Mobile Journalism and News Consumption Patterns in Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria

[1]**Mary Sunday Gomba**, [2]**Barigbon Gbara Nsereka, & [3]Harry Itieke-Idamieba**

[1,2&3]Department of Mass Communication, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

[1]https://orcid.org/0009-0007-7017-5622
[2]https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6616-4153
[3]https://orcid.org/0009-0002-2779-048X

*****Corresponding Author:** jesse.okedi@ust.edu.ng

ABSTRACT

Background: The advent of mobile technology has revolutionized journalism, enabling real-time news reporting and dissemination. Nigeria's mobile phone penetration rate has grown rapidly, with over 190 million subscribers as of 2022, creating opportunities for media professionals to reach audiences, especially in rural areas. Rivers and Bayelsa States, key areas in Nigeria's economy and politics, have a diverse population with a growing youth demographic. Previous studies have examined the impact of mobile journalism on news reporting and consumption patterns in other contexts, highlighting the opportunities and challenges presented by this shift; but there remains a gap in the Nigerian context, particularly in the Niger Delta region, to understand the specific dynamics at play and inform strategies for media professionals and policymakers.

Objective: This study investigated the impact of mobile journalism on news reporting and consumption patterns in Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria, focusing on determining how mobile journalism has influenced the speed and style of news reporting and assessing the extent to which mobile devices have reshaped audience preferences and consumption patterns.

Method: The study adopted descriptive survey research design involving a representative sample of 364 respondents selected through a multi-stage sampling technique. A structured questionnaire served as the primary instrument for data collection, with a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.82 confirming internal reliability. Data were analysed using Weighted Mean Scores to interpret response trends.

Result: Findings indicate that mobile journalism has substantially enhanced the speed, immediacy, and interactivity of news dissemination, allowing journalists to report events in real-time and engage audiences through multimedia formats. While social media platforms – (Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and WhatsApp) serve as dominant channels for mobile news distribution, audiences however express greater trust in traditional news outlets, citing credibility and editorial oversight as decisive factors.

Conclusion: The conclusion of this study is that mobile journalism has redefined the dynamics of news production and consumption, offering unprecedented speed and accessibility, yet simultaneously demanding stronger ethical safeguards and professional discipline.

Key Recommendation: The study recommends targeted training programmes, editorial protocols, and audience literacy initiatives to ensure that the practice of mobile journalism contributes meaningfully to credible, responsible, and democratic communication in Nigeria's evolving media arena.

Unique Contribution: This study provides empirical evidence on the impact of mobile journalism on news consumption patterns in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, highlighting the need for media outlets to adapt to changing audience preferences while maintaining editorial standards.

Keywords: Mobile journalism, news consumption, news reporting, mobile devices, audience preferences

INTRODUCTION

The rise of mobile journalism and the transformation of news consumption habits are among the most significant developments in the field of communication and media studies over the past decade (Nwafor, & Nwabuzor, 2021). With the advent of smartphones, portable editing tools, and high-speed Internet, journalism has moved beyond the confines of traditional newsrooms (Westlund, 2013). Thus, journalism has moved beyond traditional newsroom boundaries, fostering faster and more flexible modes of news gathering. This transformation aligns with broader changes in how audiences access information. The increasing reliance on smartphones for news consumption has replaced the dominance of newspapers, radio, and television. Mobile devices now serve as primary gateways to continuous updates, social media feeds, and online news platforms, creating a fast-paced and fragmented media environment (Newman et al., 2015). According to the Reuters Institute Digital News Report (2015), mobile phones had already become the leading device for accessing online news in many countries, a trend that has continued to intensify.

Mobile journalism also reshapes professional roles by requiring journalists to multitask as reporters, videographers, editors, and publishers, often under tight time constraints and challenging conditions (Deuze & Witschge, 2018). Its flexibility has made it valuable for covering emergencies, protests, and conflict zones, and it has expanded participation by empowering freelancers and citizen journalists (Wall, 2015). This shift contributes to a more networked and participatory form of journalism, where audiences capture events, share content, and interact with reporters through platforms like X, Facebook, and Instagram (Hermida, 2012; Beckett, 2010; Aligwe, et al., 2018).

Despite its advantages, mobile journalism raises concerns related to ethical practices, accuracy, and editorial integrity. The pressure for immediacy can compromise verification processes, while social media algorithms increasingly shape news visibility based on engagement rather than journalistic merit (Wardle & Derakhshan, 2017; Tandoc & Vos, 2016). These developments pose challenges for maintaining credibility, ensuring diverse perspectives, and sustaining professional standards. As the field continues to evolve, it remains vital to critically assess mobile journalism's impact on news quality and to develop frameworks that balance innovation with ethical responsibility.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The rapid proliferation of mobile technology has transformed the media landscape in Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria, presenting both opportunities and challenges for journalists, media outlets, and audiences. While mobile journalism has enabled real-time news reporting and dissemination, there is a dearth of research on how this shift has influenced news consumption patterns in the region. Specifically, existing literature such as Nwafor, & Nwabuzor, (2021) and Aligwe, et al., 2018) have not adequately explored how mobile devices have reshaped audience preferences, trust, and engagement with news content in Rivers and Bayelsa States, particularly in the context of the region's unique cultural, social, and economic dynamics. Previous studies have focused on the adoption and use of mobile technology in other Nigerian contexts, leaving a knowledge gap on the impact of mobile journalism on news consumption patterns in this specific region. This study addresses this academic lacuna, investigating the intersection of mobile journalism and news consumption patterns in Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria, to inform media strategies and contribute to the development of the media industry in the region.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study:

1. How has the adoption of mobile journalism influenced the speed and style of news reporting in Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria?
2. To what extent have mobile devices reshaped audience preferences and consumption patterns of news in Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on the theories of technological determinism and the uses and gratification.

Technological Determinism Theory

The Technological Determinism Theory posits that technology is the primary driver of societal change, shaping human behavior, social structures, and cultural norms. Advanced by scholars like Marshall McLuhan, who argued that "the medium is the message," and Thorstein Veblen, who emphasized the influence of technological innovations on society, the theory assumes that technological developments follow a fixed path and produce predictable effects on social life (McLuhan, 1964; Veblen, 1904). In the context of journalism, the emergence of mobile phones and social media is seen to have enabled mobile journalism, facilitating on-the-go news production and consumption, and altering public engagement with information. The theory emphasizes technology as autonomous, positioning it above political, economic, or cultural influences, with society adapting to, rather than shaping, technological change.

Despite its explanatory power, technological determinism has been criticized for oversimplifying the complex interaction between society and technology, overlooking human agency, institutional policies, and cultural contexts (Williams, 1974; Winston, 1998). Scholars such as Ikechukwu (2014) and Eze and Ndolo (2016) argue that in Nigeria, mobile journalism thrives not solely due to technological availability but also because of social, political, and regulatory factors that influence adoption and use. The theory remains relevant to this study as it provides a framework for understanding the shift from traditional to mobile journalism, highlighting how mobile devices and social media actively shape the speed, accessibility, and engagement of news consumption, while also presenting challenges related to ethics, professionalism, and sustainability in the evolving media landscape.

Uses and Gratifications Theory

The Uses and Gratifications Theory (UGT) explains how and why individuals actively seek specific media to satisfy personal and social needs. The UGT was propounded in the 1970s by Katz, Blumler, and Gurevitch. The theory positions audiences as active agents who select media for purposes such as information-seeking, entertainment, personal identity, and social interaction (Katz, Blumler & Gurevitch, 1974). UGT assumes that users are goal-oriented, aware of their needs, and capable of making autonomous choices, with different people deriving different gratifications from the same media content. In the context of mobile journalism, some users may follow news apps for political updates, while others seek connection or leisure, highlighting the diversity of audience behavior and the competition between media and other sources of gratification.

Despite its practical relevance, UGT faces criticisms for relying on self-reported data and emphasizing individual motivations while often neglecting structural and cultural contexts (Leung, 2013). Scholars also note that media producers can influence consumption by anticipating or shaping audience needs. Nevertheless, the theory has been applied effectively in Nigeria to study media habits, showing that audiences deliberately select mobile platforms to satisfy informational, entertainment, and participatory needs (Nwabueze, 2017; Owolabi & Mbah, 2020). Its relevance to this study lies in explaining why Nigerian audiences increasingly turn to mobile journalism for fast, accessible, and participatory news experiences, providing insights into the human motivations that drive adoption and engagement alongside technological considerations.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Mobile Journalism

Mobile journalism, commonly referred to as MoJo, is an emerging form of newsgathering and storytelling that leverages mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets to produce, edit, and distribute news content. Unlike traditional journalism that often relies on bulky equipment, dedicated crews, and centralized newsrooms, mobile journalism empowers individual journalists to report from virtually any location using compact, affordable, and easily accessible

technology. This approach has revolutionized the media landscape by fostering speed, mobility, cost-efficiency, and greater audience engagement in the production and dissemination of news (Westlund & Quinn, 2018). The evolution of mobile journalism can be attributed to advancements in mobile technology and the proliferation of high-speed internet access. Modern smartphones are equipped with high-resolution cameras, audio recorders, and editing applications, which make it possible to capture, edit, and publish news stories in real-time. This technological shift aligns with broader trends in digital journalism and reflects the changing habits of both news producers and consumers. As audiences increasingly consume news on mobile devices, the demand for content that is fast, visual, and shareable has grown, further incentivizing the adoption of mobile journalism (Newman *et al.*, 2023).

Tools for Mobile Journalism (MoJo)
Mobile journalism, often abbreviated as MoJo, is the practice of using portable, network-connected devices like smartphones and tablets to gather, edit, and disseminate news. As technology continues to reshape the media landscape, mobile journalism has emerged as a cost-effective, flexible, and efficient method of reporting. To practice MoJo effectively, journalists must be equipped with a variety of tools and accessories that enhance the quality, reliability, and professionalism of their work. These tools span across hardware, software, and auxiliary equipment, each playing a unique role in the news production process. Some of them include Smartphones and Tablets, Microphones, Tripods and Stabilizers, Lighting Equipment, Power Banks and Charging Accessories, Editing and Publishing Software, and Apps for editing of videos, photos, and audio are key to mobile journalism. Popular mobile apps include: Video editing ones such as LumaFusion (iOS), KineMaster, Adobe Premiere Rush Photo editing: Snapseed, Lightroom Mobile, Audio editing apps such as Hokusai Audio Editor, Ferrite, Publishing and social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and blogging platforms like WordPress and Medium. These applications enable journalists to perform complex editing tasks and publish stories in real-time, directly from their mobile devices (Burum, 2016).

There are also Cloud Storage and File Transfer Tools that ensure content is backed up and accessible across multiple devices, mobile journalists rely heavily on cloud services such as Google Drive, Dropbox, and iCloud. These tools facilitate the quick transfer of files and collaboration among team members, especially during live or fast-breaking news events. There are also Protective Gear and Weatherproof Accessories (Pavlik, 2013).

Field reporting often exposes journalists to various weather conditions and physical hazards. Waterproof phone cases, lens protectors, and rugged phone mounts help protect equipment. Carrying cases with compartments for each accessory allow for organized and safe transportation (Lindholm, 2021). Some of such include: Lens Attachments. To enhance the smartphone camera's capabilities, mobile journalists use clip-on lenses. These include wide-angle lenses for capturing broader scenes, macro lenses for close-up details, and telephoto lenses for distant subjects. These lenses expand the creative and technical scope of mobile photography and videography (Burum & Quinn, 2015).

Quality headphones are also essential for monitoring audio during recording and editing. They help detect background noise, distortion, or other audio issues that may not be noticeable through the phone's built-in speakers. Over-ear models are preferred for their sound isolation capabilities (Steensen & Westlund, 2020).

News Consumption
News consumption is conceptualized as the process by which individuals actively seek out and receive news and information through various channels. According to McCombs and Shaw (2013), it is the process by which people choose which news items to view and understand depending on their needs, interests, and preexisting beliefs. Adding credence to their submission, Lippmann (2005) suggests that news consumption is a means by which individuals construct their understanding of the world around them. In their study, Flanagin and Metzger (2000) further conceptualized news consumption as the process by which individuals acquire, attend to, and comprehend news content. Similarly, Delli & Keeter (1996) describe news consumption as a complex process that involves not only exposure to news content but also attention, comprehension, and retention. According to Verstraete, Derek & Jane (2017), the act of disseminating news on social media has become a standard practice, embraced not only by users and readers but also by various journalistic organizations aiming to drive traffic to their websites through content sharing on platforms such as Facebook or X. In sum, news consumption could be said to mean listening, reading, or watching the news or attending to news media.

METHOD
Descriptive survey research technique was adopted for this study. The choice of this design was informed by the nature of the research, which seeks to obtain opinions, behaviours, and experiences of a large group of people, in this case, residents of Rivers and Bayelsa States regarding mobile journalism and news consumption. The chosen design is appropriate because it allows for the collection of data from a sizable and diverse population in a cost-effective and efficient manner, thereby ensuring that the results can be generalized to the entire population.

According to Osuala (2005), survey research studies both large and small populations by selecting and studying samples chosen from the populations to discover the relative incidence, distribution and interrelations of sociological and psychological variables. He further opines that survey research focuses on people, their vital facts, their beliefs, opinions, attitude, motivation and behaviour. Against the backdrop of these reasons, survey design was chosen as a suitable method of data collection for this study.

The population of the study comprised residents of Rivers and Bayelsa States based on the 2025 projection of the National Population Commission census of 2006. The projection taken at the yearly growth rate of (npc.org) gave the figure of 9.1 million people for the two States (npc.org). The sample size was selected using Philip Meyer's 2010 statistical guide for sample size determination.

Table 1: Sample Size Determination Table

Population	Sample
500,000 or more	384
100,000	383
50,000	381
10,000	370
5,000	357
3,000	341
2,000	322
1,000	278

Based on the above, the adequate sample size for the study was 384.

The study emloyed the multi-stage sampling technique. First, purposive sampling was used to select the two states, Rivers and Bayelsa based on their media presence and active online population. Then, stratified sampling was used to ensure representation across key areas such as urban and rural communities. Finally, simple random sampling was applied to select individuals from each stratum to participate in the survey. This combination of sampling methods helped to reduce bias and ensure a representative sample.

Data for the research work were collected through two sources: primary and secondary sources. The primary data were obtained by the researcher through questionnaire administration. The questionnaire was designed based on the study objectives and was divided into sections covering demographic information and the key research variables. It was be administered both physically and electronically (Google Forms) to reach respondents in remote or urban areas. The physical distribution was done by trained research assistants who ensured that respondents understood the questions before responding. The secondary data were collected from already existing materials which included information in textbooks, journals and the internet etc.

The data gathered from the research instruments were analysed using Weighted Mean Score (WMS) based on four point Likert scale. A benchmark of 2.5 will be specified for this scale. It was used to ascertain the influence of mobile journalism on news consumption in Rivers and Bayelsa States. This benchmark is arrived at by dividing the total values on the scale by 4 points, thus:

$$\frac{4 + 3 + 2 + 1}{4} = \frac{10}{4} = 2.5$$

Therefore, if a statement has a mean value that equals or is greater than 2.5, then it is accepted, if otherwise, it is rejected. Thus, to get the mean score for each statement, the scores recorded under Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) were multiplied by their scale points 4, 3, 2 and 1 and then divided by the total score.

RESULT
Table 2: Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	173	47.5
Female	191	52.5
Total	364	100

Table 2 above, shows that there were more females than males, suggesting a fairly balanced but female-dominated sample.
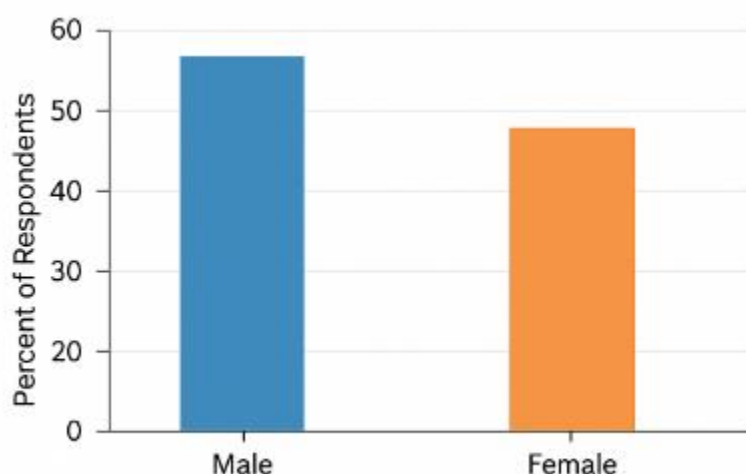

Figure 1 illustrates the gender distribution of respondents. It shows that 47.5% of respondents were male, while 52.5% were female. The result indicates a fairly balanced gender representation, with a slightly higher participation from females. This gender spread enhances the inclusivity and representativeness of the study sample, ensuring that both male and female perspectives are adequately captured in the analysis.

Research Questions 1: How has mobile journalism affected the speed and style of news reporting?

Table 3: Weighted Mean Responses on the Influence of Mobile Journalism on the Speed and Style of News Reporting

S/N	Item	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total	WMS	Decision
5	Mobile journalism has made news available faster than traditional news methods.	120	160	60	24	1,104	3.03	Accept
6	The use of smartphones in journalism has changed the writing style of news reports.	100	170	70	24	1,074	2.95	Accept
7	Mobile journalism enables real-time reporting of breaking news.	130	155	55	24	1,117	3.07	Accept
8	The style of reporting in mobile journalism is often more concise and spontaneous.	90	175	70	29	1,062	2.92	Accept
9	The speed of news delivery through mobile journalism has increased audience engagement.	110	165	60	29	1,099	3.02	Accept
Overall Mean							3.00	

Table 3 reveals that respondents generally agreed that mobile journalism has positively influenced both the speed and style of news reporting. The highest weighted mean (= 3.07) was recorded for the statement *"Mobile journalism enables real-time reporting of breaking news"*, underscoring the immediacy and timeliness associated with smartphone-based reporting. Similarly, the high mean values for items on news availability (= 3.03) and audience engagement (= 3.02) confirm that mobile journalism enhances information dissemination and interactivity. The overall Overall Mean of 3.00 further indicates that respondents perceive mobile journalism as a transformative force that accelerates news production and encourages concise, audience-driven reporting styles.

Research Question Two: In what ways have mobile devices influenced the news consumption habits of audiences?

Table 4: Weighted Mean Responses on the Influence of Mobile Devices on Audience Preferences and News Consumption Habits

S/N	Item	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Total	WMS	Decision
10	I prefer accessing news on my mobile device over other sources (TV, Newspaper, etc).	140	150	50	27	1,118	3.08	Accept
11	The portability of mobile devices has increased my daily news consumption.	130	160	55	22	1,117	3.07	Accept
12	I consume more short-form news content on mobile devices than long-form articles.	90	175	80	22	1,049	2.89	Accept
13	Mobile notifications influence when and what news I read.	85	145	95	42	982	2.71	Accept
14	I prefer multimedia (videos/images) news content when using my mobile device.	120	125	85	37	1,013	2.79	Accept
Overall Mean							2.91	

Table 4 reveals that respondents generally agreed that mobile devices have significantly influenced their news consumption habits and preferences. The highest weighted mean (= 3.08) corresponds to the statement, *"I prefer accessing news on my mobile device over other sources (TV, Newspaper, etc.)"*, highlighting the centrality of smartphones as primary news gateways. Similarly, respondents agreed that the portability of mobile devices (= 3.07) has enhanced the frequency and convenience of daily news consumption.

However, lower mean scores for items on *mobile notifications (= 2.71)* and *preference for multimedia content (= 2.79)* suggest varying degrees of influence, indicating that while users appreciate mobile features, their consumption patterns may still depend on contextual or content-specific factors.

Overall, the mean of 2.91 implies a generally positive perception: mobile devices are reshaping how audiences access, engage with, and prioritise news, reinforcing a trend toward personalised and on-the-go media consumption.

DISCUSSION

Research Question 1: How has mobile journalism affected the speed and style of news reporting?

Findings in table 3 above indicate a clear, moderate-to-strong endorsement by respondents that mobile journalism accelerates news production and shapes reporting style. This finding resonates with process-orientated studies that emphasise a "mobile-first" storytelling aesthetic: Salzmann, Guribye and Gynnild (2020) show that mojo communities propagate short, visually led packages and workflows that privilege immediacy. The respondents' highest scoring item indicate real-time reporting that aligns with Salzmann *et al.*'s account that learning networks and peer diffusion shorten the pathway from capture to publication, even if those authors stop short of quantifying time-savings in minutes or hours. In short, the field perception captured in your WMS mirrors the qualitative evidence that mobile tools materially compress production cycles and reconfigure narrative form.

The complementary case-based evidence of Prestianta (2022) offers concrete newsroom mechanics for how such speed and stylistic change occur: on-device capture and in-situ editing permit vertical, social-friendly outputs that are published within minutes. This result of this study also agrees that mobile journalism produces more concise, spontaneous reports and therefore corroborate the Kompas.com experience while also signalling transferability: the stylistic shifts Importantly, this triangulation highlights a methodological gap which many authors note that qualitative and case studies convincingly show *how* style changes, while surveys such as the current study supply the *perceptual* confirmation that audiences and practitioners experience those changes in diverse settings.

At the same time, several studies caution against uncritical celebration of speed. Mahon (2021) and Abubakar (2021) link immediacy to intensified workloads and uneven capacity for editorial oversight; a point which the current study implicitly reflect when mean scores for stylistic items sit below the "strongly agreed" threshold. The implication is twofold: mobile journalism does accelerate reporting and encourages brevity, but those gains are uneven and contingent on newsroom training, verification routines and infrastructural support. For the Niger Delta context (Rivers/Bayelsa), then, the evidence in this study should be read as confirmation that mobile affordances are transforming practice, while also flagging the need for institutional measures (training, workflow redesign, verification protocols) to ensure speed does not erode accuracy or professional standards.

Research Question 2: In what ways have mobile devices influenced the news consumption habits of audiences?

The results of analysis in table 4 also indicate that respondents generally favour mobile devices for news access and that portability and short-form consumption are salient features of current habits. This pattern is strongly consistent with large-scale and regional studies: the Reuters

Digital News work synthesised by Newman *et al*. (2021) documents a global shift towards smartphone-first news habits and a preference for bite-sized, visual content. Similarly, Eze and Nwachukwu (2016) and Ibrahim (2017) show within-Nigeria tendencies for mobile uptake and demographic differentiation in consumption. The current study thus localise a global trend; respondents in the Niger Delta report higher convenience-driven consumption and a tilt towards short-form formats, which accords with international comparative findings about incidental and on-the-go news encounters.

However, nuance emerges when considering items such as the influence of notifications and preference for multimedia: lower means on these items suggest that while audiences have migrated to mobile access, they do not uniformly embrace every mobile affordance. This heterogeneity echoes the mixed-method evidence from Quiroz Pacheco (2024) and Canavilhas & Santana (2019), who find that apps and platform affordances shape consumption unevenly; thus, algorithmic curation and platform economies benefit certain formats and audiences, while others remain sceptical or selective. In the Niger Delta, infrastructural constraints (connectivity, data costs) and demographic moderators (age, education) documented by Uduak and Nwachukwu (2022) and Ibrahim (2017) likely explain why respondents report strong preference for mobile access but more guarded uptake of push-driven and multimedia behaviours.

More so, the literature points to a critical interpretive frame: demographic and contextual issues. Studies such as Uduak and Nwachukwu (2022), Rodríguez and Matos (2021) and Olowojolu and Ajayi (2023) demonstrate that age, education and socioeconomic status shape not only *whether* people use mobile news but *how* they engage with it in terms of verification practices, platform choice and content preferences differ across groups. The outcome of this current study, which show general agreement on mobile preference but variation on notifications and multimedia, therefore dovetail with these findings: mobile devices are central to access, yet consumption patterns are stratified. For policy and practice this suggests that newsrooms seeking broad reach in Rivers and Bayelsa must combine mobile-first distribution with audience-segmented content strategies and digital-literacy initiatives to ensure both reach and quality of engagement.

CONCLUSION

This study has demonstrated that mobile journalism (MoJo) has profoundly transformed the field of news production, dissemination, and consumption in the digital era. The integration of smartphones, mobile applications, and multimedia tools has decentralised the traditional news process, allowing journalists to record, edit, and distribute stories in real-time. This immediacy has redefined journalistic timeliness and enhanced audience access to breaking information as events unfold. The research further revealed that mobile journalism has shifted the aesthetic and stylistic dimensions of reporting—foregrounding brevity, interactivity, and visual engagement through the use of photographs, short videos, live streams, and infographics. The study also found that audiences have evolved from passive consumers to active participants in the news ecosystem with the use of media platforms notably Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and WhatsApp.

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are put forward to enhance the effectiveness, credibility, and ethical integrity of mobile journalism:

1. **Professional Training:** Media institutions and journalism schools should establish continuous training programmes that emphasise ethical standards, digital verification techniques, and professional responsibility to ensure accountability and quality in mobile news production.
2. **Editorial Guidelines:** News organisations should formulate and enforce comprehensive editorial protocols governing mobile-generated content. These should outline procedures for verification, attribution, and privacy protection to preserve journalistic integrity.
3. **Audience Literacy:** Public education initiatives should be developed to strengthen audience capacity to critically assess mobile news content, particularly across social media networks, where misinformation proliferates easily.

Ethical clearance
Ethical consent was sought and obtained from the participants used in this study. They were made to understand that the exercise was purely for academic purposes, and their participation was voluntary.

Conflict of Interest
The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Authors' Contributions
Mary Sunday Gomba conceived and conducted the study including design, data collection, analysis and interpretation under the direct supervision of Professor Barigbon Gbara Nsereka, and Dr. Harry Itieke-Idamieba. All authors have critically reviewed and approved the final draft, and are responsible for the content and similarity index of the manuscript.

Availability of data and materials
The datasets on which conclusions were made for this study are available on reasonable request.

Cite this article this way:
Gomba, M. S., Nsereka, B. G. & Itieke-Idamieba, H. (2025). Mobile Journalism and News Consumption Patterns in Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria. *International Journal of Sub-Saharan African Research (IJSSAR), 3(3), 634-648*

REFERENCES

Aligwe, H.N., Nwafor, K. A., Ohiri, K. E. &Nwabufoe F. (2018). Communication and Public Health Promotion in Nigeria. *Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research* 26 (7), 741-746.

Beckett, C. (2010). *The value of networked journalism*. POLIS, London School of Economics.

Deuze, M., & Witschge, T. (2018). Beyond journalism: Theorizing the transformation of journalism. *Journalism, 19*(2), 165–181.

Eze, M. C., & Ndolo, I. (2016). Mobile journalism and citizen participation in Nigeria. *African Journalism Studies, 37*(1), 45–62. https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2016.1160221

Ikechukwu, O. (2014). Media habits and attitudes of Nigerian youth toward mobile news consumption. *Journal of African Media Studies, 5*(2), 75–92.

Hermida, A. (2012). Social journalism: Exploring how social media is shaping journalism. In E. Siapera & A. Veglis (Eds.), *The Handbook of Global Online Journalism* (pp. 309–328). Wiley-Blackwell.

Katz, E., Blumler, J. G., & Gurevitch, M. (1974). *The uses of mass communications: Current perspectives on gratifications research*. Sage Publications.

Leung, L. (2013). Generational differences in content generation in social media: The roles of the gratifications sought and of narcissism. *Computers in Human Behavior, 29*(3), 997–1006.

McLuhan, M. (1964). *Understanding media: The extensions of man*. McGraw-Hill.

Newman, N., Fletcher, R., Levy, D. A. L., & Nielsen, R. K. (2015). *Reuters Institute digital news report 2015*. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.

Newman, N., Fletcher, R., Robertson, C. T., Eddy, K., & Nielsen, R. K. (2023). *Reuters Institute digital news report 2023*. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk

Nwafor, K. A. & Nwabuzor, M.N. (2021). Social Media and Youths Engagements and Mobilisation for the 2020 #EndSARS Protests in Nigeria. *EBSU Journal of Mass Communication, 8(1), 13-24.*

Osuala, O. (2005). *Introduction to research methodology*. Africana-Fep Publishers.

Tandoc, E. C., & Vos, T. P. (2016). The journalist is marketing the news: Social media in the gatekeeping process. *Journal of Communication, 66*(5), 720–739.

Veblen, T. (1904). *The theory of business enterprise*. Macmillan.

Wardle, C., & Derakhshan, H. (2017). *Information disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making*. Council of Europe Report.

Westlund, O. (2013). Mobile news: A review and model of journalism in an age of mobile media. *Digital Journalism, 1*(1), 6–26.

Williams, R. (1974). *Television: Technology and cultural form*. Fontana.

Winston, B. (1998). *Media technology and society: A history: From the telegraph to the Internet*. Routledge.