THE NEW MEDIA, YOUTH MOBILIZATION AND INSECURITY IN NIGERIA.

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Abstracts
In contemporary societies, the information and communication technology/media has a lot of influence in shaping or reshaping the perception and actions of people toward positive or negative ends. This work, therefore, examined the power of the new media in relation to youth mobilization and insecurity in Nigeria. The study adopted the survey research design. A sample size of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents were purposively selected from both undergraduate and post-graduate students of the University of Port Harcourt and University of Benin. The study adopted Uses Gratification Theory (UGT) and Technological Determinism Theory (TDT) as the theoretical frameworks. Questionnaires and observations were used to elicit information. The collected data were analyzed using simple percentage. Findings from the analysis revealed that: (i) there is a relationship between the new media, youth mobilization and insecurity in Nigeria (ii) Facebook generates more insecurity situation than other social networks (iii) the new media aid the youths to be very conscious of their environment and thus influences their decisions (iv) the new media could serve as a tool for social change against corruption and bad governance. Based on the above findings, the following recommendations were made: (i) there is the need for transparency and good leadership in addressing the issues relating to the masses, (ii) there is the need for awareness campaign on the dangers of negative effects of the new media against national development

Keywords: New Media, Youth, Youth Mobilization, Insecurity and Cyber Criminality.

Introduction
The development of the new media has transformed overwhelmingly and permanently the nature of communication in all societies (Thompson, 1995; Oladejo & Agwanwo, 2015). In contemporary societies, the information and communication media has become an indispensable tool in the dissemination of information. It is the most influential in this age among the institutions of society to socialize individuals and groups into proper social actors. The media is very useful in the areas of employment generation, political participation, spatial narrowing, human rights education promotion, and youth mobilization for socio-political and economic changes, among other functions, across the globe. Dalyop & Omiya (2017) note that this changes are as a result of the media serving as a force in shaping and reshaping of the beliefs and the perception of individuals and groups, with positive or negative outcomes. In fact, the media is very powerful as a source of information gathering and generation. As a matter of fact, the information gathered via the new media was responsible for the Arab uprising of 2011, as well as, the attack on the United States Congress Building in January, 2021 (Uchegbuo, 2021).

In fact, mass communication media practice has for some time now come to influence and even altered the outdated practice and means of communication. It has greatly influenced and shifted attention from the medieval face-to-face interpersonal communication, the use of town criers, non-verbal signals, early mechanical printing, radio, post office, television and handwritten text, to contemporary, digitalized, internets and satellites technology. In fact, these emerging changes in the way communication is carried out today and the influence it has brought with it, according to Uji, (2015) is to a large extent, principally contingent on the available media technology at the disposal of communication experts.

The very maiden knowledge of the influence of the new media in contemporary society is traceable to the Arab spring. Akikibofori, (2020); Abdul and Afzal, (2017); Abdullahi, (2012) opined that the Arab spring was characterized by a series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions which spread across the Arab world early 2010. These protests were in response to an oppressive regime and consequent low standard of living experienced by citizens, especially in Tunisia, and, of course, the uprising further spread to Egypt, Yemen, Libya, Bahrain and Syria (Akikibofori, 2020; Abdullahi, 2012). As it turned out to be, the new media was instrumental in the removal or disposal of such rulers as: Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Muammar Gaddafi, Hosni Mubarak, and Ali Abdullah Saleh of the aforementioned countries between December, 17th 2010 to December, 31st 2012. In fact, apart from the experiences in the Arab nations, these uprising occasioned by the demand for good governance continued and engulfed other nations, manifesting in social violence, riots, street protests, civil wars and insurgencies in such places as Morocco, Iraq, Algeria, Iranian Khuzesten, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, Sudan, among others.

As pointed out earlier, these uprisings resulted from bad and oppressed regimes. However, it should be noted there were some distinct internal, as well as, external factors was penned as the causes of the uprising. These factors include: human right abuses, political corruption, unemployment, inflation, poverty, sectarianism, demographic structural factors, kleptocracy and victimizations of various forms. The goal of the protest by the youth was targeted at sustaining democracy, free and fair election, economic freedom, human rights, employment, change of oppressive regimes and Islamism. Studies revealed that emanating from the activities of youth mobilization in new media during the Arab spring, over 61,000 deaths occurred and government accused app-creators of causing crimes and thus attempting to shut down communication of specific sites such as Facebook (Abdul & Afzal, 2017; Abdullahi, 2012).

As a matter of fact, the new media is becoming increasingly involved in how, and to what social, economic and political ends, youths could mobilize and drive their actions. Hauge (2013) as cited in Uji, (2017) opines that there is rising concerns of how youth mobilization mediates environment online, fosters mass participation in digital environments, through the new media. In fact, Hauge's (2013) observation is anchored on the premise that youths play crucial roles in every modern society as they are a force, a dynamic source of innovations, who have over time, rewritten history, participated in and served as catalysts for social change in politics, economic campaigns and power-sharing formula like #Not too young to run campaigns of 2019. Deriving from these instances, it is pertinent to examine how youth mobilization via the new media impacts on governance, insecurity, political leadership and nation building.

Uji, (2015); Titus- Fanne, Akpan & Moses (2013) identify two (2) major threats to the positive influence of new media on governance, thus introducing some difference in the national politics of states. First, that the new media are tools themselves and are actually ineffective in bringing the needed change. Second, that the new media channels can cause more harm than positive good to the image of the country internationally to any process of democratization (Uji, 2015). For instance, when over 200 girls were abducted from Chibok in Borno state in Nigeria, the internet/online campaign emerged and hash-tagged #Bringbackourgirls campaign of 2014. Apart from this serious internet/online campaign, there were other hashtags as #Nottooyoungtorun campaign of 2019; #EndSars campaign of 2021; #Bringbackourboys campaign of 2021; and #Buharigohome campaign of April, 2021. It was obvious that these media campaigns have projected the country, Nigeria, in a bad light in the comity of nations.

Apart from the image-robbing campaigns about the country in the new media, the new media has also exposed the grave state of insecurity that the country is facing. Such insecurity situations range from the issue of banditry, cult-violence, armed robbery, kidnapping, to herdsmen-farmers conflicts among others. For instance there are such media reports as the following: On the 15th April, 2020 in Basa area, Plateau State suspected herdsmen killed at least nine (9) people and razed over 200 houses; On the 15th April, 2020, in Tagina Council of Jos Plateau state again herdsmen killed twelve (12) people and abducted many; in Kaduna State, on the 11th and 12th of May, 2020, herdsmen killed 17 people and displacing many others; in fact, against the government's claim that this was fake news. It was the media that exposed this bit with glaring pictorial evidence. And, of course, in other to stem this trending negative dissemination of information through the new media, the government came up with the bill on "hate speech." Yet, this attempt could not detract from the trend.

It is true that many scholars, for instance, Akikibofori, (2020); Nsude and Onwe, (2017); Oladejo & Agwanwo, (2015); Uji, (2015); Olley & Ekharaefo, (2013); Aristotle, (2012); Adebayo, (2011); Asemah, (2011); Rosen, (2011); Wimmer & Dominick (2011); Olise, (2008); Baran, (1999) have written much on social media and youth mobilization; however, it is observed none of them looked at new media vis-a-vis youth mobilization; and insecurity in Nigeria. Therefore, this is the knowledge gap which the researchers intend to cover. In order to achieve this, the following research questions were raised: (i) What is the relationship between the new media and youth mobilization? (ii) What is the relationship between new media and insecurity? (iii) What are the forms of insecurity arising from the new media?

Review of Related Literature

The new media is used as a generic terminology for ICT platforms characterized by the convergence of computer and telecommunication technologies (Agwanwo, 2019; Adebayo, 2017). This comprises what can be termed as new media technologies, social media and web-based applications. In fact, in most cases, it is tagged Web 2.0 media, is made up of various micro and macro blogs, social bookmarking, wikis, photo-presentation sharing, and syndication services. Pice (2004), cited in Ojoboh (2016:62) conceptualizes the new media as "communication technologies that enable or facilitate user-to-user interactivity and interactivity between user and information." The new media, therefore is a channel or platform that allows for the integration of or fosters interaction among groups in society through an internet enabled device. Manovich (2003) as cited in Ojoboh (2016:62-63) defined the new media using eight propositions, viz:

1. New media versus cyber culture
2. New media as computer technology as distributed platform
3. New media as digital data controlled by software.
4. New media as the mix between existing cultural conventions and conventions of software.
5. New media as the aesthetic that accompanies the early stage of every modern media and communication technology.
6. New media as faster execution of algorithms previously executed manually or through other technologies.
7. New media as the encoding of modernist avant-garde; new media as meta media, and
8. New media as parallel articulation of similar ideas in post-World War 11 art and modern computing.

The propositions advanced by Manovich (2003) for defining the new media are rather broad, and encompass every modern technology. Thus, Adebayo (2017) defines the new media as being characterized by the utilization of various communication and information technology through the internet. And, of course, it has been acknowledged that some of the major features of the emerging new media are decentralization and democratization of information resources, enhanced dialogues, and erosion of traditional gate-keeping and agenda-setting functionality. In fact, as noted by Ojoboh (2016:62-63) such scholars as Akikibofori (2020); Adebayo, (2017); Wilson & Murby, (2010); Gillin (2009); Olise, (2008) consider the new media as an influencer owing to the role it plays in creating brands and promoting engagement of corporate organizations. Ojoboh (2016:62-63)

The New Media and Youth Mobilization
Studies have shown that the emergence of the new media has contributed greatly to expand the limits of good governance and reportage of governmental lawlessness and abuse. The new media also serves as a medium to connect citizens with one another and empower them to hold government accountable (Akikibofori, 2020; Uji, 2015).
Scholars believes that the new media is relatively cheap, and is very accessible and easy in information dissemination. The new media aids citizens to organize protest against the anti- policies of the government against its citizens. With the emergence of new media, web developer and hi-tech savvy youths have developed various webs and Applications to disseminate information, thus making their discovery to be readily available at the public domain.

The epignosis of the use of new media actively in Nigerian political issues and governance dated back to 2011 general elections, when many politicians harnessed the new media skills of the youth for their election campaign strategies, via bulk text messaging, creating new Facebook page, Instagram and twitter. In 2011 as former president Jonathan declared his intention to run for the office of the President, in less than twenty days he had 100,000 followers on Facebook - development which made him second most liked president after US president Barrack Hussein Obama (Uji, 2015). Corroborating this view, Ohanusi (2012) notes that the new media played a key role during the 20111 general elections in Nigeria as most politician, including President Jonathan used it to solicit for public support for his election. Regrettably, in 2014-2015, the same new media through which ex-President Jonathan used to garner much support for himself was employed to insult and humiliate him by his opponents.

New Media and Insecurity Challenges.
Nsude and Onwe, (2017) opined that globally insecurity has been on the rise since the terrorists' strategic surprise in September 11, 2001 on the twin trade tower of the World Trade Center in United States of America. Similarly, African countries are not spared from terrorist attacks which has led to the death of over a dozens of thousands of persons and displacement many yearly.

Nigeria is not equally spared from the scourged of terrorism, as Nsude & Onwe, (2017:997) rightly puts that: "It is not a fallacy of hasty generalization to state that insecurity is one of the major factor bedeviling development in Nigeria." Report has it that between 1999-2005, Nigeria witnessed over ninety (90) violent religious conflicts of varying degree and magnitude. Furthermore, it was revealed that Boko haram insurgency led to the killing of many via suicide bombings, studies -shows that one of Boko haram leader especially Abu Qaza uses YouTube and Facebook often to disseminate information to public domain (Nsude & Onwe, 2017, p. 997). Similarly, the dreaded Abubakar Shekuar is notorious for coming online via the new media to claim responsibility of any attack and beheading of his captured individuals to public domain as well as threatening the federal government. In view of this, one can posit that the terrorist groups uses dedicated websites and pages to carry out their propaganda, recruitment exercise, organization, for training and for significant fund raising through cyberspace.

The following are the fallout of the new media and insecurity in Nigeria: (a) Lekki Toll-gate massacre (b) Jail break in Owerri prison, Imo state on the 5th of April, 2021, (c) Bauchi jail break on the 7th of September, 2010 (d) Jail break in Benin on the 19th of October, 2020, (e) looting of covid-19 palliative warehouses across the country, (f) End SARs protest nationwide of 2021, (g) Fuel- subsidy removal protest of 2014.

Cyber Criminality and Terrorists New Media Activities in Nigeria.
Cyber-crime is a criminal offense committed using the internet or other computer networks as a component of the crime. Cyber-crimes are offenses that are committed against individuals or a group of individuals, or organizations with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or

mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly using modern telecommunication networks such as the internets and mobile gadgets (Adegoke & Aderoju, 2017; Okeshola & Adetola, 2013).

Of course, there are many strategies that are used in committing cybercrime and technology misuse. These include: identity theft, malware, spam, cyber-stalking, child pornography, carding, eavesdropping, hacking and cracking, phishing and spoofing, social engineering, cloning, salami slicing, shoulder surfing or piggy backing, vishing, dumpster diving, denial of service (DoS), software piracy, and internet relay chat (IRC). In fact, findings have shown that a lot of the technologically sophisticated cyber-crimes are usually committed using one or a combination of some of these aforementioned strategies. The effects of these negative activities include loss of information integrity or authenticity, loss of confidentiality and non-availability of services associated with the use of computer, telecommunication gadgets or facilities and ICTs programming (Okeshola & Adetola, 2013).

As a matter of grave concern, the social media has turned to be a real source of insecurity in society today. Referring to an empirical work undertaken by Asemah and Edegoh in 2013 appraising the social media and insecurity in Nigeria which employed some 400 respondents, Nsude and Onwe (2017) report the following findings as highlighted by the researchers: social media has caused insecurity in the country due to the fact that it is uncensored against religious dogma and sexual fantasies, that new media has led to greater percentage of privacy hack; that the new media is difficult to control, instead it controls the user (spirit) due to the absence of law guiding the cyberspace and finally, that Facebook causes more insecurity than other social network. It in the light of this that Oladejo & Agwanwo (2015) posited that the new media facilitate the perpetration of crime in society.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework used in this study are: (a) Uses and Gratification Theory (UGT) and (b) Technological Determinism Theory (TDT).

(a) Uses and Gratification Theory (UGT)

This theory is credited to such scholars as: Elihu Katz, Jay Blumer and Gurevitch Michael in 1974. The theory is concerned with what people do with media rather than what the media do to people. The basic assumptions of this theory are: that people influence the effects of media have on them, and that members of the audience are not passive but have an active role they play in interpreting and integrating new media into their lives (Uji, 2015, p. 30). According to Asemah (2011), the theory emphasizes motives and self - perceived wants of target members. Therefore, applying this theory to the study, it is assumed that internet users purposively choose the new media to serve their need of involvement, taking advantage of their awareness about governance and insecurity issues in the country.

Technological Determinism Theory (TDT)

Technological determinism theory was propounded by Marshall McLuhan. The theory posits that the new media technologies shape how individuals in a society think, feel, act and how the society operates as we move from one technology age to another (Nsude & Onwe, 2017). The basic assumption of this theory is that changes in communication channels largely define the course of human history as attention to strength of communication technologies aid in fostering human interactions.

The technological determinism theory (TST) is of the assumption that the wider dimension of information craze in the society is as a result of the information explosion fostered by information and communication technologies. The theory further believes that, the social, economic, historical, political and cultural changes occurring in human society at present could be linked to the intervention and development of ICTs (Nsude & Onwe, 2017).

Relating this theory to the study, one can state herein that the relevance of technological determinism theory is its recent breakthrough in ICTs have greatly enhanced human communication geared toward influencing social change. As it could be observed from the foregoing analysis, the breakthrough in ICTs has and

continue to have a positive, as well as, negative effects on society. In relation to this study, therefore, the breakthrough in ICTs or what is popularly called the new media, has brought about insecurity in Nigeria.

Methodology
The research methodology adopted in this study was the survey research design. The population of the study were students (youths) who use the internet from the University Port Harcourt (Uniport) and University of Benin (Uniben). A sample of 120 students were randomly selected for this study from the two universities. The selection was done through simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques. Simple random sampling technique was used to select University Port Harcourt (Uniport) and University of Benin (Uniben), out of all the Federal Universities in the Niger Delta, which had same opportunity to be selected. Purposive sampling was used to select respondents from students across all levels (undergraduates and post graduates) in University Port Harcourt (Uniport) and University of Benin (Uniben).

The research instrument used for the collection of data was the structured questionnaire as our primary source of data. The questionnaire was structured into sections A and B. Section A: biographic data with questions such as sex, age, religion and educational levels, while section B: field responses on the nexus between the new media, youth mobilization and insecurity in Nigeria. The researchers chose university students because they constitute large users of the new media and were reasonably involved in the end-sars protest.
The face validity of the questionnaire instrument was ascertained by professionals in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science, University Port Harcourt. The researchers engaged the help of four research assistants who helped in administering and retrieving the completed responses from the respondents. One hundred and fifty five (155) questionnaire were distributed, but only one hundred and twenty (120) were duly filled and returned. Data were analyzed using simple percentage and frequency table.

Data Analysis and Discussion of Findings:
Socio-Demographic Information
Table 1: Sex of Respondents

	No. of Response	Percentage
Male	77	64.1%
Female	43	35.9%
Total	**120**	**100%**

Source: *Field Survey 2021*
The data presented in the table 1show a sex distribution of respondents of 77 males (64.1%) and 43 females which constitutes 35.9%. This shows that more male participated in the research.

Table 2: Age of the Respondents

Age (yrs)	No. of Response	Percentage
18 – 23	53	44.1%
24 – 29	40	33.3%
30 – 35	20	16.7%
36 – 41	7	5.9%
Total	**120**	**100%**

Source: *Field Survey 2021*
The data presented in table 2 above show the age distribution of respondents of 53 persons (44.1%) in the age bracket of 18 – 23 years, 40 persons (33.3%) within age bracket of 24 – 29 years of age, 20 (16.7%) respondents within age bracket of 30 – 35 years of age, and 7 (5.9%) of them with the age bracket of 36- 41 years. This shows that those within 18-23 age brackets were sampled more, while 36-41 age bracket were the least. This shows that 18-23 age brackets use the new media more than other age brackets.

Table 3: Religious Status of Respondents

Qualification	No. of Response	Percentage
Christians	105	88%
Muslims	11	9.1%
African Tradition	4	3.3%
Total	**120**	**100%**

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

The data presented in table 3 above show the religious distribution of respondents of 105 (88%) persons who belong to the Christian faith, 11 (9.1%) persons of the respondents who are Muslims while, 4 (3.3%) persons are of the African tradition religion.

Table 4: Educational Status of Respondents

Qualification	No. of Response	Percentage
B.SC In-view	111	93%
MSc In-view	7	5.8%
PhD In-view	2	1.6%
Total	**120**	**100%**

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in the table 4 above of educational status of respondents; 111 (93%) are those with B.Sc. In-view, 7 (5.8%) of them are those with MSc In-view, while 2 (1.6%) persons of them are those with PhD In-view.

Figure 1: Types of New Media and Percentage % Values of Users
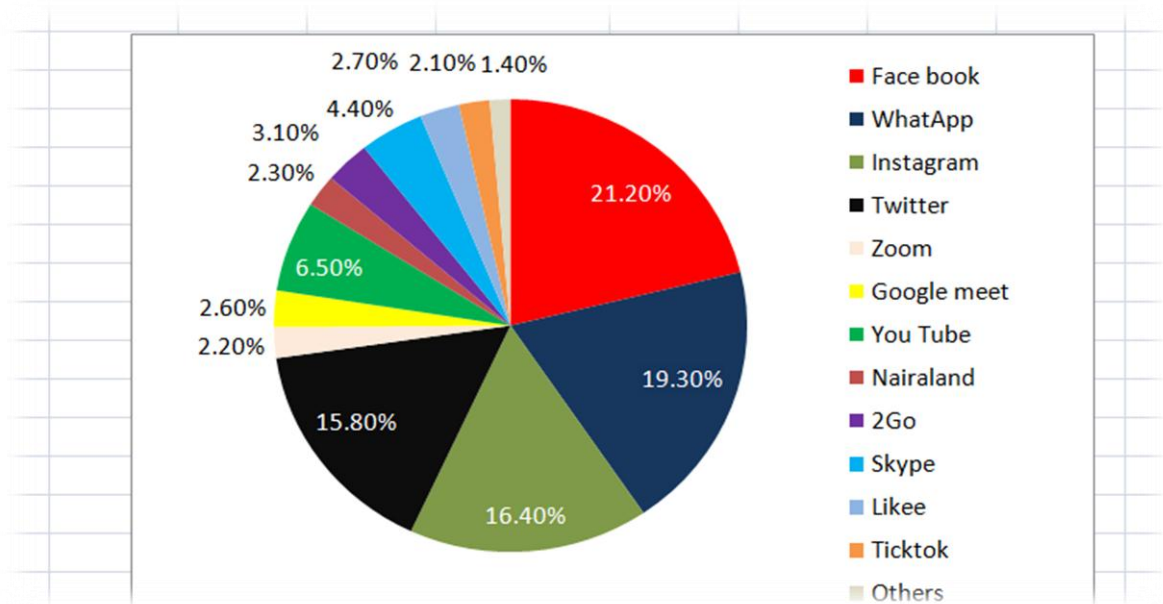
Source: Field work 2021

The pie-chart above represents the types of new media and percentage by respondents who used them: 21.20% of the respondents use Facebook, 19.30% of the respondents use Whats App; 16.40% of the respondents use Twitter; 15.80% of the respondents, 2.20% of the respondents use Zoom Conference Call; 2.60 use Google-meet App; 6.50% respondents use You Tube; 2.30% respondents involve Naira-land; 3.10% respondents use 2Go, 4.40% respondents employ Skype, 2.70% respondents use Likee, 2.10% respondents that uses Ticktok; while, 1.40% of the respondents ticked "others". Of these Apps, the Facebook

has the highest percentage of user-respondents and this, of course, confirms Asemah and Edegoh, (2013) position that: "Facebook causes more insecurity than other social network". However, it should be noted that many respondents use more than one new media applications.

Table 5: Degree of youth connection to new media

Degree of Connection	No. of Response	Percentage
Always	86	71.7%
Moderate	29	24.1%
Rarely	5	4.1%
Total	**120**	**100%**

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

The data presented in table 5 above shows the degree of youth connection to new media; 86 youths (71.7%) of the respondents connect to the new media always, 29 of them (24.1%) connect moderately, while 5 (4.1%) of them rarely connect. This buttress the findings of Akikibofori (2020) which asserts that the emergence of the media driven by the internet, has led to a high level of connectivity between individuals as well as groups, thereby altering the earlier face-to-face oral and the written mode of communication.

Table 6: Relationship between new media and youth mobilization?

Response	No. of Response	Percentage
Yes	96	80%
Not really	20	16.7%
No	4	3.3%
Total	**120**	**100%**

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

The data presented in table 6 above show the response to the mew media and youth mobilization; 96 (80%) respondents of them have "Yes" response, that there is a significant relationship between the new media and youth mobilization, 20 (16.7%) respondents responded to "Not really", while 4 (3.3%) of them gave "No" response. The 80% response confirms the findings of Nsude & Onwe (2017); Uji (2015); Olley & Ekharaefo (2013) and Aristotle (2012) that the new media is a vehicle for youth mobilization. Thus, Political office holders should be conscious of how and when they can use the new media to garner support for themselves so that it would not be abused.

Table 7: Relationship between new media and insecurity in Nigeria?

Response	No. of Response	Percentage
Yes	99	82.5%
No	21	17.5%
Total	**120**	**100%**

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

The data presented in table 7 above show the responses to new media and youth insecurity. 99 (82.5%) respondents said "Yes" to the link between the new media and youth insecurity, while 21 (17.5%) respondents said "No". The 82.5% responses agree with the findings of Abdul & Afzal, (2017); Uji, (2015) and Abdullahi, (2012) that the Arab spring uprising which led to over 61,000 deaths in the middle east emanated from the activities of the new media.. Also, the case of #End Sars protests of 2021, which led to the Lekki toll gate massacre; #Bring Back Our Girls online campaign in 2014; and occupy Nigeria movement in 2012 are evidently insecurity situations that resulted from the new media

Table 8: Forms of insecurity that arises from the activities of the new media?

Response	No. of Response	Percentage
Lekki - toll gate Massacre	25	20.9%
Fuel subsidy Protest	9	7.5%
Imo Jail break	4	3.3%
End Sars Protest	33	27.5%
Banditry and Unknown gun men attack (UGM)	21	17.5%
Warehouse Palliative looting	10	8.3%
Fulani herdsmen attack	2	1.7%
Oduduwa and Biafra succession threat	16	13.3%
Total	**120%**	**100%**

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

The data presented in table 8 above show on the forms of insecurity that arose from the activities of the new media, 25 (20.9%) responses went for Lekki-toll gate massacre, 9 (7.5%) response went for fuel subsidy protest, 4(3.3%) Imo jail-break, End Sars protest, 21 (27.5%) banditry and unknown gun-men attack (UGM), 10 (8.3%) warehouse palliative looting; 2 (1.7%) Fulani herdsmen attack; and 16 (13.3%) Oduduwa and Biafra succession threat. The relatively higher responses recorded in End Sars protest and the Lekki Toll-gate massacre respectively agree with the findings of Akikibofori, (2020); Abdul & Afzal, (2017); Nsude & Onwe, (2017); Uji, (2015) and Olley & Ekharaefo, (2013) that anti-government protest, civil unrest, uprising and armed rebellion basically emanate from the activities of new media and youth mobilization ultimately result in insecurity. It is also becoming the norm that many people get involved online in socio-political issues, as well as demonstration to influence government decisions, and to protest against corruption and bad governance. These were the issues that gave rise to the Arab spring which spread through the middle-east in the first and second waves of the uprising, and thus occasioned the removal and disposal of many regimes in such countries as: Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria and Bahrain.

Conclusion

The new media is an indispensable channel for target groups and is very useful in the mobilization of youths towards social change. The new media enhances mass social interactions and interfaces, especially among youths. More than anything, the present study has revealed that the new media is an agent of social change, national development as well as organizational development. The findings in this work has given credence to the assumption of technological determinism theory which posits that technology has the capacity to drive human actions and effect societal change (Akikibofori, 2020; Nsude & Onwe, 2017; Uji, 2015; Olley & Ekharaefo, 2013; Oladejo & Agwanwo (2015); Adeboye, 2011; Rosen, 2011; Ikpe & Olise, 2010; and Lievorouw & Livingstone, 2006). As many scholars subscribed, the emergence of the new media has opened ways to promote direct and informed mobilization of rights advocacy and sensitization on issues of concerns. Experts and scholars have shown that when the governments do not pay attention to the concerns of their citizens, the new media can be used as a channel of revolution or insecurity.

Recommendations

Following from the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been proffered:

  i) The leadership should be pro-active and address issues that concern the masses very urgently and comprehensively. That is, to say, adequate attention should be paid to the yearnings of the masses especially the youth. In other words, there should be transparency in governance, judicious use of revenues, provision of job opportunities and guaranteeing the rights of all citizens

  ii) Awareness campaigns on the dangers of the negative effects of the new media should be carried out by various government agencies and NGOs especially in the area of insecurity.

iii) Government should, as a matter of urgency, sponsor criminologists and relevant law enforcement personnel abroad to be equip with new technological skills to combat negative effects of the new media on national development.

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