agreed that police brutality is rampant in Nigeria especially towards the youths, 43% of the respondents agreed that police brutality is rampant in Nigeria especially towards the youths, also the results also revealed that the unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria. Where 43% of the respondents strongly agree that the unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria, 56.5% agreed that the unchecked nature of the police is a leading factor in the prominence of police brutality in Nigeria.

Social media is a tool for uncovering, exposing, creating awareness/sensitizing and possible prevention of police brutality in Nigeria.

The aforementioned was supported by the findings of the study which showed that social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria. Where 44.2% of the respondents strongly agree that social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria, and 54.5% agreed that social media is a tool for exposing the actions that constitute police brutality in Nigeria.

Findings also showed social media as the most effective platform/ communication tool to fight against police brutality in Nigeria. Where 56.1% of the respondents strongly agree that social media is the most effective platform/ communication tool to fight against police brutality in Nigeria, 43% agreed that the social media is the most effective platform/ communication tool to fight against police brutality in Nigeria.

The social media has contributed positively in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria. Where 46.6% strongly agreed that social media has contributed positively in the fight

against police brutality in Nigeria, 52.1% agreed that social media has contributed positively in the fight against police brutality in Nigeria.

The study findings also reiterated that the use of social media enabled people to contribute their voice in the fight against police brutality. Where 35% of the respondents strongly agreed that they use social media to contribute their voice on the fight against police brutality, 60.8% of the respondents agreed that they use social media to contribute their voice on the fight against police brutality.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Summary

The study begins with an introduction on the subject matter. The statement of problem, objectives of the study, research questions and significance of the study were also addressed. Also, conceptual clarifications of key concepts were given. Policing is a key issue that is likely to benefit from social media. Social media will enable the public to engage in discussions about policing, including demanding accountability for the actions or inaction of the police. Traditionally, the police controlled the facts and narrative provided to the public around their ability to protect public safety and their behavior in doing so. However, the nature of the relationship between the public and the police has been irrevocably altered by the public now having the ability to document and disseminate information on the activities of the police from the mundane to the abusive.

Little research has been conducted to assess the impact and potential of social media on the public's engagement in police accountability in Nigeria. This study sought to explore whether social media has been a veritable tool for promoting more effective police accountability and exposing police brutality in Nigeria. This study examined to what extent the social media has helped uncovered, exposed, sensitize or create awareness, as well as possible control of police brutality against the Nigerian youths, the study also increased the better understanding of how the use of social media has inspired the campaign against police brutality, and the study also analysed the impact of the social media campaign on police brutality and effects on the police accountability.

Conclusion

The study has shown clearly that there is the existence of police brutality, especially against the Nigerian youths, however this trend has been unaccounted for over the years. Hence the use of social media uncovered and exposed this ugly trend of police brutality, as well as the role social media played in creating awareness and inspiring a campaign against all forms of police brutality. The often inhuman, negative and unbecoming attitude of the police to civilian matters has made the police to be almost the most hated public institution in Nigeria. Many a Nigerian have concluded that the Police Force is not only wicked, but corrupt and insensitive to the affairs and feelings of the ordinary citizens whose interest they are supposed to protect. The study concluded that social media is a veritable tool in exposing and combating police atrocities, including brutality.

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