



Against the Norms: Ethical Implications of Sycophancy in Political Reporting among Journalists in Owerri Metropolis of Imo State, Nigeria

¹Chieme Azubuike & ²Emeka Williams Etumnu

¹Department of Mass Communication, Captain Elechi Amadi Polytechnic Rumuola, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

²Department of Mass Communication, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria

¹<https://orcid.org/0009-0006-0643-8830>

²<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7186-117X>

***Corresponding Author:** etumnuemeka@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Background: Sycophancy in political reporting has become one of the major ethical issues in recent times.

Objective: This study investigated the ethical implications of sycophancy in political reporting among journalists in Owerri Metropolis. The study was underpinned on the social responsibility theory.

Method: The descriptive survey was used as the research design. The population of the study was 219 registered and practicing journalists in Imo State, Nigeria. Meanwhile, the census principle was adopted to study all the journalists in Imo State, Nigeria. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection and it was face validated by an expert. Cronbach Alpha was used to obtain a reliability result of .71 showing the instrument is reliable. Descriptive statistics was used to present and analysed the data.

Results: Results showed that to a large extent sycophancy in political reporting has affected the ethics guiding journalists in reporting. Also, the practice of sycophancy portends great danger to the practice of journalism because it goes contrary to the ethical codes of journalism.

Conclusion: We concluded that, not abiding by the ethics of the journalistic profession as a result of sycophancy portends great danger not only to the profession but also to society.

Unique contribution: This study has been able to unravel the causes and danger of sycophancy in political reporting particularly in Imo State and by extension Nigeria.

Key Recommendation: The Nigeria Union of Journalists should raise the consciousness of journalists about the dangers of engaging in sycophancy as well as set up a sanction mechanism to curb the practice of sycophancy.

Keywords: Journalists, ethics, sycophancy, political reporting, journalism



INTRODUCTION

Over the years, people have depended on the mass media through the efforts of journalists for information. Due to this, the journalist is expected to be ethically responsible so as not to lose the trust and confidence of the people. As a result of the demands of journalists to be ethically responsible in carrying out their job, the media ethics was set out in order to guide the activities of the media and therefore encourage professionalism as well as provide standard for judging their actions (Ayandike, 2013). Despite the time and attention given to ethical issues, our society is still riddled with different types and manner of ethical maladies. The journalist who is a product of the society is willingly or unwillingly affected by the sorry situation. One of such problems is sycophancy which is chief among the ethical problems in Nigeria. The issue of sycophancy is important to be addressed because it affects objective journalism as it is (Umeogu & Ojiakor, 2012).

Sycophancy in Nigerian mass media is outwardly most obvious in the political sphere. Majority of the mass media in Nigeria and other underdeveloped nations are owned and control by the government and, as a result, the media more often than not praise-sing the activities of government officials and government policies. This is not aligned with the ethics of the profession. Every profession is governed by some form of ethics. The ethics could be formal or informal, but are meant to guide the performance of members of the group such as journalists (Abubakar & Qaribu, 2019).

According to Umeogu and Ojiakor (2012), every member of a democratic society has the right to know; since no one wants to be fed with rubbish, be that as it may, the good thing a journalist can offer is objective reporting. No doubt, the press has been faced with all forms of ethical issues which have invariably affected what goes down to the public as news or information. Such issues include plagiarism, brown envelope, moonlighting and, of course sycophancy. The fact remains that unethical reporting result to subjective journalism of which sycophancy thrives.

The media which are supposed to be used as instruments of affirming democracy have become incapacitated based on their deliberate disobedience to the ethics of the profession (Ojomo & Akpoveta, 2019). Unprofessional practices are becoming the norm rather than the exception and many media appear to be leading the citizens in a macabre dance towards shallowness and mutual destruction (Ohaja, 2014, p. 141). It is absolutely difficult for democracy to work in Africa without media professionals (journalists) adhering to the ethics of the profession. Ethics are the guiding principles of any profession and when it is trampled upon, the aftermath is complete failure and disrespect for the particular profession.

The non-observance of the ethical precepts by journalists have led to various ethical issues of which sycophancy is prominent among them especially in this contemporary time where journalists look up to politicians and wealthy personalities for financial gains. Going by the popular saying that who pays the piper dictates the tune in such situation the journalist will be left with no option than giving unnecessary praise and becoming subjective in his report which is totally against the guidelines of the profession.



Other studies have looked at sycophancy from a general perspective however, this current study looks at the issue from the lens of political reporting. Also, from the best of the researchers' knowledge there seem to be paucity of studies on sycophancy in the study area. These gaps necessitated the need for the study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives are to:

1. Ascertain the cause of sycophancy in political reporting among journalists in Owerri metropolis
2. Determine the extent sycophancy in political reporting has affected the ethics guiding journalists in reporting
3. Identify the danger associated with sycophancy among journalists in Owerri metropolis

LITERATURE REVIEW

Journalists and Sycophancy

Since the government and politicians control the majority of the mass media in most developing nations, sycophancy appears to be most evident in Nigeria's political sector (Mukhtar & Gujbawu, 2016). Considering the performance of the press in developing nations (Amadi, 2010 citing Edeani (1993), "from one country to another is incompetence" is a typical characteristic of this performance. Sycophancy is one of the main causes of this ineptitude. Edeani (1993), as cited in Amadi (2010), claims that the bulk of Nigeria's media outlets are government-owned and carry out the apologetic function of unreservedly praising the actions of public servants and government policies.

In Nigeria, especially during electioneering campaigns and government transitions, journalists frequently act as propagandists and praise singers for wealthy and influential leaders. Information that is frequently skewed and untrue and is spread to encourage support for a person, organisation, or concept is known as propaganda. Because propaganda undermines the universal ethical ideals of truth-telling and accuracy, its propagation is extremely unethical. Sycophancy in Nigerian mass media can only be shunned if the journalists know that while it is important for them to make friends with the high and mighty in the society, especially if this enhances the performance of reportorial functions, it is professionally suicidal for them to misplace the ethics of the profession to oil their personal relationship and or friendship (Sambe, 2011). Okunna (2003 p. 67) avers that:

...Sycophancy leads to the abuse of the power of the mass media as unethical journalist use the media to confer status and legitimacy on their favourite politicians, even when they lack legitimacy and do not deserve the praise heaped upon them.

Okunna's perspective is supported by Dare (2003, pp. 32–33) as cited in Amadi (2010), who recalls that "between 1979 and 1983 many a journalist sold his soul and his craft to the highest political bidder or indeed to anyone who put up the bid." She notes that without any expectations, "government-owned media became organs of whatever political party seemed likely to control the state in which they exist."



Media Right Monitor (2001, p. 15) reports that the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) warned ten errant broadcasting stations to stop "furthering the political views" of their owner state government to the detriment of opposition views, thereby mortgaging public trust and the confidence of the citizens. This made the case of sycophancy by Nigerian journalists glaring in the current political regime. According to NBC, this behaviour deprives the public of accurate information, which journalists have a responsibility to provide (Amadi, 2010).

A peep at Ethics

Ethics code remains in the forefront of any discussion about journalism, its practice in general, rest on common human values. Ethics in journalism were formulated in a bid to set standards for the operation of media practitioners. This canon among other things stresses editorial independence, accuracy and fairness, objectivity, privacy, privilege/nondisclosure, reward and gratification, respect for minor, non-disclosure of source and ultimately, it spells out which action is right or wrong that should be exhibited by journalists (Angese et al., 2019).

Oberiri (2016) posits that journalism ethics protect the journalists' credibility and integrity which in turn bring profit to the journalists and their organizations. He believes ethics enhances media credibility and project image of the practitioners before the public. He asserts that ethical journalism enhances the news organization's legitimacy and, consequently, the public's acceptance of it. This results in financial prosperity. Journalism is what journalists sell, and they have nothing to sell if the public doesn't trust what they're reporting. If news consumers observe journalists treating the public and subjects of their coverage in an ethical manner, they are more likely to believe the journalists (Etumnu et al., 2025). According to the aforementioned, journalism ethics are what lend the media legitimacy in the eyes of the public. The public should be served by journalists by receiving factual information based on reliable sources. Ethics in public life has been a topic of discussion since Athens more than 2,500 years ago. As a guide to human behaviour, Socrates (who passed away in 399 BC) explored the meaning of abstract concepts like "good" and "justice" (Fink, 1988). For media professionals today, the idea that moral behaviour may need following one's own personal definition of right and wrong was first raised by these early ethical philosophers (Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle).

This is an indication that ethical issues is not a new phenomenon, it has been with us for long period and various disciplines have ethical standards that practitioners are expected to adhere with in conducting themselves. According to Onyebuchi et al. (2019), media ethics are the appropriate conduct of media professionals when they are performing their duties. Ethics call for responsibility from journalists and appeal to their moral conscience. They are expected to be truthful, honest, fair, courageous and impartial in gathering, reporting and interpreting information. Distortion of news is a great offence, that is why reports should be presented in such a way that news consumers will be able to distinguish between news and opinion" (Onyebuchi et al., 2019; Tayo-Garbson et al., 2019).

The scholar's point of view on gathering, reporting and interpreting information may be considered as too simple in relation to ethics in the sense that issue of ethics is all encompassing and inexhaustible because a high demand is placed on the sound judgment of journalist when



confronted with dilemma situations. This is supported by Folarin et al. (2019) that being ethical involves' moral reasoning that utilizes moral and ethical principles to guide one's action, especially, when one face with ethical dilemmas on the job.

At this point, it is convenient to state that the ethical dilemma is not as straightforward as the legal one. In contrast to the legal ramifications of such activity, the ethical implications of a journalist's actions during the information-gathering and dissemination process are implausible.

In a research conducted by Alete (2013) he identified some of the dilemmas that journalists are facing but not limited to these: Freebies, obtaining information through pretense, brown envelopes, conflict of interest, misrepresentation of facts but he failed to expatiate on how these influence journalistic practice on professionalism and societal development.

For example, it becomes inappropriate for journalists to gain information by deception or pretend, regardless of the issue at hand, if this is not a usual practice. Also, collection of freebie or brown envelop is considered as machineries to influence journalists report and should be avoided. But the question here is what if the issue revolves around investigative reporting and is of public interest in which the only way to gather information, is through pretense. Then he/she is in fix here, either to violate the ethics and serve public interest. Moreover, a journalist who is not paid for many months or remunerated poorly and offered a gift or envelopes to slant news or report is also at the point of dilemma either to take or not.

Journalists should strive to embody virtuous principles by adhering to truthfulness, fairness, objectivity, accuracy, and honesty, while safeguarding the public's right to know and protecting press freedom from both internal and external threats (Alakewe et al., 2024). The premise is that journalists must serve the public diligently by delivering fact-based and truthful information, regardless of the problems encountered, thereby adhering to the ethical standards of the profession. Media practitioners occasionally diminish journalistic ethics when performing their professional responsibilities; yet, numerous pressures and challenges inhibit journalists from acting ethically. These include inadequate compensation, deceptive managers, reticence, political influence, commercialisation, daily returns to editors from profitable assignments, and adherence to deadlines (Nkwam-Uwaoma et al., 2020). Similarly, Ghaffar et al.(2018).identified commercial interest, financial inducement, government influence or interference, social influence, racial ethnic, gender influence and religion influence as some of the reasons for unethical behaviour.

The submission of these scholars is that all these are the reasons for ethical maladies journalist involve. The work of journalists is subject to several restrictions from owners, advertising, legislation, and other sources. Codes of conduct are one method that journalists have controlled their own actions in an effort to raise ethical standards (Folarin et al., 2019). But, the fact remains that some practitioners' do not know the existence of the code, other who know do not adhere to the dictates of the code while there are some who use their initiative personally to determine what is ethical right or wrong. This may not be farfetched from Akinfeleye (2007, p. 45) that, "the codes of ethics existing currently seems to be there duly in theory, as in reality people practice the very opposite of what is written in the codes". Similar to this, the existence of



codes of ethics or conduct that are designed to serve as guidelines for media professionals does not ensure ethical behaviour because they lack mandatory powers; instead, journalists are responsible for adhering to these codes (Ferre, 2008).

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Mukhtar and Gujbawu (2016) conducted research on unethical mass media practices. The research was conducted using a qualitative approach. Only a small percentage of respondents disagreed with the data analysis, which showed that certain journalists in Kano State engage in unethical behaviour.

Similar to this, Umeogu and Ojiakor (2012) conducted research on sycophancy and objective journalism using narrative methods. Their main conclusions showed that the main causes of sycophancy are poverty, the influx of government-owned media, the lack of professional education or training of journalists, the current situation or environmental contingencies, and the political leaders' lack of experience. Amadi (2010) conducted research on the issue of underdevelopment in Nigeria and media sycophancy. Notwithstanding Nigeria's wealth of human and material resources, the study pinpointed the roots of media sycophancy and its consequences, which have thus far impeded the country's progress.

Adeyemi (2013) investigated how the public evaluates journalists' adherence to the professional code of ethics when they are delivering news and information that is full of value. Three of Western Nigeria's six states were chosen at random for the study using the survey approach. The results showed that the majority of the study's audience believed that most media outlets lacked editorial independence and that journalists were generally corrupt because they readily accepted bribes and other forms of rewards. The study suggests that in order to address the issue of unethical behaviour in the media, all parties involved in the industry must work together.

A study on sycophancy in Nigerian media structures was conducted by Abubakar and Qaribu (2019). A questionnaire was used as the research tool in the survey research approach. The results primarily demonstrated that sycophancy is one of the most pervasive ethical issues in Nigerian mass media practice, and that it clearly shows itself in politics and ethnicity. The serious consequences of sycophancy include loss of credibility and ethical negation. The study came to the conclusion that sycophancy is a cankerworm that has deeply ingrained itself into Nigerian media practices. To combat the threat of sycophancy, it was suggested that media professionals undergo professional training, corruption should be curbed, and their values should be reoriented. It was also suggested that sycophancy could be lessened with an enhanced compensation package and the eradication of corruption in Nigerian politics, particularly when journalists adopt moral behaviour.

Ojomo and Akpoveta (2019) study by examined media ethics and the durability of democracy in Africa. The study used a survey analytical assessment of the literature, which includes a review of earlier research. The report stressed that when the mass media focusses most of its stories and articles on actual political philosophy rather than sensational headlines about sex, violence, fashion, and other topics, Africa will have a stable democracy. Based on the results, it was suggested that the mass media should assist in influencing the opinions of the public towards democratic principles by informing and educating them about the actions of the government.



A research of journalists' opinions on the media and its accountability was carried out by Kaid (2006). The study's conclusions showed that respondents who received greater salaries were "very good and good" about their job and the nature of their work. A research on newspapers' adherence to ethical standards when covering election procedures was conducted by Anyadike (2013). Newspapers that are supposed to inform and educate the public about political procedures while adhering to media ethics have a history of disseminating inaccurate, partially true, and skewed information about the Nigerian election process. As a result, news events that are projected by newspapers typically do not align with how the public views the news events in question.

A research of Imo State journalists' adherence to the moral principles of fairness and balance in their coverage of the general election of 2023 was conducted by Alaekwe et al. (2024). With an average score of 3.6 (N=196), it was found that Imo State journalists have a very high level of grasp of the ethical standards of objectivity and balance in news reporting. At an average mean of 2.7 (N=196), the journalists' adherence to the ethical principles of objectivity and balance during the 2023 general election coverage was minimal.

Based on numerous studies and a growing number of media commentary aimed at addressing the issue, Murtala (2018) conducted a study on the ethical implications of collecting brown envelopes. The study found that brown envelope collection in Nigeria is constantly growing and has since established a permanent home. The study also reveals how the practice of collecting brown envelopes undermines objectivity, fairness, balance, accuracy, and credibility in reporting, which calls for criticism from a number of academics.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Social responsibility theory served as the theoretical cornerstone of our investigation. In 1956, Siebert, Peterson, and Schramm developed this theory as a spin-off of libertarian theory. According to McQuail (2010), the fundamental tenet of the philosophy was that in order to enhance their reputation, the media should acknowledge and carry out their societal responsibilities. Setting high standards for information, truth, accuracy, objectivity, and balance—and avoiding unethical acts like sycophancy—is the primary way to fulfil these commitments. The media should self-regulate in accordance with the law, established institutions, and ethical standards while adopting and carrying out these responsibilities. In addition to their employers, journalists and other media professionals should answer to society, not to politicians or famous people who can elicit flattery. In addition to being true, accurate, impartial, and balanced, an accountable media practitioner should also be free from sycophancy and corruption. Journalists would be unable to fulfil their societal responsibilities if unethical behaviour persisted. Therefore, journalists will be socially responsible even in the wake of a media environment overrun by politicians and affluent celebrities if they want to be perceived as a responsible profession with ethics as one of its virtues.

This theory is relevant to this study because it will help to explain that journalists who subscribe to the tenets of this theory would not indulge in the act of sycophancy which is against the ethics of the profession, because he knows he has a responsibility of doing what is right in the society so as to maintain good image.



METHOD

The research design used in the study was a descriptive survey. In order to make it easier to create an accurate and recognisable representation of the people who would be in the sample, this approach was chosen. Because it makes it possible to gather respondents' viewpoints and ideas regarding the issue under investigation, surveys are therefore thought to be the best tool for doing research. There are 219 registered and active journalists in this study's population. The NUJ fact sheet states that there are 219 registered journalists in Imo State. Thus, 219 Imo State journalists made up the study's population. In order to sample every component of the population, the census principle was used. In their research, Obayi et al. (2020) employed this technique to examine journalists' involvement with the Freedom of Information Act. When a community is small and has a distinct composition, it becomes feasible to research the entire group, claims Damico (2016). Because the group being studied was so small, the entire population was chosen as the sample size. A self-created questionnaire was employed as the data collection tool. The survey has thirteen items and is formatted using a Likert scale. We were able to rephrase the instrument to remove grammatical faults and ambiguity after communication professionals face-validated it and made corrections. Cronbach Alpha was used to obtain a reliability result of .71 showing the instrument is reliable. Descriptive statistics was use to present and analysed the data.

RESULTS

This section focuses on the data presentation and analysis. Out of the 219 copies of questionnaire shared 190(87%) copies were valid for the analysis. Meaning the remaining 29(13%) copies were not used because they returned invalid. Therefore the return rate stood at 87%.

Table 1: Ascertaining the cause of sycophancy in political reporting among journalists in Owerri metropolis

S/N	Items	N	X	Remark
1	Economic pressure can make journalist indulge in sycophancy	190	3.1	
2	Personal relationship with political figure can lead to sycophancy	190	3.3	
3	Fear of repelling by those in key political position can lead journalists to engage in sycophancy	190	2.8	
4	Political influence on the journalists is capable of causing sycophancy	190	3.0	
5	Shared political ideologies can also lead to sycophancy in political reporting	190	3.2	
Grand mean			3.0	Accept

The results in Table 1 above show that respondents agreed to items 1-5, with a mean range of 2.8 to 3.3. The grand mean rating of Table 1 is 3.0, which is agreeable and implies that generally all the items presented are the cause of sycophancy in political reporting among journalists in Owerri metropolis.



Table 2: The extent sycophancy political reporting has affected the ethics guiding journalists in reporting

Items	Large extent F(%)	Moderate extent F(%)	Low extent F(%)	Not sure F(%)	Total
This days journalist write to please political figures	106 (55.7%)	49 (25.7%)	22(11.5%)	13(6.8%)	190
Journalists engage in praise singing more often just to curry favour from politicians	112 (58.9%)	35 (18.4%)	17(8.9%)	26(13.6%)	190
Journalists all in the name of pleasing political figures sometimes do not write objectively as prescribed by the ethical code	96(50.5%)	55(28.9%)	21(11.0%)	18(9.4%)	190

Data from the above table 2 clearly showed that from item 1 many 106(55.7%) of the respondents reported that this days journalists write to please political figures. Also data showed that 112 (58.9%) of the respondents to a large extent confirmed that journalists engage in praise singing more often just to curry favour from politicians. Meanwhile, further data as shown in the table revealed that to a large extent, journalists all in the name of pleasing political figures, sometimes, do not write objectively as prescribed by the ethical code.

Table 3: Examine the danger associated with sycophancy among journalists in Owerri metropolis

S/N	Items	N	X	Remark
1	Sycophancy can lead to lack of true information from journalists	190	3.5	
2	It leads to loss of integrity and credibility as a result of it	190	3.2	
3	It leads to disregard for the journalistic ethical codes	190	3.0	
4	It leads to mistrust of journalistic reports	190	2.9	
5	It encourages poor criticism of government and its policies	190	3.5	
Grand mean			3.2	Accept

The results in Table 3 above show that respondents agreed to items 1-5, with a mean range of 2.9 to 3.5. The grand mean rating of Table 2 is 3.2, which is agreeable and implies that generally all the items presented are the danger associated with sycophancy among journalists in Owerri metropolis.

DISCUSSION

The responses of journalists as evident in this study go to show how serious the practice of sycophancy has been in recent times. Perhaps, the reason they engage in it may not be unconnected with the highlighted causes in Table 1. Perhaps, why this is so is because no much



attention has been given to this issue from the media houses and from the professional bodies of where these journalists are member to. The This finding corroborates with that of Umeogu and Ojiakor (2012) who found that the major causes of sycophancy are lack of experience on the part of the political leaders, prevailing situation or environmental contingencies, lack of professional education or training of journalist, influx of government owned media and poverty. Similarly, Amadi (2010) study found that ethnicity, politicisation of the media, news commercialization and poor remuneration as the cause of sycophancy. In as much these highlighted causes are causing sycophancy the ethical codes are there to guide against these but it is quite unfortunate that journalists in Owerri metropolis are still engaging in it. Furthermore, Mukhtar and Gujbawu (2016) in their study reported that journalists in Kano State practise unethically. The implication here is that if these factors remain, the chances of sycophancy in political reporting to stop will be hard and journalists who are expected to report responsibly according to the social responsibility theory recommendations will find it difficult. This finding has been able to extend knowledge by revealing that shared political ideologies with politicians could lead to sycophancy in reporting.

Evidently, as seen in table 2 it is clear that to large extent sycophancy in political reporting has affected the ethics guiding journalists in reporting. This may be as a result of no constant training or poor working condition for journalists hence their engagement in the practice. This finding agrees with the study of Abubakar and Qaribu (2019) who revealed that sycophancy in the Nigerian media structure is one of the most prevalent ethical challenges and it manifests glaringly in politics and ethnicity. Furthermore, Anyadike's (2013) study found that newspapers that are supposed to inform and educate the public about electoral processes while adhering to media ethics have a history of disseminating inaccurate, half-true, and distorted stories about the Nigerian ballot process. The ethical principles of objectivity and balance in news reporting are also highly understood by Imo State journalists, according to a study by Alaekwe et al. (2024). However, the journalists' level of adherence to these principles was low during the 2023 general election coverage. By implication of this finding, it means that sycophancy will continue to be the cog in the wheel of ethical journalism. This study has extended knowledge by showing clearly the extent to which sycophancy affects journalism especially as it concerns political reporting.

The practice of sycophancy portends great danger to the practice of journalism because it goes contrary to the ethical codes of journalism. In as much as most journalists know what it implies to engage in it, they still do it anyway at the detriment of their profession. This still boils down to poor professional training and welfare package for journalists. So, in a bid to survive the harsh reality of his environment he indulges in practice contrary to the ethical code of his profession with its attendants consequences. This finding is in tandem with that of Murtala (2018) who revealed that the ethical implications of collecting brown envelope which is unethical practice just like sycophancy leads to not observing objectivity, balance and fairness, accuracy, and credible reporting. Adding to this, the study of Amadi (2010) revealed that media sycophancy is capable of causing underdevelopment in Nigeria. A responsible journalist according to the social responsibility theory will not want to engage in sycophancy because of the dangers that are attached to it. This study has extended knowledge by providing the direct impacts of the practice of sycophancy to journalism practice especially on political reporting.



CONCLUSION

Based on the empirical evidence in this study, it has been established that sycophancy in political reporting is still prevalent, especially among journalists in Owerri metropolis, as highlighted in the study. We also concluded that, to a large extent, sycophancy in political reporting has affected the ethics guiding journalists in reporting. Also, not abiding by the ethics of the journalistic profession as a result of sycophancy portends great danger not only to the profession but also to society because their watchdog role will be seriously under question, and when such happens, it will certainly affect development. The study has the following recommendations: Firstly, journalists should be well remunerated with other attractive incentives so that they do not need to depend on political figures for survival. Secondly, journalists need to be properly trained so that they become well acquainted with the ethical codes of their profession. Thirdly, the Nigeria Union of Journalists should raise the consciousness of journalists about the dangers of engaging in sycophancy as well as, set up a sanction mechanism to curb the practice of sycophancy.

Ethical clearance

Ethical consent was sought and obtained from the respondents used in this study. They were informed that the research exercise was specifically for academic purposes, and their participation was voluntary and were notified that at any point they are willing to opt out.

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Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest that exist

Authors' Contributions

Chieme Azubuike: Writing of the initial draft and handled review of manuscript.

Emeka Williams Etumnu: Designed the methodology section also handled data curation and analysis.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets on which conclusions were made for this investigation are available on reasonable request.

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