Examining the Practice of Investigative Journalism among Journalists in Kano State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Journalists require autonomy, flexibility and credibility to investigate issues that may be dangerous to their safety. As 'watchdogs', their actions may offend groups or individuals, with repercussions for their personal and institutional safety. Their levels of vulnerability may be higher in situations of violent conflicts and terrorism. However, irrespective of the circumstances, journalists have to fulfil their professional mandate of informing and educating the society through reporting. The objectives of the study are to find out if journalists in Kano practice investigative journalism and to find out the risks involved in the practice of investigative journalism. This study is anchored on the Occupational Safety Theory. The study adopted the positivist paradigm that subscribes to the idea of quantitative method. In this context, survey method was employed using questionnaire as an instrument of data collection. The population of the study consists of all registered journalists in Kano State. Thus, a population of 380 registered journalists in Kano was clustered into radio, television and newspaper from which the respondents were randomly selected. From the theoretical postulation, occupation is the mechanism by which individuals demonstrate the use of their capacities by achievements of value and worth to their society and the world. The study found that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that journalists in Kano practice investigative journalism. Again, there is risk involved in the practice of investigative journalism in Kano. It is only by their activities that journalists can demonstrate what they are or what they hope to be. The study concludes that investigative journalism plays a vital role in checkmating and holding government accountable to the people. It was recommended that government, media organisations and civil society strengthen protective measures, provide adequate resources and create an enabling environment that safeguards journalists in Kano State to enhance the consistent practice of investigative journalism.

Keywords: Investigative, Journalism, Journalists, Practice and Risk

Introduction

Journalists require autonomy, flexibility and credibility to investigate issues that may be dangerous to their safety. As 'watchdogs', their actions may offend groups or individuals, with repercussions for their personal and institutional safety. Their levels of vulnerability may be higher in situations of violent conflicts and terrorism. However, irrespective of the circumstances, journalists have to fulfil

their professional mandate of informing and educating the society through reporting (Pate & Idris, 2017). In Kano State, investigative journalism has manifested in several notable cases where journalists exposed corruption, abuse of office and social injustices despite the risks involved. For instance, local reporters have investigated mismanagement of public funds in education and healthcare projects, revealing cases where resources meant for schools, hospitals and social welfare were diverted. For example, the online site, *Daily Nigerian* released video recordings of alleged bribery of former Kano State Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje by contractors in the Jaafar Jaafar bribery videos. This led to a legislative inquiry and generated discussions about corruption. Additionally, investigations into the Kano State Independent Electoral Commission's (KANSIEC) misappropriation revealed that officials allegedly transferred more than ₦1 billion from KANSIEC to a private company as payment for ad hoc electoral staff, despite the fact that payments had already been made through official banking channels.

Increasing evidence exists on threats and assaults as well as survival techniques among journalists globally. The President of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Boumelha (2016) lamented that, "the world is becoming more dangerous for journalists. Around 2700 journalists were killed in the past 25 years; an average of two journalists per week". Ten countries have been listed at the top as regards censoring the media and media professionals in 2015. These are: Eritrea, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Iran, China, Myanmar and Cuba. Imprisonment, repressive laws and restrictions of access to the Internet remain the most prevalent forms of intimidation and harassment against journalists (CPJ, 2015).

In 2015 alone, about 105 journalists were killed on duty worldwide, while many more were threatened, imprisoned or kidnapped as reprisals for their work (Yar'Adua & Msughter, 2023). The deaths occurred across countries. For instance, five journalists were killed each in Iraq, Brazil, Bangladesh, South Sudan and Yemen. From the 105 killed in 2015, 40 per cent were killed by Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab and Islamic State. More than two-thirds of the total was singled out for murder (Beiser, 2015). Similarly, the 2012 global statistics on murdered journalists showed that 63 per cent and 50 per cent of those killed covered politics and war, respectively (CPJ, 2015). Evidently, violence against journalists and repression of freedom of expression as a form of human right violation are widespread and occur globally, particularly considering that about 2,432

journalists were jailed during the past 15 years, of which 199 were jailed in 2015 across the world.

Investigative journalism is a core ingredient of modern-day journalism and indispensable in any modern democracy. Journalists investigate wars, police brutality, Niger-Delta restiveness, tax evasion, political activities, disasters, frauds of Nigerian variants (e.g. Gen Chris Alli alleged financial profligacy. Alli was alleged to have spent over three billion naira in four months and Olabode George, former Nigerian Ports Chairman, alleged to have misappropriated over 84 billion naira). Journalists investigate unfathomable falling standards of living and enigmatic unabated inflations and so on. Journalists also investigate government activities like the handover of the BAKASSI peninsula to Cameroon, on 14th August, 2008.

In a way, all stories are investigative stories and many scholars agree to that. Aondover et al. (2024) state they are so because they require research, digging, interviewing and writing. Also, all reporters are investigators who are trained to ask questions, uncover information and write the most complete stories possible. Thus, some reporters, however, concentrate solely on investigations of wrong doing. They deal with reporting adversary relationships that are usually not found in beat reporting or other in-depth coverage. These reporters are trying to ferret out well-guarded information from often-hostile sources.

If a journalist has a primary duty to seek hidden facts, certainly, the journalist is of an investigating stock. The investigative journalist is a lid blower, who opens up a can of worms to the despair of the authorities. Oluyemi et al. (2025) explained the essence of investigative reporting through staff reflections, noting that their task is to uncover, by every possible means, the vital and significant information readers need to understand the immense complexity of the federal government. They emphasized that investigative reporting is not only the foundation but also the sole justification for the constitutional guarantee of press freedom (Aondover et al., 2024). Journalists play an essential task in providing the public with information. Journalistic safety of media workers has become a subject of discussion on press freedom and the working condition of reporters following the increasing attacks and dangerous development in the media scene. It has become a preoccupation with journalism professional bodies (Yusuf, 2013). The journalistic profession is indispensable for an open and free society. This is because, to get this information journalists have to get to where the events take place. This however, can jeopardize their safety in many cases.

Independent journalism practice is vital in any democratic society. It drives the right to hold and express opinions and the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, as defined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It contributes to ensuring transparency and accountability in the conduct of public affairs and other matters of public interest. It also enables individuals to participate fully, actively and meaningfully in the affairs of society (Aondover & Abba, 2017).

Also, regional organizations have contributed to standard-setting and awareness raising and have established specific mechanisms tasked with promoting and protecting the right to freedom of expression with the safety of journalists as a major concern. These include the African Union, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Council of Europe, European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Organization of American States.

Journalists are often and increasingly have become, the target of harassment, intimidation and violence (UNESCO, 2015). Such attacks include threats to them and members of their families, expulsion, unlawful or arbitrary arrest and detention, abduction, torture, sexual violence and murder. Harassment is also frequent, where journalists are tried on false grounds of espionage, subversion, threat to national security or terrorism, or where slander, libel and defamation laws are used inappropriately. The purpose of such attacks is often to silence journalists who investigate, document and report on sensitive issues, such as human rights violations and abuses, environmental degradation, corruption, organized crime, drug trafficking, public crises or protests. Journalists are at risk both in and outside the context of armed conflict and both state and non-state actors commit attacks on journalists and media workers. As such, the attacks on journalists are not only an attack on the individuals concerned, but also on freedom of expression and democracy (Aondover et al, 2017). Hence, there is the need for the articulation and institutionalization of that specific protection for journalists.

Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the practice of investigative journalism among journalists in Kano State. The study set to achieve the following objectives:

i. To determine the practice of investigative journalism among journalists in Kano State.

ii. To identify the risks involved in the practice of investigative journalism among journalists in Kano State.

Literature Review

Ovey et al. (2025) evaluated the effectiveness, difficulties and opportunities for investigative journalists to advance press freedom in Nigeria between 2011 and 2025 in order to determine the influence of the Freedom of Information Act on investigative journalism. The study is qualitative because it used secondary data and is based on the agenda-setting and social responsibility theories. Although there are numerous obstacles preventing investigative journalism from operating smoothly, it was found that the FOI Act has had a significant impact on the field. The full implementation of the Act is being impeded by problems including government bureaucracy and institutional impediments. Although the FOIA has created a legal framework that gives investigative journalists a lot of opportunities to obtain public information, the researchers came to the conclusion that Nigeria's implementation of the law is still insufficient because of a number of issues, including limited access, threats and a lack of institutional support.

Aondover et al. (2024) observed that investigative journalism in Nigeria faces numerous contextual issues that influence its effectiveness and the quality of reporting. These challenges can be categorized into political, economic, social and professional dimensions. Investigative journalists often face intimidation, harassment and arbitrary arrests by government authorities. Nigeria's laws, such as the Cybercrime Act, are sometimes used to suppress critical reporting. Despite constitutional guarantees, press freedom is often undermined by restrictive regulations and informal pressures. Investigative journalists working on issues related to corruption, terrorism, or organized crime may face direct threats to their safety. The authors maintained that media outlets are frequently underfunded and journalists may lack the resources to conduct thorough investigations, travel to relevant locations, or access key information. Moreover, media owners may have their own political or economic interests, which may affect editorial independence and discourage deep investigative work. They argued that many media organizations are owned by political elites or business moguls, which can lead to biased reporting and self-censorship to protect the owners' interests.

Asemah (2012) states that investigative journalism is increasingly playing a crucial role in our daily lives. The advancement and maintenance of a nation's democratic institutions and way of life, as well as its ability to spur equitable development, depend heavily on investigative journalism. Therefore, the study

focused on using investigative journalism to reduce corruption in Nigeria in order to promote development at all levels. Focus groups are used as a method of gathering data in this study. Investigative journalism is vital to Nigeria's fight against corruption, which will ultimately result in sustainable development, according to the evidence collected and analysed. The results indicate that the press can play a significant role in bolstering democratic governance, raising awareness and preventing abusive government authority and corrupt activities. According to the findings, there are a few things that make investigative journalism in Nigeria less successful. Based on the results, the study concluded that although investigative journalism is essential to combating corruption in Nigeria, its application is somewhat limited.

Irfan and Brooten (2016) conducted a study and in-depth interview method was used and the scope was on the displaced sampled population that was sampled through the technique of purposive technique which made the outcome to be qualitative. Among the findings of the study were the prevalence of culture of impunity and two kinds of threats to the safety of journalists which are direct and indirect. The population of the study age between 30-35years with 4-12years working experience. However, the study was male dominated with no single female involved as part of the sampled population of the study.

Most of literature in the area of safety journalism placed the blames on the perpetrators of journalists' safety, however Nohrstedt and Ottosen (2017) in their study made a critical analysis on whether journalist or media in general is doing it fourth estate function in war journalism. They found that media especially international media are not doing their neutral job rather they are biased in reporting war parties. They enumerate five points with clear examples: humanitarian military interventions that transform into regime change, without a UN mandate, are not analysed regarding their legality; U S invasion of Iraq; extra-judicial killings are being described as legal; killing of Qaddafi; military attacks on civilians are selectively reported and sometimes ignored or excused; in some cases, the mainstream media claim competence to define an act or a situation as just ad bellum and killing of journalists is underreported and not put in context.

In a related study, Hughes and Ramirez (2016) in their study used survey of journalists working in 136 media outlets, randomly selected to reflect the national news media landscape. The research aimed to contribute to knowledge about the impact of violence on journalism in Mexico and contributes to knowledge about

the general condition of journalists working in an unsafe context globally. The population of the study consists of 377 professional journalists which were selected within the country. The findings of the study show that while almost all journalists reported paying greater attention to accuracy when a story was potentially sensitive, about two third of the journalists within the scope of the research (67%) reported having engaged in self-censorship as a precaution to reduce risk. Result also shows that journalists do retire from street reporting which is the next most prevalent measure as 64% had engaged in this behaviour followed by adherence to company censorship policies by 57.3%. Two more precautionary measures followed in frequency as revealed by the study: hiding information from suspicious or untrustworthy people in the respondent's own newsroom accounted 50% and publishing without byline or credit in one's own media outlets was 41%.

In an open-ended question on reporting in an unsafe environment, as well as steps to safeguard family, a total of 89 responses mentioning 126 different practices were categorized into 12 types among which safe-guarding technology to avoid being monitored, removing Identity Card to avoid being identified, establishing personal security protocols and getting safety training, changing personal routines and curtailing social life to protect self and families. The study found mistrust reported towards key institutions in charge of safeguarding journalists' safety and prosecuting their attackers was very high, only 6% of journalists in the said study voiced high levels of trust in police and 10% in judiciary.

The study empirically demonstrates that physical risk and work-related threats curtail the monitoring function of the press. One limitation of the study was lack of comprehensive lists of journalists or media outlets which left the researcher to developed one for the study. The study concluded that in Mexico, journalists used one of the most frequent risk reduction practices by removing sensitive news topics from public sphere. The study recommended greater protections and an end to impunity for anti- press crimes based on harm caused to democracy, development and fundamental human rights.

Arukhdvan (2016) conducted a study using interview as the primary method of data collection from journalists with a purposive random sampling technique as the technique of selecting the population of the study. Part of the results of the study was the discovery of different actors and various forms of threats; among the actors include editors, managers and owners while the various forms include intimidation, harassment and threat of firing, demotion and personal attack. The

study revealed that journalists faced different forms of safety issues, ranging from threats to their personal or family safety, employment (income generation) to information sources safety. 46% of the respondents in the study were worried about their personal safety and 27% feared for their family's safety. Another 40% frightened about employment safety because it is the source of their livelihood. More than half of the respondents 54% had faced threats at one time during their professional lives and more than half of the respondents in the study indicated that they faced some threats.

The study also confirmed that each of the threats affects the journalists in the different manners. 47% said that their mental stress had increased while 40% of the respondents felt that their physical health had been affected. 37% said their work performance level had gone down and that they could not concentrate on their work. About 33% were affected by loss of promotion or bonus while few persons had been dismissed from their jobs. The study concluded that many journalists working in India face internal threats rather than external threats.

Sparre (2016) conducted exploratory research on 78 reports of violations of media freedom or personal safety of sports journalists. The empirical data consist of 78 different reports of violations of the media freedom or personal safety of the sports journalists in the period from 2010-2016 and the reports were collected from a number of different sources. The findings of the study indicated that fans emerged as one of the key perpetrators of violation of journalists' freedom of expression. Most of the incidents took place in connection with football and involved physical assaults and attacks on journalists and/or their property as well as verbal or digital threats of violence or death. Furthermore, the findings indicated that when it comes to protection of sports journalists, it is important to pay special attention to understanding in what ways emotions affect and drive how fans, athletes and sports officials behave towards sports journalism. The research concluded that sports journalists are subjected to threats against media freedom and personal safety from perpetrators who belong to a fairly wide range of stakeholders in the sports circle such as fans, athletes, sports officials and international sports federations.

Jamil et al. (2016) conducted a study with survey method and institutionalism theory as the theoretical discourse. The findings of the study show that journalists in Pakistan work in an unsafe institutional environment where different threats to safety affect their routine work and the overall quality of journalism in the country. Similarly, another outcome of the study indicated that financial, physical, psychological, social and emotional threats affect their daily work of information

gathering and dissemination as well as freedom of expression. Further results from the research have indicated that investigative journalists or journalists who inclined to reporting sensitive issues like crime, political issues and corruption are more likely to encounter threats on their professional and personal safety. The study also reveals that increased pressure decreases the willingness and opportunity to conduct investigative journalism and some respondents noted that making ethical sacrifices in exchange for safety is becoming usual.

The available literature however, pointed out that there is massive awareness on the safety of journalism in the society. This coincided with the UNESCO's document in 2015 about journalism safety which also reveals that the level of awareness on journalism safety is increasing. However, the existing literature tend to focus on the importance of safety of journalists in the society. Thus, the study intends to cover the missing gap since the available literature fails to address the reason behind the attacks, typology of the attack on journalists, the nature and consequences of the attack on the safety of journalists, the media organization and the society at large.

Unaegbu et al. (2016) conducted a study and survey was used as the method and the instrument of data collection was questionnaire. The basic aim of the study is to find out if there are differences with regard to safety issue among male and female journalists and why male journalists remain top of the list of victims. The findings of the study revealed that 74% of the respondents indicated that they have faced threats in the discharge of their journalistic responsibility and 26% indicated otherwise. The findings of the study reveals that safety issues with regard to journalists within the jurisdiction of the research were more of physical safety challenges like assault, harassment, verbal or physical attacks, arrest by state actors and even detention than digital challenges. The findings of the study also reveal that those in charge of law and order are also responsible in the threats and impunity against journalists. The findings of the study also reveals that safety issue is a challenge that both male and female journalists faced in their routine job, for instance, issues like confiscation of working tools, arrest and detention by security agencies, physical attacks by state and non-state actors. However, female journalists frequently faced sexual harassment and intimidation while male journalists usually faced physical attacks. To keep the society informed and educated which is the fundamental role of journalists, the study recommended that journalists deserve a special protection from the society as a whole.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Occupational Safety Theory which was founded by scholars like Marx and Wilem in Aondover et al., (2022) Occupational Safety Theory is a central aspect of the human experience. In developing a theory of the human need for occupation an exploration of occupational evolution as well as the biological and the socio-cultural aspects of occupational behaviour is necessary. Therefore, this study explores the proposition that although in most instances, the conception, expression and execution of occupation is unique and motivated by socio-cultural values and beliefs as well as the need to engage in purposeful occupation is innate and related to human survival.

As such, many animals possess qualities and characteristics once thought unique to humans, which is not surprising as all mammalian brains have neuronal circuitry and systems which enable them to receive, attend to, interpret, communicate with and act upon information from the environment. The difference between species is in the degree of capacities. The difference between humans and other mammals is manifest in the size of the human brain and safety environment. These are responsible for the mediation of cognitive processes such as the capacities noted by Lorenz (1983) like complex communication, language, thinking, forward planning, problem solving, analysis, judgement and adaptation. It is these highly developed cognitive capacities, along with consciousness, which are the special survival characteristics of humans, enabling them to adapt to and meet the challenge of many different environments and dangers.

These differences in degree of cognitive capacity are central to the occupational nature of humans who go beyond survival needs in their pursuit of occupation because they free them from the functional constraints of most animals, enabling them to use their apparently strong drive to engage in daily, new or adventurous occupations. People are able to undertake activities with individuality of purpose; to think about the effects, conceptualize and plan beforehand and to reflect and mentally alter future behaviour as a result of outcomes. Journalists, through gathering, writing and dissemination of information are predominant occupation that enables practical skills to enhance them to survive, to interact with others, to choose future roles, in fact to develop according to their environment and cultural values. Occupation provides the mechanism for social interaction and societal development and growth, forming the foundation stone of communal, local and national identity, because not only do individuals engage in separate pursuits, they are able to plan and execute group activity to the extent of national government or to achieve international goals, for individual, mutual and community purposes.

Occupation is the mechanism by which individuals demonstrate the use of their capacities by achievements of value and worth to their society and the world. It is only by their activities that journalists can demonstrate what they are or what they hope to be. Occupational achievement usually results in self development and growth experiences, which Hegel and Marx (1970) described as 'labour as man's act of self-creation'. Marx founded much of his philosophy on the idea that labour is the collective creative activity of mankind, in fact, is 'man's species nature'. As journalists engage in occupation to master their environment and improve human opportunities, well-being and survival, the physical and social environment is altered. The more sophisticated the occupation, the greater the change to the environment which in turn causes further change to and development of the society.

Therefore, the link between Occupational Safety Theory and the study is that individuals' dream and communities plan what they will 'do' in the future. Such dreams and plans often predict potential accolades for what will be achieved, reflecting how occupations are the outward expression of culturally desired intellectual, moral and physical attributes. Thus, if journalists are safe in their place of work, they will be able to carry out their activities diligently because free environment guarantees good output as far as occupation is concerned.

Methodology

The study adopted the positivist paradigm that subscribes to the idea of quantitative method. In this context, survey method was employed using questionnaire as instrument of data collection. The population of the study consists of all registered journalists in Kano State. Thus, a population of 380 registered journalists in Kano was considered for the study (NUJ, 2024). The population was clustered into radio, television and newspaper from which the respondents (journalists) were randomly selected from the subgroup of the clusters. Questionnaire in the form of 4-point Likert-scale ranging from (1) Agree (2) Strongly Agree (3) Disagree (4) Strongly Disagree, was used to examine investigative journalism among journalists in Kano State. Similarly, the respondents' views were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22 using frequency and percentage.

Data Presentation

In order to achieve the objective of the study, a population of 380 registered journalists in Kano was considered for the study. Consequently, 288 copies of the

questionnaire were distributed to journalists on investigative journalism in Kano State.

Table 1: Return Rate of the administered copies of the Questionnaire

	Frequency	Percent
Usable Quest.	264	91.7
Unusable Quest.	11	3.8
Not Return	13	4.5
Total	288	100

Table one addresses the return rate of the distributed copies of questionnaire. Based on the data obtained from the study, the usable questionnaires were 264 with 91.7%. Unusable questionnaires constitute 11 with 3.8% while not return constitutes 13 with 4.5%. However, going by Krejcie and Morgan formula, the unusable questionnaires was not affected because of the negligent number of the unusable questionnaires.

Table 2: Gender of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Male	162	61.4
Female	102	38.6
Total	264	100

Table two presents information on gender of the respondents. The results in the table show that 162 (61.4%) of the journalists examined are male while 102 (38.6%) are female. It means that there are more males registered journalists than female journalists in terms of the gender distribution of the respondents in Kano State.

Table 3: Age of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
20-25 years	54	20.4

26-30 years	61	23.1
31-35 years	76	28.8
36-40 years	51	19.3
40 years	22	8.3
above	264	100
Total		

Table three indicates the age of the respondents. The results show that 54 (20.4%) are between the age of 20-25 years, 61 (23.1%) are between the age of 26-30 years, 76 (28.8%) are between the age of 31-35 years, 51 (19.3%) are between the age of 36-40 years and 22 (8.3%) are between the age of 40 years above. This shows that 31-35 of age are the dominant respondents in the study as it is evident in the table above.

Table 4: Position of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Senior reporter	114	43.2
Junior reporter	129	48.9
Freelancer	21	7.9
Total	264	100

Table four shows the position of the respondents. The results of the analysis indicate that 114 (43.2%) are senior reporters, 129 (48.9%) are junior reporters and 21 (7.9%) freelancers. The data indicates that 129 junior reporters are the dominant respondents as shown in the table above.

Table 5: Marital status of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Single	118	44.7
Married	106	40.1
Divorced	18	6.8
Separated	22	8.3
Total	264	100

Table five presents marital status of the respondents. From the results of the data analysis, 118 (44.7%) are single, 106 (40.1%) are married, 18 (6.8%) are divorced

and 22 (8.3%) are separated. The data shows that 118 of the respondents are single as it is evident in the table above.

Table 6: Journalists in Kano practice investigative journalism

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	129	48.9
Agree	109	41.3
Disagree	23	8.7
Strongly	3	1.1
disagree.	264	100
Total		

Table six indicates the frequency of journalists that practice investigative journalism in Kano State. From the results, it is evident that 129 (48.9%) strongly agreed that journalists in Kano practice investigative journalism, 109 (41.3%) agreed while 23 (8.7%) and 3 (1.1%) strongly disagreed. Going by the data, 48.9% is the highest number of respondents. This implies that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that journalists in Kano practice investigative journalism in Kano State.

Table 7: Journalists in Kano engage in constant practice of investigative journalism

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	65	24.6
Agree	71	26.9
Disagree	87	32.9
Strongly	41	15.5
disagree.	264	100
Total		

Table seven shows the frequency distribution of journalists that engaged in constant practice of investigative journalism in Kano State. The results point that 65 (24.6%) strongly agreed that journalists in Kano engage in constant practice of investigative journalism, 71 (26.95) agree, 87 (32.9%) disagreed and 41 (15.5%) strongly disagreed. The data shows that journalists in Kano did not engage in constant practice of investigative journalism as 32.9% of the journalists disagreed.

Table 8: The magnitude of investigative journalism in Kano is very high

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	59	22.3
Agree	62	23.5
Disagree	91	34.5
Strongly disagree.	52	19.7
Total	264	100

Table 8 accounts the magnitude of investigative journalism in Kano State. Based on the results of the analysis, 59 (22.3%) strongly agreed that the magnitude of investigative journalism in Kano is very high, 62 (23.5%) agreed. Meanwhile, 91 (34.5%) disagreed and 52 (19.7%) strongly disagreed. It is evident that 34.5% accounts the highest number of responses. This implies that the magnitude of investigative journalism in Kano was not very high as shown in the data above.

Table 9: The scale of investigative journalism in Kano is very low

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	62	23.5
Agree	72	27.3
Disagree	77	29.2
Strongly disagree.	53	20.1
Total	264	100

Table nine indicates the scale of investigative journalism in Kano as low. Results show that 62 (23.5%) strongly agreed that the scale of investigative journalism in Kano is very low, 72 (27.3%) agreed while 77 (29.2%) disagreed and 53 (20.1%) strongly disagreed. Going by the analysis, it is evident that 29.2% disagreed; this implies that the scale of investigative journalism in Kano was very low.

Table 10: The Practice of investigative journalism in Kano is defeated by the risk involved

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	115	43.6
Agree	109	41.3

Disagree	24	9.1
Strongly	16	6.1
disagree.	264	100
Total		

Table ten shows whether the practice of investigative journalism in Kano is defeated by the risk involved. The results of the data analysis indicate that 115 (43.6%) strongly agreed that the practice of investigative journalism in Kano is defeated by the risk involved, 109 (41.3%) agreed while 24 (9.1%) disagreed and 16 (6.1%) strongly disagreed. The data point that 43.6% accounts the highest number of responses generated from the journalists. This implies that the practice of investigative journalism in Kano was defeated by the risk involved.

Table 11: Journalists in Kano have high productivity in non-risky environment

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	78	29.5
Agree	99	37.5
Disagree	44	16.7
Strongly	43	16.3
disagree.	264	100
Total		

Table 11 ascertains whether journalists in Kano have high productivity in non-risky environment. Going by the frequency and percentage of the analysis, 78 (29.5%) strongly agreed that journalists in Kano have high productivity in non-risk environment, 99 (37.5%) agreed while 44 (16.7%) disagreed and 43 (16.3%) strongly disagreed. It is evident from the data that 37.5% is the highest percentage. This means that journalists in Kano had high productivity in non-risky environment.

Table 12: There is no risk involved in the practice of investigative journalism in Kano

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	18	6.8
Agree	16	6.1
Disagree	121	45.8
Strongly	109	41.3
disagree.	264	100
Total		

Table 12 shows whether there is no risk involved in the practice of investigative journalism in Kano. Based on the results of the analysis, it is evident that 18 (6.8%) strongly agreed, 16 (6.1%) agreed while 121 (45.8%) disagreed and 109 (41.3) strongly disagreed. The data shows that 45.8% accounts the highest number of respondents. This implies that there was risk involved in the practice of investigative journalism in Kano like political interference, limited access to information, threats to journalists' safety, inadequate funding and weak institutional support for press freedom.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study show that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that journalists in Kano practice investigative journalism in Kano State. This confirms Assemah's (2012) position that investigative journalism is increasingly playing a crucial role in our daily lives. The advancement and maintenance of a nation's democratic institutions and way of life, as well as its ability to spur equitable development, depend heavily on investigative journalism.

Findings also show that journalists in Kano did not engage in constant practice of investigative journalism as 32.9% of the journalists disagreed. Hughes and Ramirez (2016) findings show that while almost all journalists reported paying greater attention to accuracy when a story was potentially sensitive, about two third of the journalists within the scope of the research 67% reported having engaged in self-censorship as a precaution to reduce risk. On the contrary, Arukhdvan (2016) findings revealed that journalists faced different forms of safety issues, ranging from threats to their personal or family safety, employment (income generation) to information sources safety, 46% of the respondents in the study were worried about their personal safety and 27% feared for their family's safety, which may account for the reluctance of carrying out investigative journalism.

From the findings, the magnitude of investigative journalism in Kano is not high as shown in the results above. This validates the position of Arukhdvan (2016) that different actors and various forms of threats; among the actors include editors, managers and owners while the various forms include intimidation, harassment and threat of firing, demotion and personal attack. This implies that the scale of investigative journalism in Kano is very low. Hughes and Ramirez (2016) findings show that while almost all journalists reported paying greater attention to accuracy when a story was potentially sensitive, about two third of the journalists

within the scope of the research 67% reported having engaged in self-censorship as a precaution to reduce risk.

The study also found that the practice of investigative journalism in Kano is defeated by the risk involved. This confirms the findings of findings by Unaegbu (2016) that majority of journalists have faced threats in the discharge of their journalistic responsibility. And that there are more of physical safety challenges like assault, harassment, verbal or physical attacks, arrest by state actors and even detention than digital challenges.

Also, findings of the study revealed that journalists in Kano have high productivity in non-risky environment. This is in line with Aondover et al. (2024) position that investigative journalism in Nigeria faces numerous contextual issues that influence its effectiveness and the quality of reporting. These challenges can be categorized into political, economic, social and professional dimensions. Investigative journalists often face intimidation, harassment and arbitrary arrests by government authorities. Nigeria's laws, such as the Cybercrime Act, are sometimes used to suppress critical reporting. This also coincided with the UNESCO's document in 2015 about journalism safety which also reveals that the level of awareness on journalism safety is increasing. However, the existing literature tend to focus on the importance of the safety of journalists in the society for societal quest for development in areas of societal lives. Within the context of the theoretical framework, if journalists are safe in their place of work, they will be able to carry out their activities diligently because free environment guarantee good output as far as occupation is concerned.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Investigative journalism plays a vital role in checkmating and holding government accountable to the people. However, it is established in the literature that in the process of carrying out this investigative task, journalists are exposed to so many risks like psychological harm, physical abuse, death, kidnapping, harassment among others. The study found that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that journalists in Kano practice investigative journalism in Kano State. Also, findings show that journalists in Kano do not engage in constant practice of investigative journalism. Also, the practice of investigative journalism in Kano is defeated by the risk involved. The risks manifest in the forms of political interference, limited access to information, threats to journalists' safety, inadequate funding and weak institutional support for press freedom. From the theoretical postulation, occupation is the mechanism by which individuals

demonstrate the use of their capacities by achievements of value and worth to their society and the world. It is only by their activities that journalists can demonstrate what they are or what they hope to be. It is recommended that government, media organizations and civil society strengthen protective measures, provide adequate resources and create an enabling environment that safeguards journalists in Kano State to enhance the consistent practice of investigative journalism.

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