

# An Appraisal of Citizen Journalism in Democracy and Good Governance: Focus on EndSars Protest in Nigeria

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**Abstract:** This study is entitled: “An Appraisal of Citizen Journalism in Democracy and Good Governance: Focus on EndSars Protest in Nigeria.” The aim of the study is to appraise the role of citizens Journalism in democracy and good governance with a special focus on EndSars protest in Nigeria. Anchored on the democratic participant media theory which is concerned about individual citizen’s right to access to the media. The study, incline to the quantitative approach, adopts the survey design method with data were collected through the instrument of a questionnaire which was administered on 150 respondents in Nigeria using simple random sampling method. Findings from the study reveals that citizens journalism contributed to the success of the EndSars protest in Nigeria through different ways such as constant posting of information about the protest, creating awareness about the protest, setting agenda for public discussion in the media and telling Nigerians how the government and the police have failed. Findings further reveals that through sharing of pictures and video clips of victims of police brutality, exposing atrocities committed by members of the Sars group, encouraging Nigerians on the need for police reform and encouraging Nigerians on the need to EndSars and police brutality made many citizens all over the country to join the protest. The study concludes that Citizen Journalism has become an essential part of modern-day society because it has given voice to the voiceless especially in a diversified society like Nigeria. It therefore, recommends the convention media to encourage and train the citizen journalists who can be an asset to them.

**Key Words:** Citizen Journalism, Democracy, Good Governance, EndSars and Government

## I. INTRODUCTION

The birth of new technology (internet) has brought about transformation in every face of human endeavour. The way and manner people relate and interact with one another in the technological age has changed dramatically. Unlike in the olden days where information take days or even weeks to get across a large population, now information can be past across within the twinkle of an eye, through the use of internet. The new media make information sharing to be faster, easier and especially through the social networking site such as Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook, people interact within and among themselves at their comfort without any barrier or hindrance.

According to Nwabueze (2014, p.170) social media concept refers to a 21<sup>st</sup> century phenomenon brought about the advent of the internet and World Wide Web. Nwabueze further posits that the social media are interactive web-based media which engage key players in a communication channel in defining and determining the message content. The interactive media allow users to share ideas, activities, events and interests within their individual network (Okunna and Omenuga, 2012). These interactions have made people to become news or information carries. They share information of events and happenings within and outside their environment which borders on human interest and others concerns. This practice of people gathering and reporting information is termed as citizen journalism.

Citizen journalism according to Nwabueze (2014, p.227) is the participation of ordinary citizens in news gathering and reporting. This practice is made possible by the sophistication of ICTs which make it possible for people to use their mobile phones to record events using still pictures, videos and audio of events and post them to media houses and online channels... for consumption by the general public. Citizen journalism is also known as participatory and democratic journalism (Baase, 2008). According to Nnanyelugo, Diri, and Odii (2013), the concept of citizen journalism has been variously called "public", "participatory", "democratic", and guerrilla' or "street" journalism. Bowman and Willis (2003) define this brand of journalism as “the act of a citizen, or group of citizens, playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing and disseminating news and information”, noting that “the intent of this participation is to provide independent, reliable, accurate, wide-ranging and relevant information that a democracy requires.”

This has been the preaching of libertarians who advocates for a free market place of ideas where anyone can air his or her opinion, view or idea without restriction whatsoever. The freedom of information which is the mother of all freedom as agitated by many countries of the world is also aimed at creating a free atmosphere where people can access and share information without hindrance. These have made it possible for people to participate in facilitating good governance and

democracy through their opinion, concerning government plans, policies or programmes, criticisms about government decisions, or applauding government efforts in bringing about good governance and meaningful development.

According to Udoakah, (1996) as cited in Chiakaan and Ahmad (2014) “One of the cardinal principles of democracy is the right of the citizens to be informed and have access to the market place of ideas. Underlying this principle is the thinking that citizens can only make rational choices if they have sufficient information about issues, and the alternatives available.” This is to say every government must be people oriented. It most reflect the people’s expectation on why they vote a particular leader into power. People seem to become uncomfortable and unsatisfied and impatient with any government whose programmes and decisions are not reflecting their expectation, since it is through their mandate that, the leaders came into power. As such, people want their voice to be heard, they want to contribute to what they feel is the right thing to be done to achieve meaningful development.

In this regards, a government that does not know what people say about it is bound to fail. Any responsible democratic government needs to provide adequate information to the masses about it planned policies and projects or policies already executed. This information is very vital as it makes the government not to be operating in isolation but with the masses will at heart. Government projects need the support of people for their successful executions. In fact, the entire government needs the goodwill of the people for success and continuity.

The Nigerian Police Force in recent time have been accused of human right violations, brutality, torture and excessive use of force and inhuman or degrading treatment of suspected criminals (Amnesty International, 2020). The action of the police especially SARS, was seen by many Nigerians as unprofessional which triggered and inspired the good citizens of Nigeria, especially the youths to call for a reformation of the police force. The special Anti-rubbery Squad (SARS), a unit of the Nigeria Police Force which was formed as a dedicated unit to combat armed robbery and other serious crimes in the country (Samantha and Olu, 2020). The SARS was formerly known for its active role in curtailing crime and criminal activities such as rape, am robbery, cult groups, gangsterism among others in the past. Recently, the situation has changed dramatically. SARS operative who were hardly seen by law-abiding citizens and they were quite effective in tackling particularly criminal related issues gradually became more visible in daily life, with men in plainclothes carrying sophisticated weapons in public, mounting roadblocks, stopping public and private vehicles for stop and search operations; then extorting began (Samantha and Olu, 2020). The justification of the SARS for harassing and extorting seemingly well-heeled Nigerian youth was because cyber-crime was very prevalent in Nigeria.

The outcry against SARS began as a normal discussion among groups and became even more vocal, credit to the social

media. The protest started in 2007 as a Twitter campaign using the hashtag (#ENDSARS) to demand the Nigerian government eliminate or reformed the force (Samantha and Olu, 2020). The protest became even louder after the covid19 pandemic and became an issue of discussion dominating all media houses and making headlines on newspaper pages shifting people’s attention from the covid19 outbreak. Nigerians shared their experiences through pictures and video evidence of how members of SARS were alleged to engaged in murder, theft, rape, torture, unlawful arrest, humiliation, unlawful detention, extrajudicial killings, and extortion through social media sites such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter among others. It is against this backdrop that the study seeks to appraise citizen journalism in democracy and good governance with a special focus on EndSars Protest in Nigeria.

#### *Problem Statement*

The tremendous boost of new media technology has given birth to the phenomenon of citizen journalism which has become an integral part of modern day societies. Many citizens who had formerly been marginalized and silenced by the government and many who’s voice was not heard has been provided with a great opportunity to participate in a democratic dispensation. The advent of new technology has made the traditional media lose their monopoly over the news. People have now become news creators. They take part in information gathering and dissemination. This simply means that members of the public are no longer helpless passive consumers of the news; they are now content creators (Nnanyelngo *et al.*, 2013). This has made democracy and governance participatory. Through blogs or social media sites, citizen journalists have broken stories about political corruption, police brutality, kidnapping, rape, and other issues of local and national concern without hindrance. Protests against police brutality previously had arisen in Nigeria, as advocates and researchers have documented extensive evidence of human rights abuses by SARS officers and other NPF personnel. This made top gears of the protest which was champion using social media especially Twitter and Facebook, which give people the opportunity to post, comment and share videos or images of police brutality and most importantly, to show Nigerians how the government and the police have failed in their duty, this formed the crux of the study. Social networking has become a common international trend that has spread its reach to almost every corner of the world. The use of social media sites has exploded and evolved into an online platform where people create content, share it fast and within a short possible time. This study, therefore, seeks to appraise the role of citizens Journalism in democracy and good governance with a special focus on EndSars protest in Nigeria.

#### *Objectives of the Study*

The study is carried out to achieve the following objectives:

- i. To find out how citizen journalism contributed to the Endsar protest in Nigeria.
- ii. To ascertain the significant role of citizen journalism in mobilizing Nigerians for the Endsars protest using the social media.
- iii. To determine the effectiveness of citizen in promoting democracy and good governance.
- iv. To identify the challenges facing Citizen journalism in Nigeria.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Citizen Journalism, Democracy and Good Governance in Nigeria*

Free access to information in any given society is a key requirement for the growth and development of such a society. A well-informed society is a prerequisite for good governance. That is to say, any government that is not informed about the needs and aspirations of the masses is bound to fall. Chiakaan and Tsefa (2021), posit that “this information is very vital as it makes government not to be operating in isolation but with the masses’ will. Government projects need the support of people for their successful executions. In fact, the entire government needs the goodwill of people for success and continuity. When people are kept in the dark about the operations of government in their land, it is bad and undemocratic; it makes that government unpopular and democratically illegal in the eyes of the masses.

Today, Communication is becoming more individual and people’s opinions are being shaped less and less by the media. Communication theory explains that there is one information sender, and there are media and information receivers. Nowadays, the recipients themselves have become senders. They have become disseminators of information and, of course, opinions. There is sufficient opportunity in this scenario, however, when scrutinized more critically from the standpoint of what is true, the truth here can be a bit cloudy.

Independent media do not only provide information but also critically question and reveal and, in doing so, make governmental action more transparent to the general public. Unprivileged social groups are especially able to express themselves and participate in politics through independent media. Freedom of expression is necessary for a free, democratic civil society. The Former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher once said it quite ominously, “the press is the artillery of freedom.” New media like the internet or mobile communication provide many new possibilities, quantitatively as well as qualitatively, especially in developing countries. Twitter and YouTube, for example, enable us to express ourselves in public and gain access to information and public opinions. New media open the doors for participatory journalism. They give a voice to those who previously went unheard, those who had to remain in the shadows. This phenomenon has been seen in action in Iran, where individual Iranians published information via Twitter, which the Iranian government could no longer ignore. An

audience of more than 20,000 people was reached and the mainstream media used the Twitter news role of citizen journalism in strengthening societies to report on the situation in Iran at a global level. Twitter created a means for evading censorship. It is especially new media that allow for new forms of civil protest. New media enable global access to information and foster participation, transparency and thus democracy.

However, there are always two sides of a coin. New media have generated a new information overload. We are all confronted with the overwhelming challenge of filtering relevant information out of this overflow of news. People need a lifeline in this flood of information. They need media literacy, something which needs to be promoted.

### *Role of Citizen Journalism in the EndSars Protest in Nigeria*

According to Bruce (2011) Social media appear to be making inroads into emergency management for a variety of reasons. For one, accurate, reliable, and timely information is vital for public safety before, during, and after an incident. As people continue to embrace new technologies, the use of social media will likely increase. Moreover, as its popularity grows, a significant number of people will likely choose social media as their main source of information. Nigerians all over were sharing of video of the Special Anti-Robbery Squared (Known as SARS) officials killing a man on social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter. This led to widespread protests across Nigeria. Several calls were being made to the Nigerian government on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for an end to SARs and their unjust activities, but the Nigerian government paid little attention to these online agitations. Many Nigerians therefore began to share stories of their experiences and that of their families and friends on social media which kept fueling the protests. The internet was flooded with posts about other injustices and corruption that have plagued Nigeria for years and demanded for immediate change.

The #EndSARS movement dates back to 2017, when Nigerian youths used the hashtag to share their experiences on violence and assault perpetrated by the defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). However, the movement only revived in early October 2020, after a video emerged of police officers thought to be members of the SARS unit, allegedly killing an unarmed young man. This prompted Nigerian youths to troop to Twitter, calling on the Federal Government to dissolve the notorious police unit and effect police reforms, with the hashtag, #EndSARS, #Endpolicebrutality, and many others. The hashtag trended continuously on Twitter as Nigerian youths aired their pains and experiences online.

According to Emmanuel (2020) Twitter only commands 21% usage of Nigeria’s 82 million internet subscribers. Facebook is leading with 55.94% while Instagram and Youtube are at 5.02% and 3.72% respectively. Twitter is by far the most used social media platform for Nairametrics accounting for more than 90% of page views and visits. Twitter is the most

effective channel for social movements because relationships on the platform are not personalized to fit with the real-life connections of its users.” The feed is not dictated by personal interests or contacts to the same extent as other platforms. The user also has more control over his Twitter feed due to the democratization of popular topics. Twitter achieves this through its trending vertical where the most popular topics within a locality are ranked. This serves to draw more people into a digital version of marketplace chatter. This enables the platform to be better suited for the nurturing of a herd mentality within the society. This is why Twitter as a platform is more socially and politically significant than its counterparts. Twitter is not for very personal connections compared to Facebook, and also gives its users more powers to control what goes on their news feed through the democratization and localization of trending topics, this gives users more information on their surroundings.

#### *Challenges Faced by Citizen Journalism in Nigeria*

Citizen Journalism is passing through its evolutionary stage in different parts of the world and is facing a lot of problems, pressures and criticisms. With the advent of citizen journalism practice, journalism is no longer restricted to the trained professionals. The Internet and its associated multimedia technologies such as cell phones and video cameras have expanded the frontiers of journalism practice to include practically everybody that has access to these technologies. In Nigeria, citizen journalism has not had a strong footing due to numerous challenges therein.

Adelabu (2008) notes that “the challenges facing Nigerian journalism is how to redefine the old model of journalism that sees the audience as an empty receptacle waiting to be filled with information selected by omniscience editorial and sees the consumers as those whose only interaction with the media is to buy what is sold or not (except on few occasions when the audience had the privilege of writing a letter, or opinion article which must be at the mercy of the editor to publish or dump in the refuse basket).” Though, most of the media houses in Nigeria are already going online, some still find it too difficult to manage online publications. It is important to state at this point that online journalism practice has been a problem to many media organisations in Nigeria and they are not doing much to brace up with the challenges posed by the internet and multimedia technology.

However, since the media find it difficult to meet up with the current challenges of using the internet, most citizens who are computer literates are beginning to make judicious use of the net. Some have gone as far as opening their websites while some others have open blogs for themselves. To make sure that these sites and blogs are functioning effectively, some of the owners are posting materials online for others to read. Some net users unconsciously post materials that are newsworthy.

Moreover, citizen journalists usually do not obey any code of ethics which is a requirement for the mainstream media.

Itule & Anderson (2000) have talked about the code of ethics and responsibility for journalists as a very serious issue. They noted, “A code of ethics hanging on the wall is meaningless; a code of ethics internalized within the journalist and guiding his actions is what is meaningful.

Good Ethical values are acquired all thorough life from many sources, such as church, family and friends. Reporters cannot separate the ethics of journalism from the values they hold as individuals. Considering the ethical boundaries in practical journalism citizens’ involvement in the news process sometimes produce ambiguity with their shared contents. Many reports of citizen journalists are against media ethics and the basic norms of society. Lack of proper training is yet another problem of Citizen Journalism and that is why their reports do not fulfill the basic journalistic requirements.

### III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on the mass communication theory of democratic participant media theory - developed by Dennis McQuail during the 80’s. The theory is, according to McQuail (1987, p.121) as cited in Chiakaan and Ahmed (2014) associated in the main with the more developed liberal democracies but it lacks full legitimation as yet and is yet to be precisely incorporated into the operating norms of any specific media institutions. Needless to add that an appeal to its tenets is discernible in some of the developing societies too.

Democratic-Participant theory reflects public disillusionment with its predecessors including the libertarian and social responsibility theories because they failed to deliver social benefits expected of them. It reflects the public “reaction against the commercialisation and monopolisation of privately owned media and the centralism and bureaucratisation of public broadcasting institutions, established according to the norms of social responsibility” (McQuail, 1983, p.98; Kunczick, 1988, p.49). The theory tend to say: “go back to your roots!” concerning to the media, the theory calls for greater attention to “the needs, interests and aspirations of the receiver in a political society” (Kunczick, 1988).

In the place of monopolisation, it calls for pluralism; in place of centralism, it advocates decentralisation and localism. It insists that media conglomerates be replaced or at least juxtaposed with small-scale media enterprises. It calls for “horizontal” in place of “top-down” communication, a concern for feedback in social-political communication and an acknowledgement of the feedback to realise the “completed communication circuit”.

This theory is relevant to this study because it is concerned about individual citizen’s right to access to the media. On the other hand, the study focuses on the citizen’s participation in information gathering and dissemination. Therefore, this theory provides a forum where citizens can have access to

information gathering and dissemination and participate in the governance of their society.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the survey design method. Data were collected through the instrument of a questionnaire which was administered on 150 respondents in Nigeria using simple random sampling method. The respondents were selected from the tertiary institutions in Jalingo. The reasons being because of the fact that apart from their educational level, and being more actively involved in the use of social media, they appeared to be more knowledgeable about governance in Nigeria and the circumstances that led the EndSars protest.

V. DATA PRESENTATION

Table 1: How Citizen Journalism Contributed to the Success of EndSars Protest

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Constant posting of information about the protest	52	34.7
Creating awareness about the protest	31	20.7
Setting agenda for public discussion in the media	20	13.3
Telling Nigerians how the government and the police have failed	47	31.3
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 2 seeks to determine whether citizen journalism contributed to the success of EndSars protest in Nigeria. Here, out of the 150 sampled respondents, 52(34.7%) said constant posting of information about the protest, 31(20.7%) said creating awareness about the protest, 20(13.3%) said setting agenda for public discussion in the media while 47(31.3%) said telling Nigerians how the government and the police have failed. This suggests that citizen journalism contributed in different ways to the success of the EndSars protest in Nigeria as shown by responses from respondents in table 2.

Table 2: The Role of Citizen Journalist in Mobilizing Nigerians for the EndSars Protest using Social Media

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Through sending of pictures and video clips of victims of Police brutality	49	32
By exposing atrocities committed by members of the Sars group	30	20
Encouraging Nigerians on the Need for Police reform	37	24.7
Encouraging Nigerians on the need to EndSars and police brutality	34	22.7
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 2 above shows the significant role of citizen journalist in mobilizing Nigerians for the EndSars protest using social media. 49(32.7%) responses indicate through sharing of

pictures and video clips of victims of police brutality, 30(20%) said through exposing atrocities committed by members of the Sars group, 37(24.7%) said encouraging Nigerians on the need for police reform, while 34(22.7%) also said encouraging Nigerians on the need to EndSars and Police brutality. These suggest that there is significant role played by citizens journalist in mobilizing Nigerians for the EndSars protest using social media.

Table 3: Whether citizen journalism can promote democracy and good governance in Nigeria

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
It Allows citizens to participate in governance	27	18
It serves as a voice to the voiceless and marginalizes	35	23.3
It Allows citizens to air their views and opinion	50	33.3
It Allows citizens to participate in discussion making	38	25.3
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Data in Table 3 above shows why respondents feel citizen journalism can promote democracy and good governance in Nigeria. Responses from respondents indicate that it allows citizens participate in governance 27(18%), it serves as the voice to the voiceless and marginalizes 35(23.3%), it allow citizens to air their views and opinion 50(33.3%) and it allows citizens participate in decision making 38(25.3%) respectively. This suggests that there are reasons why respondents feel citizen journalism can promote democracy and good governance in Nigeria as indicated by different responses from respondents.

Table 4: How effective is citizen journalism in promoting democracy and governance

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Highly Effective	49	32.7
Moderately Effective	61	40.7
Not Effective at all	40	26.7
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4 seeks to ascertain how effective is citizen journalism in promoting democracy and good governance is. Data show that 49(32.7%) said highly effective, 61(40.7%) said moderately effective, and 40(26.7%) said not effective at all. These suggest that citizen journalism is moderately effective in promoting democracy and good governance as shown by the majority 40.7% responses.

Table 5: Challenges Facing Citizen Journalism in Nigeria

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of technological gadgets available for citizens	40	26.7
Difficulty in accessing the internet	26	17.3

Lack of knowledge of the internet (social media)	37	24.7
High cost of using the internet	17	11.3
Fear of the unknown	30	20
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 5 aimed to identify challenges facing citizen journalism in Nigeria. Here, out of the 150 sampled respondents, 40(26.7%) indicate lack of technological gadgets available for citizens, 26(17.3%) identify difficulty in accessing the internet, whereas 37(24.7%) said lack of knowledge of the internet (social media). However, 17 amounting to 11.3% and 30 representing 20% of the sampled respondents indicate the high cost of using the internet and fear of the unknown as challenges facing citizen journalism in Nigeria. This simply suggests that there are numerous challenges facing citizen journalism in Nigeria as identity by respondents in the study.

## VI. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Analysis of data in Table 1 unraveled that citizens journalism contributed to the success of the EndSars protest in Nigeria through different ways such as constant posting of information about the protest, creating awareness about the protest, setting agenda for public discussion in the media and telling Nigerians how the government and the police have failed. This shows that citizen journalism has come to stay in Nigeria considering the tremendous boost of new media technology has given birth to the phenomenon which has become an integral part of modern day societies. Through blogs or social media sites, citizen journalists have broken stories about political corruption, police brutality, kidnapping, rape, and other issues of local and national concern without hindrance.

Notwithstanding, citizen journalism was found to play a significant role in mobilizing Nigerians for the EndSars protest using social media. Findings in Table 2 reveal that through sharing of pictures and video clips of victims of police brutality, exposing atrocities committed by members of the Sars group, encouraging Nigerians on the need for police reform and encouraging Nigerians on the need to EndSars and police brutality made many citizens all over the country to join the protest. This shows that citizen journalism has not only come to stay, but if adequately utilizes can lead to participatory democracy that will produce good governance. This was demonstrated in the outcome of the protest when the Nigerian Government lead by President Muhammadu Buhari announced the disbandment of Special Anti-Rubbery Squared (SARS) on October, 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 following the incessant outcry and persistence of Nigerians calling on the government to end SARS.

Due to the significant role of citizen journalism in promoting democracy and good governance in Nigeria, the majority of the respondents agrees that citizen journalism can promote democracy and good governance in Nigeria. Finding in Table

3 also reveals that citizen journalism allows citizen to participate in good governance and decision making among others. Further majority of the respondents 40.7% in Table 4 agrees that citizen journalism is moderately effective in promoting democracy and good governance. This is true because a well-informed society is a prerequisite for good governance; any government that is not informed about the needs and aspirations of the masses is bound to fall. Effective communication between the government and the governed, in this regard in very important as it makes government to achieve its plans and programmes.

However, even though citizen journalism plays a crucial role in every society, there is no doubt that there are some bottlenecks to its acceptance and operation. This is not limited to this study as finding in Table 5 revealed some challenges facing citizen journalism in Nigeria to include but not limited to lack of technological gadget available for citizens 26.7%, difficulty in accessing the internet 17.3%, lack of knowledge of the internet (social media) 24.7%, high cost of using the internet 11.3% and fear of the unknown 20% respectively. These findings agree with the findings of Anorue, Obayi, and Onyebuchi (2015) who posits that there are challenges faced by most citizens in the practice of citizen journalism. These include difficulty in access to the internet, computer illiteracy, high cost of “surfing” and internet, the prevalence of defamatory statements and the discouragement of professionalism, with 64.3% of the respondents noting that the high cost of surfing the net constituted one of the greatest challenges of citizen journalism practice in the country. This was followed by computer illiteracy which constituted 61.3%.

Shading more light on the ongoing discussion, Etika, (2019) asserts that citizen Journalism is passing through its evolutionary stage in different parts of the world and is facing a lot of problems, pressures and criticism. In citizen journalism, we listen to more and more voices but more voices in the public arena do not necessarily add to a more lively democracy. The decisive question is: how do people or companies best serve them and not only in the World Wide Web. Illiteracy, poverty and the non-availability of the internet and other new technology are yet a big hurdle in the development of Citizen Journalism. Citizen Journalism does not represent all of the citizens rather it represents only a limited class of citizens.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Citizen Journalism has become an essential part of modern-day society because it has given voice to the voiceless especially in a diversified society like Nigeria. The advent of new technology has made people become part and parcel of news gathering and dissemination. With the help of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp Nigerians were able to reach out to the world and the government, uncovering the atrocities that were carried out by the SARs and how the Nigerian government has failed in their duty to protect the citizens. It was also utilized to mobilise Nigerians, especially the youths who turn out

massively and protest against police brutality, harassment, and torture of well-meaning Nigerians. The study revealed that citizen journalists played a crucial role in the success of the protest which has never been recorded in the history of Nigeria, as the outcome of the protest leads to the banning of SARs in Nigeria. Even though, there have been a lot of questions raised about the credibility of citizen journalism compare to the mainstream media, one cannot overemphasize its potentials in the development of Nigeria.

### VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings by the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Convention media should encourage and train the citizen journalists who can be an asset to them. They can complement the traditional media organizations in obtaining the best quality news stories.
2. There should be a proper synergy between citizen journalists and professional journalists to ensure effective news gathering in the society. This can be possible through mutual cooperation and collaboration of the two types of journalism, this can produce the best results. Both should not be taken as rival rather they should complement each other.
3. Effective mechanism should be put in place by government and technological experts that can checkmate fake news and misdemeanor of citizen journalists who deliberately report fake news to mislead the public.

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