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Bauhaus Bodies, Modern Automatas and Other Performing Images

By Monica Toledo Silva

Introduction- The *Triadic Ballet* (Oskar Schlemmer, 1922) and its Bauhaus theatrical gestures, fine examples of the new modern society, is a starting point to think of body image presentations along time, in increasingly complex embodied affections. A very diverse feminine body also emerges in representations of other modern artists (as playing a character) and of oneself (as the creator), in more subjective forms of visual composition. Two approaches to body potential of imaging creation and gesture possibilities are presented in this chapter, as an extension of how embodied realities may reconfigure performed bodies along time.

Since the 19th century, our body is manipulated and recreated through various media languages, experiencing an existence influenced by society, science, technology and culture. A Schlemmer's contemporary German artist, surrealist sculptor and photographer Hans Bellmer (1902-1975) presents Olympia, from a body image related to other modern characters, embodied in a manipulated doll with a spherical body in photography series resembling dead bodies from World War or denouncing a scientific desire to control and recreate living bodies as pleased, since widely documented in medical protocols since the end of XIX century.

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Bauhaus Bodies, Modern Automatas and Other Performing Images

Monica Toledo Silva

I. INTRODUCTION

The *Triadic Ballet* (Oskar Schlemmer, 1922) and its Bauhaus theatrical gestures, fine examples of the new modern society, is a starting point to think of body image presentations along time, in increasingly complex embodied affections. A very diverse feminine body also emerges in representations of other modern artists (as playing a character) and of oneself (as the creator), in more subjective forms of visual composition. Two approaches to body potential of imaging creation and gesture possibilities are presented in this chapter, as an extension of how embodied realities may reconfigure performed bodies along time.

Since the 19th century, our body is manipulated and recreated through various media languages, experiencing an existence influenced by society, science, technology and culture. A Schlemmer's contemporary German artist, surrealist sculptor and photographer Hans Bellmer (1902-1975) presents Olympia, from a body image related to other modern characters, embodied in a manipulated doll with a spherical body in photography series resembling dead bodies from World War or denouncing a scientific desire to control and recreate living bodies as pleased, since widely documented in medical protocols since the end of XIX century.

In a third example, I extend the somehow artificial body, no longer clear and colored as Schlemmer's, also further from the opposite aesthetic presented by Bellmer's doll, disarticulated and fragmented, as presented in the video performance *Monodrama* (Monica Toledo, 2012-19), when I raise embodied experiences in a singular form of simultaneous absence and presence while playing un/familiar memories.

The body plays its phantasmagory in anatomic presentations. Bellmer will desarticulate and renovate the surrealist reflexion from the 1930s in an object (a spherical doll) traceable in his "mysterious theatre." Also, and more important, both Schlemmer and Bellmer play with a concept of automata - automaton, an autonomous robot, term created by Czech Karel Capek in the begging of the 20th century to designate the machine with wo/man alike qualities, each of them extending it to a whole individual universe of

possibilities: as the mutated doll Olympia, to be manipulated by an other; as a body with predicted gestures, assembling the industrial and perfect moves from factory workers translated to the stage, in *Triadic Ballet*.

The automata figure dances among aesthetic languages over time, presenting this diverse body which is at once itself and others, never completely autonomous. It represents a modern science and technological experience cheered with light and controlled moves, and darkened and manipulated body although able to provoke feelings; in both, a being apparently unable to feel by itself and move as it likes. A third automata will be disintegrated in embodied images.

Oscillating between objected and subjected forms of visibility of the self, a performance of body images, from others to our own visualities, permeates this essay. This is achieved by contrasting Schlemmer and Bellmer in their works in film (the ballet) and photography (the doll), with the contemporary video that investigates scenic and audiovisual languages of a living body through a singular process of image creation of its temporality and dramaturgy, as an evolution of the modern body aesthetics. But still, a body with no memories.

II. DANCING MACHINES AS THE CELEBRATION OF FORM

Painter, sculptor and director of the famous theatre workshops at the Bauhaus School of Arts and Design (1919-1933), Oskar Schlemmer's dance piece *Triadic Ballet* gives life to a much-celebrated body, inspired by the industrial culture and diverse aesthetic practices current in Germany at the time, producing a multitude of mechanical gestures. Futuristic sceneries and the uses of plain colors in geometric and rigid costumes compose this unique post First World War art scene.

The Bauhaus was founded by Walter Gropius in Weimar as an attempt to express the technical spirit, uniform and controlled movement of the time. Its interdisciplinary approach to design and performance marked a new beginning of exploring the connection between different art forms, translating one art form to another. Despite the Bauhaus movement being known mostly for its innovative approach to design, an

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understanding of the scope of its influence of avant-garde performance practices is central.

Machine-like gestures, the triumph over the body, utopic and unreal; the robot, the automata, all kinds of body inventive existences in art and science come onto the scene. Bauhaus bodies are no ordinary subjects, nor subjected (such as the figure of the marionette), nor like real humans, but instead resembling enacted machine-like dreams of mankind. The evolution of body visualities will be as diverse as artists' discourses when related to performance art, in an ever-changing creative investigation. The subjected and objected body, an object of the self, subject to others, subjected by others, in modulations of sense and imagination.

The dancing machines from Schlemmer's piece portrayed female figures influenced by the social and historical processes going on at the time, and in Germany in specific aesthetic ways. The Bauhaus movement maintains to this day its enigmatic qualities in different fields, such as architecture and design, and from the improved body in its mechanical anatomy, in much celebrated and explored aesthetic forms.

The Bauhaus' intriguing modern body images and gestures promote an exercise of rethinking a mechanical and sensitive body: a visibility at once artificial and natural inspires us to be an other while being the same. A different phenomenon occurs when a subjective body evolves from this scene. What we see is an increasingly diverse prospect, in which contemporary body image procedures are enlisted in the celebration of the multimedia body and its infinite imaging production and self-presentations.

At the same time of the Bauhaus' emergence, the reality of factories and newly overcrowded cities - such as Berlin - packed with new factory workers living in unhealthy conditions, play an other real subject of the modern movement in terms of its demands for a new urban and industrial society. Expressionist art, as well as Russian constructivism, are strong inspirations for the Bauhaus, even as a reference to what is to be avoided.

Body singularity by the end of the First World War reveals its emptiness and fragility. Simultaneous forces in a "historical moment of extremes delimit modernity, as a wide and complex theme." (MORAES, 2010:58). Aiming the rupture with different languages in the beginning of 20th century (although maintaining a close dialogue with surrealism), a fragmentation of consciousness corresponds to a fragmentation of the body - as presented, for instance, in works of Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, René Magritte and Giorgio de Chirico.

The practice advocated by Schlemmer's characters, gestures and sceneries - as of removing man from the center of the scene, a position in which he was placed since Renaissance, challenges the art historical pillars of realism and humanism. What emerges from this attitude is a variety of other and new visualities, as also demonstrated in Bellmer's body presentations and directing procedures. From Schlemmer's ballet dancers to Bellmer's dolls, a frontal camera registers both directors' characters, designed for an unquiet viewer. The dance piece is also performed for the camera, the bodies on stage and the screen playing for both dance and film spectators.



Figures 1 and 2: *Triadic Ballet*. Oskar Schlemmer, 1922

I found myself in those images of the articulated doll in its changing positions from a “ball joint” spherical centre, while searching for new possibilities of physical balance and emotional steadiness. The *Monodrama* piece comes from that. Like in a dance mode our body oscillates between absent memories, disciplined gestures, unmapped desires and historical aesthetic influences. The automata theme enriches the embodied video practice, inspired by both divergent modern body presentations, in an individual experience with loss, performing images and gestures of realities I did not share. Dance language enables a video performing procedure which gives life to a singular form of emotion, which breaths while it keeps losing itself. The visual process of reinforcing imagined memories presents a body solution at once an object and an image of the self.

In dance classes, in all its classic and contemporary variations, we soon learn to evolve any movement from our hip, the body’s gravitational center. All moves might emerge from the center, allowing us to never lose balance of the whole body movement, stretching arms and legs, hands and feet in all directions, towards the floor and into the air. Further, the natural impulse steaming from the hip saves us from spending too much energy, and helps us maintain our breath to complete turns and jumps. It is interesting to see that a marionette also works in a pendulum-like manner. It moves freely and automatically, from its center, in a seemingly never-ending arc of movement. No wasted energy either.

The out-of-joint narratives performed by our dancing body are meant to act as stringed puppet dancing, or marionettes, articulated in signs. Articulation points generate provisory solutions in visible gestures as we move from our center; even when making “mistakes”, we don’t fall into pieces as automatons may do. Our natural commands work as exercises of enunciation, where the I is an infinite source for playing out narratives of the self. What emerges from this scope of movement possibilities are something like unfinished stories for pendulum-like bodies, able to sense and produce singular images along with an embodied gesture.

A disruptive process of change takes place in the modern mind, willing to experience other possibilities of movement, giving way to individual body presentations. In an attempt to find a language to articulate one’s experiences, artists continue to explore various media, resulting in the evolution of an image of the body as both object and subject. A “deep sense of struggle” is captured and performed - as through Bellmer’s photographic lens, revealing “disturbances of bodily awareness.” (TAYLOR, 2001:15). Since Jean-Martin Charcot’s incongruent gestures captured during his studies as a neurologist at Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris during the late 19th century, exposing an obscure

female body whose dramaturgy was much alike the automaton and surrealist bodies within their schizophrenic case studies, physical disorders are emancipated to regular people’s ordinary life.

III. BELLMER: DOLLS AND OTHER SINGULARITIES

Since 2006, when I first read about Hans Bellmer, I have been enchanted by the way he (presents a body based on his very affections) - diverse from the unified, enlightened one as created by modern science; a disappearance of the disciplined, controlled, as imposed to society in the western world. Bellmer, evolving with Georges Bataille (1897-1962) from first surrealism as presented by André Breton (1896-1966) to a less romantic and more complex body, with simultaneous desires and durations of its own), and Antoin Artaud (1896-1948), among others, exposing a rather enriched reality, shared in our living body in its diversity and multitude.

A surrealistic body gives life to disturbing realities, as in Bellmer’s interiors, where a doll portrays objected-subjected bodies as composed by the artist. “Modern art responds to chaos with fractured forms, ambiguous atmosphere and tragic irony, revealing a dark consciousness of a crisis.” (MORAES, 2010:57). To fragment the body as its own sign: the modern spirit’s collapse into disordered feelings and dynamic forms of uncertain characters.

Bellmer’s marginal subject of his articulated dolls (Olympia is his second and last one) allowed him to manipulate the material body from a spherical belly, in endless compositions from with arms, legs and costumes, to present his “unconscious body”: convulsed, wrapped, exposed: a dancing machine, moving sculpture, plays dark scenes in Bellmer’s sceneries, photographed, as Schlemmer’s dancers were filmed. Dance, film, sculpture and photography are employed as shifting representations of the body being both object and subject in a moving scene.

Sue Taylor (2001) adds that the “abject condition of the doll” is one of a “hapless female body”, while both the author’s subject and the artist’s object – the doll – occupies a third place, a female other that makes itself visible in the field of body investigations (scientific, aesthetic, gendered, political, semiotic). This “female other” forces us to revise individualism itself. (Schechner, 1973, in FICHER-LICHTE: 2008, 52).

Bellmer’s references include 16th century wooden dolls and spherical bellies, around which could be arranged several parts in various combinations. The fascination with automatons, their dubious animate-inanimate status is central to Bellmer’s works, and is used as a vehicle for distorting a female body deprived of head and limbs. His life-sized female mannequin produces points of view with destabilizing effects. The

distress caused by the First World War resulted in multiplied human and non-human figures, automaton and inanimate living forms alike, which will play a dark background scene.

In the dramaturgy of the senses of Bellmer's domestic sceneries, his doll (an automaton-like figure; Figures 3 and 4) is exposed to the camera, giving visibility to the artist's anxieties. A dramaturgy that serves as a frontier space of subjectivity and objectivity, in objectified configurations of a self, as one's own images. Ana Pais (2003:90) suggests an understanding of the aesthetic performative as an embodied art where what is visible exceeds meanings and preliminary significations; what is made visible "doesn't end up in itself". A phenomenological feminine body will transfigure, alter itself in its own multiple singularities. The body is presented in its own imaginary and material forms.

Artist and educator Helen Spackman argues that the exposure of the female body is traditionally an object of desire. The female body would be "always already" in representation, subject to cultural expectations and conditioning. Also, performance art general rejection of conjunctive, linear narratives in favor of fragmentary "open" texts can be linked to its contingent transition to the postmodern. Performing arts also enclose

A deconstructive thrust of poststructuralist philosophy and its emphasis on the slippage between signifier and signified. The 1970's rise of poststructuralism has

exposed the limitations of the use of the body as a subversive medium of expression, when based on the assumption that "the" body constitutes the authentic presence. (SPACKMAN, 2000:09).

Performative language slides between spaces of representation; "the perceiving subject in betwixt and between, where subject and object can no longer be clearly defined." (FICHER- LICHTE: 2008:42;129). Between being a subject and object, or while playing both, the modern, sometimes futuristic, sometimes surreal, compose from its absence. Performed by others, as Bellmer's doll, or performing for others, like Schlemmer's characters, an inscribed body arises in aesthetic practices that allows other legible fields and "empiric processes of visibility" (COURTINE: 2013:79). In enunciation practices a performing body has its images disguised from the others, during its visibility procedures; visual images are the body's creative forms of presentation of the self.

To act our own body politics in aesthetic processes of embodied viscosity, in a dramaturgy of embodied images practice of a multimedia body; if Schlemmer' has devoted his practice to the robot-like feminine characters – which despite being diverse builds a positive perception of the history of that time, celebrating order in straight visual compositions with much color and light – Bellmer has exasperated a fragmented body through his precious inanimate creature.



Figures 3 and 4: Hans Bellmer's *The Doll* (*Die Puppe*), 1934-8.

The exposition of a body as an imaging creation would mean both withdrawal and an intimacy - the "withdrawal of the self" (NANCY, 2008:61). While taking the exposed object as an existence, as a subject of an exposition of itself, the body is the being-exposed of the being." Therefore, exposition takes place as a surface that exposes the singularity of the senses. A struggle of sense, a struggle with language, from which emerges a body "excribed outside sense." In other words our body, playing multiple signs, completes the philosopher, has no room for a formal discourse or single narrative.

An ambiguity takes place in our living environment: we are always experiencing a multiplied time, simultaneously bringing future and past to the upcoming gesture. An image of the body offers this strange coexistence while inviting us to experience this temporality, while performing an image. Nancy (2008: 81;115;121) adds to body image compositions that

Politics begins and ends with bodies, being the body the end of the signifier; no longer a sign, no longer a self, but an anatomy of configurations of the plasticity of what we would call states of body, ways of being, bearing, staggering... a body converted in a pure sign of the self, the pure self of the sign. A body is an image offered to other bodies, a whole corpus of images stretched from body to body, colors and shadows, fragments, grains, tendons, ribs, bellies, tears, slits, veins, pains and joys.

Our bodies speak in silence. When the other is the self, narratives are embodied in time, space and place; one is no longer an automaton who has no memory but is an automaton in an endless speed of becoming apart, as Olympia activating her joints in disarticulated memories. As time amplifies space, so does our body, within its extended presence. The body as an environment with no beginning or end, no center, where no wound lasts longer than a memory, like scars on a metal or wooden surface. A dramaturgy of the body plays different and congruent selves: an always embodied performance, playing others as no one else.

The female image is figured in diverse ways in present and absent forms. An image of a modern woman in the 1920's will be spectral, anatomically deformed, in aesthetic modes of a changeable body. A combinatory game of articulations and enunciations in body image presentations is extended to various media languages - as dance, film, sculpture and video.

Bodies as signifiers, contradictory signifying by nature, retreat to the depth of sense. The sense of rejection-of-sense: a schema without signification. It's a question of what, in language, no longer involves the message, just its inscription. Only sense escapes from the wound - the wound which presents the very body, as its own sign. (NANCY, 2008: 75;115;81).

These feminine figurations, the ballet dancers in Schlemmer, the spheric doll in Bellmer, are actual and

virtual presentations of the time - a feminine body which is an automaton in different meanings (while being manipulated, directed, created by others, with no configurations of her own) amplifies this body to sometimes uncanny, and then exposed as an emptied state or condition. A diverse modern body evolves to a "vacuum" where *feminine* existence pulls out imagined memories from times not lived - as we see in *Monodrama* video experience.

IV. *MONODRAMA*, AN EXPERIENCE OF EMPTINESS AND AFFECTION

The automata characters explored from their combination of being able to feel but not to remember - an absence of memory - added to an exposed self to other's manipulation, as on marionettes from Henrich von Kleist and E.T.A. Hoffmann's characters Olympia, Coppelia and Antonia, with which I also engage, in other video performance pieces following their names in writings about these experiences with the camera and editing processes, constitute the basis of a whole nature of my work. Apart from exploring these three characters from Hoffman's universe back at the begging of the 19th century - indeed celebrating industrial, on one side, and body-mind scientific researches, also much fond for Bellmer's interests and the key of his artistic references.

Monodrama emerges as a dialogue between these audiovisual studies and essays and a struggle for my father's family's lack of memories. Therefore the automata inspiration comes first from an attempt to dance (Olympia), then from an *attempt* to show affection to someone else's memories (Coppelia), then been freed from others views as an objected body (Antonia) - a work in progress from the automata and marionette principles of being subjected by others as their object of desire, to finally come across and confront this nature of absence. There comes my manipulating the photographs performing an attempt of belonging to my life and private history of those unknown people's lives.

Image creation and presentation is an embodied process itself: disarticulated, to be joined; unmapped, to be traced. Its purpose is not to be visible but to make visible, to articulate a presence of our own, an intention caught before form. An image in its inner tension, a force mobilized to free itself from memory and reason, here sustaining itself in emptiness, there acting on a stage or screen. It is a dance move, filled with affections, unveiling subjects turned into objects. *Monodrama* illustrates the possibility of aesthetic and semiotic embodied practice in a video work, as presented.

For Fischer-Lichte (2008:24-28), the performative as self-referential generates a culturally marked body, as a performing embodiment itself. "The performative carries the double meaning of dramatic (as a process of generating identities) and non-referential".

An exploitation of anatomy and the desire to destroy it results in a body of unstable dimensions and a fundamental crisis within its own objects, as subject of the self.

Modern body presentations, as in Bauhaus dance film and Bellmer's articulated and photographed sculpture, promote diverse aesthetic forms of visibility and different processes of visibility. As an object of the self, though, a body is at once made object and subject to self-presentations. These images and gestures, embodied events able to engage in a visual form, are seen in *Monodrama*, this performed video piece of embodied images, and we become a body image of our self.

In *Monodrama*, the visible experience of the body to the camera performs a dramaturgy of the self. The audiovisual experience of filming myself meets Schlemmer and Bellmer's attention to the camera, which constitutes a character by itself; as the dancers and the dolls do, I perform for the camera, while trying to put myself together in an empty space of memories, tracing unfamiliar photographs. As an automaton, objectified body, other times subjected to itself, feminine subjects constantly reviewed by artists and scientists take place over time, as the articulated senses and visual affections of mine.

Philosopher Gilles Deleuze (2009:122) reviews Bergson's studies on the moving image, while explaining the past as a coexistence of larger and narrower circles, each of them containing various temporalities. Having the present as the extreme limit, and the whole past as the smallest circle, between past in general and present are circles that constitute other several regions, each with its own characters, dominant aspects and specificities. Bergson's virtual images refer to a new present,

A present that has not been: a virtual image would be a general past. Actual-virtual: an image both present and past, the smallest circle of the virtual image, which carries the whole. The indiscernible point is this narrowest circuit, at once actual and virtual, between real and imaginary. (DELEUZE, 2009:99).

In this video piece, I act as a character presenting my lack of memory, having my eyes shut while manipulating and trying to recognize people in photographs. This searching exercise is amplified by me operating the camera while acting, producing and directing myself, before editing all the work. The long editing duration, of seven years, may indicate that I am too attached to the images; the images become visual to others as an art piece, conveying the intimacy of (un)familiar prints, recording self-narratives in video, exposing a body who must remember and reinvent itself, tracing intensities that place us, performer and viewer, in different durations.

Real and virtual images fuse in reveries of memory, perception and imagination, dissolving the body in processual visual presentations, at once being object and subject, evolving to a practice of the self. A singular body, now expanded to empty spaces of a self, with a white wall replacing the Bauhaus colors in an ascending process of singularity. Body presentation and the practice of creating a dramaturgy in moving images bring with it untraceable actions, sustained by a discontinuous movement – revealing the impossibility of completeness of the living body since modern discourses.

Our body, a multitude affected by its own temporalities and spatialities, each articulating itself in visual solutions, acts as embodied objects and subjects of its own nature, as we create images that reinvent our selves. Moving images are generated by a moving self - we make ourselves visible to others, sharing living experiences.

When staging the self, presenting body states and imaginary memories, our embodied gestures generate images as provisory solutions, instantaneous affections, acting as all of them at once, as a character of the self. *Monodrama* also plays my own images with others – constituting the pictures of the "unknown familiar faces" from my lost relatives. The self comes to be a fictionalized character of the presented images in time and space.

A visible presence, as an attempt of language, moves about in front of an empty white wall. After dancing dolls, machine-like existences, automatas directed by an other, subjective body, a living being dances its own death. An absence of self – because we are many, we are a multimedia body playing new configurations, trying different memories in a constantly changeable live experience. A missing memory inspires movement to be reconfigured in inventive solutions, making room for the new. Comparable to a programmed machine of Bauhaus, such as a movable sculpture from Bellmer, our body is at once manipulated by others' images and reinvented by itself in a multiplied search for a single self.

For Nancy (2008:33) a departure, in the sense of leaving behind one's own space, would

intimately be the extremity of its separation (which makes it distinguished, subjective): the body is itself in departure, insofar as it parts - displaces itself right here from the here. The by-itself of the subject exists only as the swerve of this a-part-self, which is the moment proper of its presence, its sense. The a-part-self, as departure, is what's exposed. A departive body carries its spacing away, is carried away as spacing, and somehow it sets itself aside, withdraws into itself - while leaving its very spacing "behind" in its place, with this place remaining its own, at once absolutely intact and absolutely abandoned.

Emptiness acts as an other nature of singularity, through gestures affected by memories of all kinds, as if imagination and self-presentation were able to move from their states to other forms of being. Gesture is at first choreographed and directed (by Schlemmer), manipulated and photographed (by Bellmer), and then enacted, made visual in a video of an emptied body (by myself). A living body does not need a past to remember; it creates body images from its own states of presence, perception and affection. The various media of dance, film, photography, sculpture, performance and video are enabled to turn a body into a living entity.

In an empty state of presence, within one's own living memories, a living body proceeds to other forms of displacement. When freed from specificities, we turn to ourselves in modes of absence and formlessness. *Monodrama* is a video performance with images composed from a box of photographs of relatives I never got to know. The work reflects on my father's beloved memories, untraceable to me, and on the (un)familiar stories and whereabouts of some relatives - as my Grandparents, who I never came to know. Filled with my own emotions and imaginations, I allow myself in the video performance to be continuously displaced and emptied, performing memories through time.

Through this process, it became apparent to me that one must make room for images to surface and to pass while moving through embodied subjects. Producing body images in dance, film, video and sculpture also brings back the body to its materiality. A singular expression provides the body possibilities of visual enunciation. A subjective being m

oves about its objects to compose gestures and many memories, renewed affections, provisory solutions.

Schlemmer's dancers, Bellmer's doll and I all act for the camera via body performances for a moving image. These modes encompass three diverse approaches to presentation that use film and video as body events. In *Monodrama* the camera acts more independently, determining, even from a fixed spot and without mobility, what will be made visible and what will be cut. My body performs for the lens and there is no one else operating the camera, so that any scene out of frame, all images cut by the frame, will be empty too. In other words, the camera that with Schlemmer and Bellmer registered a "complete scene" now shifts to becoming a "directing object", determining the nature and the results on the captured scenes.

The two earlier directors project their creatures in ballet gestures and artificial poses. In *Monodrama*, a living self is directed by itself in a dance created and performed by the artist. Enunciation turns out then to be a key issue in modern and contemporary examples. It comprises an expression that speaks through the body, with no choreography or any sort of previously mapped gestures. Improvisation is primary to this practice of enunciation, in modes of presence, absence and complex relations.

Embodied practices such as mine articulate aesthetic languages that allow us to experience a form of corporeality through an active absence, as presented by the death of the subject and the death of language. Such practices strive to make sense in a body turned into image.



Figures 5 and 6: *Monodrama* frames (Monica Toledo, 2020).

We make ourselves visible through a circuit of actions and intentions. Living things are for Bergson "undetermined, from which emerge micro spaces, as deviant centers, deepened all around through cuts, disjunctions, creating instead of a perception mode (of affection or action) a new sphere of signs." (DELEUZE, 2009:99) The suspension of meanings from this virtual image can correspond to an actual one, as perceived and felt. An image of what is no longer there; an articulated point of the body, as an emptied joint.

Visibility practice as a living drama is never presented in a given form; it is performed by a body, by memories as signs. A "monodrama" is a recurrent drama about a loving loss; automaton characters will be body solutions for unexpected gestures, pretending to signify something to some others' eyes. Where shall we place a political and actual body after modernisms, historical and scientific evolutions? An aesthetic language of an absent body is played by a phenomenological body.

Performative language enables reality to be mapped in processes of visibility in-between spaces (JEHA, 2007). Performance art crosses diverse art languages, embodies subjects of objected selves and present states of ours. Randy Martin (2004:59) claims that "difference and transgression are the conditions of identity", while Maurice Blanchot adds that "presence and language are in inescapable conflict." (in MARTIN, 2004:142).

Presence has unpredictable configurations in art languages, and without any opposition. Absence makes its room, creates its space and articulates body subjects in visible gestures. Intimacy plays in imaginary spaces of affection, as beloved relatives play unfamiliar relations. "Absence acts." (MARTIN, 2004:174). How may visibility act in a language of the absence, in an ever embodied environment of our own, after being reinvented by human machine aspirations during last century? We move back to ourselves in an ever new configuration of self-images.

An objected body may be an image of the self to perform narratives in strains of conscience. A body as an image of the self, an imagined body, the living, the mechanical, the spherical. The emptied, which embodies its images while creating a self-dramaturgy, brings together performed memories and modern presentations in an always dialectic image, neither subjected nor objected body, but in a presentation of itself.

It all works as an expanded dance: my performing to the camera, playing Hoffman's automatons, directly connected to German romanticism), Bellmer's Olympia, a namely doll inspired by the former, my memory of being a ballet dancer still with the classic gesture's codes in my body although unable to perform them, and Bauhaus inspiring robot-like dance scenes directly and contraposing shadowily and darken

previously commented - and contemporary - modern characters. An expanded dance from a body that lives all at once, experiencing being subjected, objected, with memories it cannot control (the ballet in my mind which is not made visible in its language codes) and memories I wish I had.

Monodrama ends this embodied path playing a transit through incorporated living experiences, imagined and performed. What makes it all real and possible is precisely for being played by a living body - and not a robot, automata or marionette. Because it is experienced and practiced in a living body (the one of my self). Bauhaus bodies work as a confrontation of life and death, evokes autonomous entities who despite that play the gestures of machinery programmed bodies - it celebrates and denounces a growing industrial worker who acts both feeding a progressive economic system and ultimately a growing lack of consciousness and individual affected experiences.

An embodied performance of a self continuously fulfills this diverse nature of body presentations in art in search of a body which is ever undone. It is precisely the condition of emptiness and a dramaturgy of absence, as also inherent of gesture and emotion, that suppress any automata status and enable us to experience an expanded living body. We will find fragments of a unity in visual narratives of an unfinished body, which is whole in its ever impossible predictions, live in its simultaneous intensities.



Figuras 7 and 8: Monodrama frames (Monica Toledo, 2020).

The body is this departure of self to self. Jean-Luc Nancy.

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Biblical Perspective on Achieving Sustainable Development and Health Goal in Africa

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Abstract- The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover a broad range of social and economic issues. Specifically, the Goal 3, relating to health, is targeted at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all people. The necessity of health and a healthy lifestyle is very germane to Africa, considering the social and economic encumbrances and the failure of governance in Africa.

Different perspectives have been revealed in academic literatures and within the framework of health professionals in tackling health issues in the world. There are those who clamour for recreation, sports, and exercise as a means to achieving health. Also, there is the biomedical perspective, which focuses on providing a clear understanding of the causes of diseases and their physiological consequences, leading to more effective treatment and prevention. And there is the contemporary holistic view of health, which sees health as having spiritual, psychological and physical dimensions of a person balanced. But the biblical view of health points to a deeper root of health issues, which are still neglected by these aforementioned perspectives.

Keywords: health, sustainable development goals, biblical perspective on health, Africa.

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Abstract- The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover a broad range of social and economic issues. Specifically, the Goal 3, relating to health, is targeted at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all people. The necessity of health and a healthy lifestyle is very germane to Africa, considering the social and economic encumbrances and the failure of governance in Africa.

Different perspectives have been revealed in academic literatures and within the framework of health professionals in tackling health issues in the world. There are those who clamour for recreation, sports, and exercise as a means to achieving health. Also, there is the biomedical perspective, which focuses on providing a clear understanding of the causes of diseases and their physiological consequences, leading to more effective treatment and prevention. And there is the contemporary holistic view of health, which sees health as having spiritual, psychological and physical dimensions of a person balanced. But the biblical view of health points to a deeper root of health issues, which are still neglected by these aforementioned perspectives. Therefore, the paper explores the biblical perspective of health as a means to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal on health in Africa. It generates textual data through a content analysis of biblical texts referencing health within the Jan Gabriel Vander Watt's hermeneutic theory of contextual relevance.

Health in the Bible encompasses the consistent adherence to dietary rules that pertains to nutrition, personal health and public health; being in right relationship with God and other people; promotion of beliefs and values antithetical to the values of our contemporary liberal society; and the perception of "humanity" as being whole.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 25 September, 2015. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs does not distinguish between "developed" and "developing" nations, but they apply to all countries. The SDGs are an inclusive agenda. These goals cover a broad range of social, economic and environmental issues, which include poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender-equality, water sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment and social justice. (*Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015, para. 1-5). Specifically, the third goal, relating to health,

is targeted at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages.

The necessity of health and a healthy lifestyle is more germane to Africa considering its social and economic encumbrances and failure of governance. A CSIS *Global Health Policy Center* report in 2009 revealed that public health challenge is more acute in sub-Saharan Africa than anywhere in the world (Cooke, 2009). Also, a KPMG Africa report in 2012 stated that Africa is not healthy at all because of all the indicators of health, Africa lags behind the rest of the world, and behind poor countries of South-East and South Asia, that were behind Africa a few decades ago (*The State of Healthcare in Africa*, 2012, para. 2).

Some of the identified health indicators that show the decline in the state of health in Africa includes: high maternal mortality rate; high neonatal deaths; there are only 2.3 doctors per 1,000 people in Africa, less than one-tenth of the figure in Europe and less than half the figure in South-East Asia; lowest life expectancy of all the regions in the classification of the World Health Organisation (54 years); and increasing migration of health workers from Africa to the West (Moeti, 2017). While the factors identified as being responsible for this poor health condition in Africa are: the HIV/AIDS epidemic; poor health insurance schemes adopted by African governments; poor funding of healthcare; poor health infrastructures; poverty that has slowed down the emergence of private healthcare initiatives outside a few cities; conflicts leading to high incidence of death and injuries, which indirectly hampers healthcare provision; imprecise and unproductive use of external aids; and Africa's location in the tropics, where the nastiest germs and parasites flourish (*The State of Healthcare in Africa*, 2012, para. 3).

These complex and interrelated challenges ultimately demand sustained, patient and integrated responses. There is therefore the need to adopt a different strategy and framework from what we already have in order to improve the state of health in Africa. Different efforts have been made at addressing the different persistent and emerging health issues and to eradicate a wide range of disease in Africa. But in spite of the many recorded progresses made in addressing health issues in Africa, there is still a long way to go. On the other hand too, different perspectives of health have been revealed in academic literatures and within the framework of health professionals. But a biblical view of

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health points to a more comprehensive perception of health, which is physical, functional and attitudinal. Our perception of "health" has practical implications to living healthy.

Therefore, this paper seeks to explore the biblical perspective to health as a means to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal on health in Africa. It undertakes a content analysis of the biblical texts that conceptualise the notion of health within the Jan Gabriel Watt's hermeneutic theory of contextual relevance, which states that biblical interpretation involves constructing a bridge between the world of the biblical text, and that of the present day readers so that the two "worlds" may meet in an interactive dialogue. Hence, the interpreter looks for similar (connecting) and dissimilar (overlapping) elements of the two "worlds" and finds opportunities for a relevant dialogue. That of the biblical text is achieved through exegetical analysis, while that of the present day reader is achieved through qualitative research (Watt, 2008). Thus, the paper explains the similar and dissimilar elements in the Bible and in the discipline of physical and health education in relation to health being the means of achieving theSDG on health in Africa. The way we define "health" has practical implications to living healthy.

II. PERSPECTIVES OF HEALTH

A scrutiny of literature available in the context of health professionals and health practitioners reveals three (3) broad description of health. These perspectives of health are examined in the succeeding paragraphs.

a) *The Perspective of Movement and Physical Activities*

The consideration of health as being functional, that is, having the ability to participate in social and everyday activities, has resulted in the emphasis and obsessive pursuit for looking fit and healthy through exercises, sports, dance or recreation; slimming techniques; healthy diets, which includes use of alternative medicines and herbal remedies; and meditation. As Douglas (1978) points out, neglecting oneself or one's appearance is considered being sick. Engagement in these physical activities aims more at being "physically fit". This invariably leads to the understanding of health as psychological and social well-being (Radley, 1994). Chin & Edginton (2014) add that moderate to vigorous levels of physical activity has been encouraged as both a short-term strategy and a long-term strategy, as a pathway for individuals to feel better, have more energy and perhaps live longer.

Godbey (2009), Nesse and Williams (1996), Cranz (1982), de Vries *et al* (2003), Kaplan (1995), and Frumkin (2001) among others have promoted outdoor recreation and physical activities as a means to achieving health and wellness. They opined that outdoor physical activities in natural surroundings can mitigate

health problems and improve health, while an indoor, sedentary lifestyle has negative health consequences. So, researchers and practitioners in health-related fields are now beginning to identify parks and recreation as a health service. As Murray and Lopez (1996) hints, contact with nature has particular relevance for mental health and cardiovascular disease, which are expected to become the true biggest contributions to disease worldwide by the year 2020.

Chin & Edginton (2014) state that movement and physical activities in the form of recreation, exercise, sports, dance, and walking will address illness, diseases and health issues consequent upon the consumption of processed foods that are high in fat, sugar and sodium; addiction to watching television or videos; playing video games; and using computers. Some of these issues could be obesity and overweight, and the increased incidence of non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes. Also, physical activities can enhance one's health by imparting cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility and body composition, as well as promoting greater agility, coordination, speed, power, and reaction time (Corbin, Lindsey, Welk & Corbin, 2010; Hoeger & Hoeger, 2010).

Furthermore, Godbey (2009) states that any outdoor pursuit that includes walking has the following health benefits for older adults: managing weight; controlling blood pressure; decreasing risk of heart attack; boosting "good" cholesterol; lowering risk of stroke; reducing risk of breast cancer and type 2 diabetes; avoiding the need for gallstone surgery; protecting against hip fracture; preventing depression, colon cancer, constipation, osteoporosis and impotence; lengthening lifespan; lowering stress levels; relieving arthritis and back pain; strengthening muscles, bones, and joints; improving sleep; and elevating overall mood and sense of well-being. These physical activities are health-enhancing. Also, it must be stated that recreation, exercise, sports and dance can help build communities through social inclusion and a sense of connection; help build families through shared experiences and shared achievements; and can help mitigate anti-social behaviour.

The perspective to health using physical activities and movement views the body as an object. And as stated by Broekhoff (1972), viewing the body as an object occurs "in a society when man (and woman) has gained the capacity at his (or her) own body as if it were a thing" (p. 88.). This perspective aligns with the International Council for Health, Physical Education Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER.SD) suggestion that "a physically educated person has learned skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities; is physically fit; does participate regularly in physical activity; knows implications and benefits from movement

in physical activities; and values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle” (Lynch & Soukup, 2016, p. 4). But as opined by Kirk & MacDonald (1998), this perspective of health is inadequate and too narrow because health is such a large component. Thus, there is the need for a more holistic perception of health.

b) *The Biomedical Perspective of Health*

Noguchi (2012) hints that the biomedical model to health originated from German medicine, in which pathology and biology achieved great success in the nineteenth century. While Wainwright (2008) opined that it emerged from the Enlightenment belief in the application of science to the situation of human problems. The model focuses on purely biological factors and excludes psychological, environmental, and social influences in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

The biomedical perspective of health, influenced by Cartesian dualism that separates mind/spirit from the body and reductionism, sees health as the absence of disease or an internal state depressing functional ability and deviating from the norm of health (Engel 1981; Sharkey 1952; Boorse 1997). Disease, according to Engel (1981) “is to be fully accounted for by deviations from the norm of measureable biological somatic variables” (p. 591). It is construed as understanding health and disease in scientific and biological terms. The premise of the biomedical perspective is that illnesses and disease have an underlying cause, pathological or biological, which is always a single, and any illness can be cured by removing the cause (Noguchi, 2012; Wade & Halligan, 2005). This premise has become the taken-for-granted way of thinking about sickness in Western society. So, for many people, according to White (2009), being sick is a biomedical process that is natural and has nothing to do with our social life.

Thus, biomedical health professionals focus on providing a clear understanding of the causes of disease and their physiological consequences, leading to more effective treatment and prevention. They also put great efforts to understand the ramifications and effects of disease, including personal and psychological factors (Laura & Heaney, 1990; Boorse, 1977). It is no gainsaying that the development in biomedicine, with the aid of science and technology has contributed greatly to health and has seen to easy treatment and cure of illnesses and diseases.

Adibi (2014) identified three philosophical and theoretical foundations as the basis for the biomedical health model: Rene Descartes’ philosophy of Rationalism, Positivism of August Comte, and Structural – Functionalism of Talcott Parsons. Wade & Halligan (2005) summarised the closely related sets of beliefs combined by the biomedical model: all illness, symptoms and signs arise from an underlying

abnormality within the body; all diseases give rise to symptoms; health is the absence of disease; mental phenomena are separate from and unrelated to other disturbances of bodily functions; the patient is a victim of circumstances with little or no responsibility for the presence or cause of the illnesses; and the patient is a passive recipient of treatment. Adibi (2014) adds the following assumptions on which the model is based: dualistic (the divide between mind and body); mechanistic (causes are classified and understood by scientific methods); empirical (knowledge is generated by observation can be informal through a process of experimentation); and interventionist (medical knowledge can be applied to repair damage or sick biological system).

Various criticisms have been made of the biomedical perspective to health. Sociologists have been the greatest critics of biomedicine. As social scientists, who use systematic methods to understand how the lives of individuals fit in with “big picture” patterns in the society, they accuse the model of reducing complex processes to simple ones and misrepresent reality (Russell, 2013). Engel (1977) states that the approach does not leave room within its framework for the social, psychological, and behavioural dimensions of illness, while Rayan (1971), state that is has the tendency towards victim-blaming.

Furthermore, the biomedical model has been considered obsolete due to changes in proportion of illnesses and that it cannot handle patients complaining symptoms that are not attributable to any organic cause, or patients that have lifestyle-related diseases whom complete removal of cause is difficult (Barsky & Borus, 1999). According to Scriven *et al* (2010), the model has the danger of allowing physicians to perceive the body as a machine. This perspective of health has resulted in dismembering the totality of the human persons and limitations are becoming more apparent as diseases are becoming drug resistant. All of this kind of criticism gave prominence to the holistic/bio-psychosocial model.

c) *The Contemporary Holistic Perspective of Health*

The holistic perspective of health has been described by words such as “whole”, “physical well-being”, “psychological”, mental or spiritual well-being’, “social well-being” and as “balance and harmony” (Poulsen & Borup, 2011). It was described as being either a balance between a shift from a biomedical and illness – oriented to a humanistic and holism – oriented paradigm (Herbert & Eriksson, 1995; Berg, Hedelin & Sarvimaki, 2005). First, it treats each individual as a separate entity, both in biological and social terms. Second, it is multidimensional, introducing a less simplistic view of health and disease (Dossey, 2008; Berg & Sarvimaki, 2013).

The contemporary holistic view of health considers disease as dissonance between body mind



and spirit (Hellestrom, 1993). Furthermore, it is an integrative approach to therapy that considers health as having spiritual, psychological and physical dimensions balanced (Papathanasiou et al., 2013; Huljev & Pandak, 2016). For Shannon (1989) and Khan & Qureshi (2018), a holistic perspective to health entails a bio-psychosocial model of healthcare, in which disease is seen as interplay between environmental, physical behaviour, psychological, and social functions and integrates mental health care services into the primary care sector. Hence, when evaluating a patient, it treats their sickness or disease holistically.

The term "holistic" comes from the term "holism", from the Greek word "*holos*" (whole, complete), which was coined by Jan Smuts (1870-1950), a politician and Prime Minister of the South African Republic, and a military leader and philosopher (Huljev & Pandak, 2016). The theory states that the whole is more than the sum of its systematic parts (Smuts, 1926). Three goals form the basis for a holistic approach to health: mental emotional improvement, prevention, and therapy or curative (Huljev & Pandak, 2016). Scholars have applied the holistic approach to health to different aspects of health issues (Tomljenovic, 2014; Huljev & Pandak, 2016; Hellestrom, 1993; Egger, Desser & Brown, 2005; Eriksson, Lindblad, Muller & Gillisjo, 2018; Cadet, Davis, Elks & Wilson, 2016). The holistic view of health is more widely accepted as it seen to complement biomedicine by balancing out its reductionist tendencies and not the substitute (Cadet, Davis, Elks & Wilson, 2016; Greaves, 2002).

Turner & Holroyd (2017) opine that incorporating a holistic perspective to treating patients resolve the problem of incomplete assessment of ailments and allied treatment where the whole person has been overlooked and slows down recovery. They further state that bridging the gap between the holistic concept and practice requires an awareness of involved relationship while assessment and treatment is being carried out (Turner & Holroyd, 2016). Health professionals who use this approach encourage each person to be responsible for the daily care of their health through diet, exercise, lifestyle and attitude about what constitutes wellness.

The holistic model of health has been linked to the classical utilitarianism of the eighteenth century, whereby the greatest happiness of the greatest number becomes the measure of right and wrong (Blackburn, 2008). On their part, Erickson (2007) and McEvoy & Duffy (2008) state certain principles as governing the holistic approach: each individual is capable of improving his knowledge and skills and changing his behaviour towards himself and others; people are naturally inclined towards being healthy, but are also responsible for their good health status; the main focus of the recovery efforts is the individual and not the disease or injury; and the relationship between health

care professionals and their patients should be one of mental collaboration.

Advocates for a holistic approach to health among other things, affirm that the necessity for the approach is that with all medical knowledge and advancement in science and technology, people are not proportionally less sick; life span is extended in many instances but the quality of life well-being and productivity usually do not follow that extension (Tomljenovic, 2014). In addition, Huljev & Pandak (2016) state that in addition to the holistic approach to health, a team approach to a patient is also extremely important. This team approach is required in the management of individuals with chronic conditions and in addressing public health challenges more broadly. This involves a collaborative effort between public health specialists, policy and service planners, researchers, information technology designers, and support personnel (Potter & Frisch, 2007). But Khan & Qureshi (2018) assert that this model is unable to solve all the challenges of treatment as it cannot maintain a balance between all the aspects of a human being in relation to diseases.

III. BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE TO HEALTH

The biblical view of health points to deeper roots of health issues, which are still neglected by the aforementioned perspectives. It pursues health within a broader concept of human well-being. The Bible is not a textbook about health or nutrition, nor is it a book written by physicians and health professions. Yet, it provides fundamental principles to guide personal choices and behavioural patterns that promote health and prevent disease. When these principles are properly understood and applied, there will be tremendous gains for now and the future. The biblical templates for health and healthy living are considered from these four angles: dietary rules pertaining to nutrition, personal health and public health; right relationship with God and others; adherence to beliefs and values antithetical to the contemporary liberal society; and the perception of humanity as being whole.

a) *Dietary Rules Pertaining to Nutrition, Personal Health and Public Health*

There were certain rules in the Bible that regulated diet and nutrition for God's people (Israelites). Restriction was placed on eating some animals termed "unclean" (Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14): scavengers like crab and crayfish; filter feeding organisms like clam and oysters; carrion eaters or pork; and others like bears, squirrels and raccoons. Many of these animals carry parasites that cause diseases like trichinosis, lung and liver flukes in humans (Winnail, 2009, para. 6). Human populations that consume these creatures on a regular basis often have high rates of parasitic infections and they may contain high concentrations of toxic heavy metals, pathogenic bacteria and viruses, which make

them dangerous for human consumption. These animals are nature's "clean-up-crew". That is, ecologically, their role is to devour dead plants or animals and purify water in lakes, streams and estuaries (Winnail, 2009, para. 7). So, avoiding unclean meats is a fundamental step in preventing major parasitic diseases that afflict millions of people around the world, with Africans inclusive.

Also, there are biblical rules regulating the consumption of foods. Restriction was placed on eating blood and fats (Leviticus 3:17; 7:22-27; 17:10-11; Ecclesiastes 10:17; Genesis 9:4). Medical science has now revealed that the blood of animals can contain bacteria and viruses that transmit disease (Winnail, 2009, para. 10). Epidemiological studies have linked high fats drinks and heart disease, stroke and various types of cancer (Winnail, 2009, para. 7). This prohibition relates to our contemporary diet. So, high fat diets are high calorie diets that contribute to weight problems in our society. So, today, the consumption of fatty foods are discouraged. And the Bible encourages the eating of fruits, grains, nuts and vegetables in addition to clean meats (Genesis 1:29; 2:16; 3:18; 9:3). When these biblical instructions are viewed objectively, they agree with nutritional advice based on current research: reduce intake of fats, increase use of complex carbohydrates (fruits, vegetables and white grains) and limit consumption of meat and refined carbohydrates.

In relation to personal health, certain guidelines are recorded in the Bible. We are not to eat too much honey (Proverbs 25:16, 27) because honey is a form of refined carbohydrate and those who consume large amounts of refined carbohydrates experience higher rates of diabetes and other related problems. Other instructions are: not to overeat (Proverbs 23:2); eat within a short period of time after cooking (Leviticus 7:15-18; 19:6-7); wash with water in a hot climate (Leviticus 11:40; 13:54; 14:8-9; 47; 17:19-21); not eating dead carcasses (Exodus 22:31; Leviticus 17:15-16) and offal (Leviticus 3:4, 9-10; 4:11; 16:27); maintain balance between work and rest (Exodus 20:9-10; Psalm 127:2; Ecclesiastes 5:12); and partaking in the benefits of exercises (I Timothy 4:8) and physical work (Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 12:11; 20:13; 19:5).

Furthermore, there are rules relating to public health: cleanliness is encouraged (Isaiah 52:11; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 John 3:3); dead bodies are not to be touched because it could lead to the spread of disease (Leviticus 11:39); people who have infectious skin diseases should be quarantined and isolated (Leviticus 13:1-40); unclean food and materials should be incinerated (Leviticus 4:11:11-12; 7:19, 13:52, 55, 57; 16:27); human excreta is to be buried far from where people live (Deuteronomy 23:12-13); and there is prohibition of incest (Leviticus 18:6-14). The rules pertaining to public health relates to water and food

contamination, sewage disposal, infectious diseases and health education.

These laws suggest an understanding of the causes of ill-health and the necessity for personal and public health, which will be endorsed in contemporary Africa. Though, some people have stated that the biblical dietary guidelines are simply Levitical rituals, and were not given for health reasons, but only indicated how the Israelites were to be separate from other people (Wenham, 1981), yet, these laws relate to the health/hygiene concerns of modern Africa. They show that individuals have a responsibility to ensure public health and their health benefits are unquantifiable.

b) *Right Relationship with God and People*

The Bible affirms that humanity's relationship with God and other people is regarded as the cause of good or ill health. Most contemporary theologians agree that *shalom* is the nearest dynamic equivalent to the word "health" (Wilkens, 1980). *Shalom* means wholeness, well-being, vigour and vitality in all dimensions of human life, and is caused by being in right relationship with God and other people (Atkinson, 1993). Wilkensen (1980) understands that *shalom* is synonymous with right relationship and concedes that the Old Testament concept of health is comprised of wholeness and holiness.

In the Old Testament, humanity's relationship with God was expressed through covenants and entailed obedience to God and God's commandments, especially the *Decalogue* (Deuteronomy 20:1-20), which involved imitating God and being holy (Wright, 1983). This is a sign of humanity's love for God which must also be transferred to human relationships. A loving relationship with people will leave no room for injustice, lying, maltreating one another, among others. By implication, obedience to God's commands – the means by which people maintained a right relationship with God and with others – was conducive to health and a determining factor in good health (Exodus 15:26; 20:12; 23:25-26; Leviticus 26:14-16, 23-26; Numbers 5:20-23, 27-28; Deuteronomy 7:12-15; 28:27-29, 58-62; Proverbs 3:7-8). Moreso, longevity and physical strength is linked to God as evidenced by the lives of Old Testament patriarchs. Health becomes the consequence of obedience (Fountain, 1989).

Also, according to Field (1995) the New Testament links obedience to God's commands with having a good relationship with God (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 John 2:3; 3:24), and a causal link between disobedience and ill-health is affirmed (John 5:14; Mark 2:5-12; 1 Corinthians 11:29-30; James 5:15-16). But it must be stated that a lack of good health is not always linked to sin and disobedience (John 9:13; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Galatians 4:13-14). Obedience to God's commands reveals the nature of loving relationships which are aimed at promoting well-being.

In another vein, the Bible discourages the harbouring of envy or grudges that disrupt body processes (Proverbs 14:30; Matthew 5:23-24). Our relationship with God and others influence not only our own health, but also the health and wellbeing of others. As social and interrelated beings, inappropriate behaviour will endanger the well-being of others. Wilkensen (1980) summarises the biblical concept of health hinged on relationships thus:

It is only when man's being is whole and his relationship right that he can be truly be described as healthy. The basic relationship of all is man's relationship to God and when this is disturbed, all human relationships are disturbed whether they are of man to himself, to his fellow, or to his environment (p. 1).

c) *Adherence to Beliefs and Values Antithetical to the Contemporary Liberal Society*

The biblical perspective of health is antithetical to the misguided values of our liberal society that encourages behaviours prohibited by the Bible such as prostitution and other forms of sexual immorality, oppression of the poor and vulnerable, disrespect of the elderly, favouring the rich above the poor, materialism among others. These behaviours which the liberal society termed as expressing freedoms, but prohibited by the Bible have been found to be "risk behaviours" by health education professionals. Biblical teaching reveals underlying moral principles and values that regulate the pattern of human living. These principles and values provide help and guidance for a healthy lifestyle.

Many biblical laws resolve issues that arise from actions and behaviours damaging to the health of humans such as smoking, sedentary living, medium/high alcohol consumption, and stress (Galvez, 2010). The Bible encourages those who hold its tenets sacrosanct to acknowledge certain beliefs and values that promote holistic human health (Douglas, 2001, para. 13). For instance, the *Seventh Commandment* states "You shall not commit adultery" (Deuteronomy 5:18). Anyone who abides by this rule will practice abstinence of sexual intercourse before and outside of marriage. From a public health perspective, this is the best way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. This is good reproductive health. But those who flout this rule are at the risk of contracting STDs and HIV/AIDS.

It must be noted that in the biblical context, health and stickiness did not depend solely on supernatural forces or gods, but on individual decisions and actions related to God's laws (Galvez, 2010). This aspect of biblical notion of health has been corroborated by *Behavioural Epidemiology*, which is applied to the understanding and prevention of lifestyle-related diseases (Sallis, Owen & Fotheringham, 2000). Those who believe in the Bible, desires to please God

and hold strong moral convictions are less likely to smoke, neither abuse alcohol or drugs nor engage in promiscuous sexual activities. The Bible labels such actions as "sins" to be avoided.

On the other hand, the biblical ethos of faithfulness, loyalty and commitment that is to be exhibited in interpersonal human relationship is a powerful tool to ensure therapeutic relationships founded on trust. Also, actions premised on justice, forgiveness and reconciliation strengthens human relationships and heals hearts that could have led to emotional breakdown. Furthermore, the Bible asserts that the human body belongs to God and must not be defiled or else there will be grave consequences (1 Corinthians 6:19, 3:17). This instruction regulates every action that abuses the body such as alcoholism, use of tobacco or recreational drugs. And humans are encouraged to have a cheerful disposition (Proverbs 17:22), which resolves some diseases people suffers as a result of depression.

Though, it has become a trend for some to accuse the biblical health values of limiting human pleasure, yet, it is the act of disposing these values that is the highest displeasure anyone can do to their health. So, from a "spiritual" point of view, those who apply these beliefs and values and hold strong moral connections will fall within the group of those applying public health guidelines for healthy living.

d) *The Holistic Perception of Humanity*

The understanding of human persons is essential to our understanding the concept of health. A biblical view of the human is not founded on scientific physiology and biological classification. Our emotional, spiritual, physical view of the holistic nature of persons aligns with the medical understanding of the links between, for example, emotions (especially stress) and the immune system. Our understanding of what it means to be human is essential to understanding health care.

A biblical anthropology underscores the point that human persons have spiritual, emotional, mental, related and physical aspects which are interrelated. Spatially, humans are to relate with God; physical, humans have a body; emotionally, humans have a mind; mentally, human are rational beings; and relationally, humans naturally form partnerships as evidenced in friendships, social associations and marriage (Jubilee Centre, 1998). Thus, the Bible affirms a multidimensional nature of humans (Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; I Thessalonians 4: 13-18). This understanding of the multidimensional nature of persons has implications for our approach to health in contemporary Africa.

In the Old Testament, health was understood in terms of longevity and strength. The biblical view of health could be construed as primarily physical in

nature, but pursued in the broader context of human well-being (Jubilee Center, 1998). This perception of health agrees with the African traditional association of health with material concepts such as life, fertility, plenty, provision, rain and having possessions (Mbiti, 1990). The physical conceptualisation of health in the Old Testament is continued in the New Testament as evidenced in the emphasis on physical healing, casting out of demons and raising the dead. All of these could have effect upon the physical and mental health of persons.

Also, the Hebrew words of the Old Testament used to refer to the entire or part of the human nature are *lev* (heart), *nephesh* (soul), *ruach* (spirit), and *basar* (flesh). The use of these words emphasise the unity of human nature, and not the existence of elements within human persons that are independent or antagonistic (Galvez, 2010). In the New Testament, the Greek words used to describe human nature, either partially or totally, are *pneuma* (spirit), *sarx* (flesh), *soma* (body), and *psuche* (soul). None of these words refer to a separated element or entity independent of the whole human nature. They refer to the entire human nature and the whole human behaving in different dimensions (Galvez, 2010). Therefore, every parts of the human person affect the other parts positively or negatively.

This view of the dependent and interrelatedness of all the dimensions of human persons encourages people to practice healthy lifestyle based on the human nature. It shows that God is interested in the quality and quantity of our lives both now and in the future. The biblical perception of human persons is at variance with that of Greek dichotomy and philosophical assumptions of the contemporary world. The biblical view of the holistic nature of person is not individualistic but interrelated. All the aspects of well-being, which involves physical, spiritual, emotional, and social are shown as interrelated and not merged. This view aligns with the proposition of the *World Health Organisation* that being healthy does not only mean that the person is not suffering from any disease or illness but it also means that a person should be completely mentally, physically and socially fit (Khan & Qureshi, 2018).

IV. EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conceptualisation of health by the *World Health Organisation* incorporates a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not a mere absence of disease or infirmity. This has moved the issue of health from a strictly medical model toward the concept of well-being. This is affirmed by the biblical view of health that encourages the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, which addresses the issues of physical health alongside the issues of mental, relational or spiritual health.

Biblically, the human being is interconnected and interdependent. Our body, soul and spirit are parts of the same creature. The health of our physical bodies is connected to our emotional, mental and spiritual health and to our relationships as a social being. We are not just a collection of parts that operate independently. Thus, in relation to health, the Bible encourages the consistent adherence to dietary rules that performs to nutrition, personal health and public health; being in right relationship with God and other people; promotion of beliefs and values antithetical to the values of our contemporary liberal society; and the perception of humans as being whole.

Therefore, the following recommendations are suggested in order to achieve the SDG goal on health in Africa:

1. Health practitioners and professionals should incorporate all aspects of human nature in their handling of health matters, which includes physical, emotional, mental, relational and the spiritual.
2. We are to avoid foods produced through genetic engineering but eat foods that are naturally grown from the earth. The pursuit of science and technology to tamper with our foods should be vigorously discouraged.
3. The consumption of grains, fruits and vegetables should be encouraged in our diets. Foods that are domestically-grown, natural, whole, unprocessed and unrefined should be eaten, as they promote health and longevity. Denatured, refined, processed, man-made foods encourage ill-health. Water instead of sodas or carbonated drinks should be consumed.
4. The African traditional ethos of brotherhood, familial relationships, guided sexual relationships, temperance and moderation should be encouraged and elevated above the contemporary sedentary lifestyle; sexual perversion; and materialism.
5. The appropriate relationship with God which goes a long way to regulate human relationships should be encouraged and factored into developing a holistic health framework.

V. CONCLUSION

The Sustainable Development Goal 3, relating to health, targeted at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all people is still far from being achieved in Africa. This is can be largely attributed to the social and economic encumbrances and failure of governance in Africa. More so, the established approaches to health in Africa, the movement and physical activities, biomedical and the contemporary holistic perspectives, have not yielded the required results. Therefore, there is the need to adopt the biblical perspective to health. The biblical perspective to health encompasses a consistent adherence to dietary rules

pertaining to nutrition, personal health and public health; being in right relationship with God and others; promotion of beliefs and values that are antithetical to that of contemporary liberal society; and the holistic perception of humans. This approach to health is in sync with the African traditional perception of health and ethos of brotherhood. Therefore, if adopted in the promotion of the SDG goal on health, Africa and Africans will be healthier.

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Ernest Hemingway's the Oldman and the Sea: A Tale of Man's Helplessness against Destiny

By Dr. Mayurkumar Mukund Bhai Solanki

Abstract- Earnest Hemingway, an American writer, produced considerable novels in the history of English literature. Hemingway's *The Oldman and the Sea* is a story of oldman's struggle and his helplessness against destiny. Like Greek tragedians, Hemingway accepts the harshness of destiny in man's life. It is very well said "Man proposes and God disposes" that clearly denotes the role of destiny in man's life. The story of *The Oldman and the Sea* is universal because it reveals how human beings struggle to get something in life but sometimes crushed under the wheels of destiny. The old man has indomitable spirit and sea experience yet he is unable to catch the fish for a few days. One day, he caught the big fish called the Marlin but it was too big for him to drag to the shore. The Old man tried to drag the Marlin to the shore but in a midway its blood attracted the Sharks and he brought only its skeleton on the shore. So Hemingway talks about the helplessness of man against destiny through the character of an old man. This paper is a sincere effort to display man's helplessness against destiny through the character of old man.

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Abstract- Earnest Hemingway, an American writer, produced considerable novels in the history of English literature. Hemingway's *The Oldman and the Sea* is a story of oldman's struggle and his helplessness against destiny. Like Greek tragedians, Hemingway accepts the harshness of destiny in man's life. It is very well said "Man proposes and God disposes" that clearly denotes the role of destiny in man's life. The story of *The Oldman and the Sea* is universal because it reveals how human beings struggle to get something in life but sometimes crushed under the wheels of destiny. The old man has indomitable spirit and sea experience yet he is unable to catch the fish for a few days. One day, he caught the big fish called the Marlin but it was too big for him to drag to the shore. The Old man tried to drag the Marlin to the shore but in a midway its blood attracted the Sharks and he brought only its skeleton on the shore. So Hemingway talks about the helplessness of man against destiny through the character of an old man. This paper is a sincere effort to display man's helplessness against destiny through the character of old man.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ernest Miller Hemingway is known as Ernest Hemingway in English literature, was an American journalist, novelist, short story writer and sportsman. Hemingway wrote seven novels during his life time and among them the popular novels are: *The Sun Also Rises*, *Farewell to Arms*, and *The Old man and the Sea*. *The Old man and the Sea* brought him a good name and fame in literature. Hemingway's works mainly deal with the themes of love, war, wilderness, and loss. *Farewell to Arms* deals with the theme of the futility of war. In *A Farewell to Arms*, Hemingway says, "The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong in broken places. But those that will not break it kills. It kills very good and the very gentle and the very brave impartially. If you are none of these you can be sure it will kill you too but there will be no special hurry." (en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest _ Hemingway) It seems that there is always conflict between good and evil in this world but some people remain strong in broken places. The greater power called destiny crushes everyone under its wheels impartially. In this connection, Omar Khayyam writes:

The moving fingers writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all thy piety nor wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,

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Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.

(www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-rubaiyat-of-omar-khayyam)

Human beings are helpless against destiny. Hemingway's *The Old man and the Sea* deals with the theme of man's helplessness against destiny. Hemingway talks about how man's efforts go in vain in spite of struggling to get something in life.

Many writers have accepted the role of destiny in man's life in their works. Greek tragedians believed that man is only a puppet in the hands of destiny. Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* is a great example of man's helplessness against destiny. It is believed that whatever happens to man is predestined and no one can escape from it. Shakespeare emphasizes uncertainty of man's life in his tragedy *Hamlet* and says,

"We know what we are, but know not what may be."

(www.nowweatshakespeare.com/quotes/famous-shakespeare-quotes/)

It seems that something uncontrollable happens to man that is called destiny. Moreover, Shakespeare defines life in his play *Macbeth* in the following manners:

"Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then herds no more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." (www.nowweatshakespeare.com/quotes/famous-shakespeare-quotes/)

Shakespeare considers life as a walking shadow and man is only a poor player who plays different role during his life time. Moreover, it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury but signifying nothing. This clearly indicates the emptiness of man's life and the power of destiny.

Albert Camus's *The Myth of Sisyphus* is the finest example of absurd condition of man's life and compares man's life with the task of Sisyphus who is condemned to repeat the same meaningless task of pushing a boulder up a mountain, only to see it roll down again. In *The Myth of Sisyphus*, Camus says, "Likewise and during everyday of an illustrious life, time carries us. But a moment always comes when we have to carry it. We live on the future: "tomorrow," "later on," "when you have made your way," "you will understand when you are old enough." Such irrelevancies are wonderful, for; after all, it's a matter of dying. Yet a day

comes when a man notices or says that he is thirty. Thus he asserts his youth. But simultaneously he situates himself in relation to time. He takes his place in it. He admits that he stands at a certain point on a curve that he acknowledges having to travel to its end. He belongs to time, and by the horror that seizes him, he recognizes his worst enemy. Tomorrow, he was longing for tomorrow, whereas everything in him ought to reject it. That revolt of the flesh is the absurd." (<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/855563-le-mythe-de-sisyph>) Camus believed that man dwells on future and thinks about tomorrow as well as tries to attain materialistic prosperity in his young age. It is ironical that man is unable to spend what he earns during his youth and he realizes that he is now nearer to death such realization makes him unhappy. We are living in the midst of absurdity so that we are unable to understand a true meaning of life.

The Old man and the Sea begins with a description of an old fisherman Santiago how he looks like with deep wrinkles on his face. Such thing shows the dusk time of his life. Hemingway tells the readers that the old man has a wide sea experience. However, the old man feels weakness in his old age; he has courage to catch the fish from the sea. He is aware of his physical situation. As the Old man says; "I may not be as strong as I think, the Old man said. I know many tricks and I have resolution." (Hemingway, p.22) Hemingway served as a soldier during World War I hence he displays the power of strong determination through the character of an old man. Santiago tells the story of his struggle to a boy and remembers his painful days.

All my life the early sun has hurt my eyes, he thought. Yet they are still good. In the evening I can look straight into it without getting the blackness. It has more force in the evening too. But in the morning it is painful. (Hemingway, p.33).

It seems that Santiago has passed through hardship throughout of his life. The early sun has hurt his eyes yet he has courage to face it. It is more painful in the evening too. In spite of hardship, the old man is not ready to give up his sea career. Hemingway seems to tell the story of hardship of human beings through the character of old man. Old man's struggle is a struggle of mankind. Human beings are always in search of love, security, and prosperity throughout life but only a few can taste the fruit of happiness in life. There is a role of destiny in every one's life hence man tastes the fruits of happiness or sadness according to their deeds.

Hemingway talks about old man's efforts to catch the fish from the sea and how he has passed eighty four days without taking a fish. "An old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty four days without taking a fish." (Shams, p.95) A boy called Manolin accompanies an old man on

his fishing expedition for forty days but nothing comes out of these fishing trips. The parents of a boy insist him to leave the company of an old man and not to indulge himself in a worthless task.

Santiago does not lose his courage to face such adverse circumstances of life. As he thinks: "Everyday is a new day" (Shams, p.96) At last, the old man has caught a big fish called the Marlin but it is too big for him to drag to the shore. He has no idea about its height and continues to drag it to the shore. Hemingway presents the conflict between man and nature: "A Marlin was eating the sardines that covered the point and the shank of the hook where the hand forged hook projected from the head of the small tuna." (Shams, p. 96).

As he holds the line delicately with his left hand, it runs through its finger without the fish feeling any tension. The Old man struggles with the huge fish for two days and two nights and expresses his love for the fish: "Fish, he said, I love you and respect you very much. But I will kill you dead before this day ends." (Hemingway, p.60).

It seems that the Old man loves the Marlin but he is aware of the fact that he has to kill it as a fisher man before the day ends.

When the old man was trying to drag the Marlin on the shore, the sharks smell its blood and almost ate it. Although the Old man tried hard to keep the Sharks away from the Marlin, all his efforts proved vain. As he sighs:

Half fish, he said. Fish that you were I am sorry that I went too far out. I ruined us both. But we have killed many sharks, you and I, and mined many others. How many did you ever kill old fish? You do not have that spear on you head for nothing. (Hemingway, p.125)

It seems that the Old man laments on his fate to for not dragging such a big fish on the shore. He drags a carcass of the Marlin to the shore. When people look at carcass of the Marlin, they express their feeling of hushed amazement on that.

Thus, Hemingway presents the story of harshness of destiny through the character of old man. Man is always helpless against destiny. The life of human beings moves between two poles expectations and unexpectations, fortune and misfortune so no one can deny the role of destiny in life. Man always thinks of good things to be happened and tries to avoid bad things in life. The old man is a symbol of courage in the midst of difficulties. The Marlin reveals the fact how the weak is destroyed by the strong in this world. The Marlin's struggle is a struggle of man to save himself from the evil and heavy odds of the world. Man is a bundle of desires but he is unable to fulfill all his desires throughout life. It is rightly said that man proposes and God disposes.

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Coverage of the 2016-2017 Economic Recession in Selected Newspapers in Nigeria

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Abstract- The mass media play a critical role in raising and creating awareness on issues that affect society. One such subject that the media must bring to the attention of all-government and individuals in the community is an economic recession. The continuous instability of the Naira against the dollar, geometrical increase in unemployment, the rising cost of living, non-payment of salaries to the employed, the unpredictable prices of crude oil among other things were issues the common man in Nigeria faced as a result of economic recession. How such stories were reported in the media is a critical subject for empirical inquiry, hence the need for this study. The paramount objective of this study was to analyze the newspaper coverage of the 2016-2017 economic recession in Nigeria. The newspapers selected for the study include Daily Sun, The Guardian, and Vanguard. The coverage examined frequency, story genre, story prominence, story direction, story depth. Agenda setting and priming theory served as the theoretical foundation of the study. The study employed content analysis as research design. The Code sheet was the instrument used to gather data. Results of the study showed that the frequency of coverage on economic recession stories is 243 in the print media; prominence attached to economic recession stories is low, and the dominant story genre is news.

Keywords: *economic recession, newspapers, coverage, nigeria.*

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Keywords: economic recession, newspapers, coverage, nigeria.

1. INTRODUCTION

The mass media, as an important informers of society, play a critical role in covering and commenting on social and political crises, natural disasters, and economic recession (Cottle, 2009). Boykoff and Ravi (2007) note that the-integral role played by the media is not surprising as they are still the main source of information and opinion for millions of readers and viewers through newspapers, magazines, television, radio and the internet.

Television news and newspapers are principal sources of information about economic developments, in particular the state of the national macro-economy (Mutz, 1992).

Economic coverage can affect individual citizens' economic perceptions (Hetsroni, Amir and Mosi

Rosenboim, 2014) as well as consumer confidence in the economy (Hollanders and Vliegenthart, 2011). Mass media serves the role of being a source of information as well as an advocate for important economic facts.

Analysis of news coverage (television and newspapers) routinely reveal that the economy receives a substantial amount of coverage, both in absolute terms and relative to other issues (Boydstun, 2013). News coverage of the economy provides citizens with context for understanding their own economic experiences and thus judging economic performance (Boydstun, 2013). Citizens expose themselves to at least some of the news coverage of the economy. The exposure might be direct or indirect, and it might be intentional or unintentional. In any case, the sizable amount of news coverage of the economy in combination with many citizens' regular exposure to it suggests the plausibility of the proposition that mass economic attitudes are shaped by news coverage of the economy (Boydstun, 2013).

Subsequently, citizens rely on cues in economic news coverage to gauge changing economic conditions (De Boef and Kellstedt, 2004), place personal finances in a broader economic context (Mutz, 1992), and attribute responsibility for economic outcomes (Rudolph, 2006). Particularly essential is news coverage during an economic recession, as coverage increases in volume, is more negative in tone, and citizens pay increased attention to economic news (Fogarty, 2005). In this respect, economic news coverage serves as a burglar alarm alerting citizens to both real and perceived economic problems (Zaller, 2003).

Economic news reacts asymmetrically to economic developments. News becomes more negative when the economy declines, but not more positive when the economy improves (Soroka, 2006). Harrington (2009) showed that American networks give more attention to negative news than positive news. Soroka (2006) showed that newspaper coverage of the economy in the United Kingdom reacted to negative, but not to positive developments.

After more than a decade of economic growth in Nigeria, the sharp and continuous decline in crude oil prices from mid-2014, along with a failure to diversify the sources of revenue and foreign exchange in the economy, led to a recession in the second quarter of 2016 (Okeke, 2017). Economic downturn, as a phase of economic cycle, occurs after two consecutive quarters

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of negative growth featuring low output and investment, abnormal increases in unemployment due to massive retrenchment, falls in the availability of credit facilities, fluctuation in forex market, illiquidity, as well as reduced amount of trade and commerce (Okeke, 2017). According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Nigerian economy slid into an economic recession path in the second quarter (Q2) of 2016 with a real GDP deficit of -0.36 percent (Shido-Ikwu, 2017).

Agri, Maliafia, and Umejiaku (2017), stated that economic recession in Nigeria affected socio-political structures, Nigeria's credit condition, general living standards, imports, production, and employment as well as consumption demand in Nigeria. The continuous instability of the Naira against the dollar, geometrical increase in unemployment, non-payment of salaries to the employed, and the unreliability of world crude oil prices are issues the common man in Nigeria faced as a result of the downward economic growth (Okeke, 2017).

The economic downturn continued in the third quarter of 2016 as the economy recorded negative growth to solidify the fact that Nigeria is deep in economic crisis (Okeke, 2017). During a recession, there is usually a decline in certain macroeconomic indicators such as GDP, employment, investment spending, capacity utilization, household income, business income, and inflation, with the attendant increase in the rate of unemployment (CBN, 2012).

With rising cases of unemployment and job loss, high prices of goods, lack of access to credits, low product quality, manufacturers' inability to employ new staff, every individual in the country felt the bleak effects of the recession (Okeke, 2017). The economic recession created a harsh economic climate in Nigeria, which is evidenced by high energy cost, high bank interest rate (22%) and a soaring naira exchange to a dollar (N360 to \$1US). Some multinational companies like Etisalat mobile, Dunlop, etc. have relocated to neighboring countries because of the harsh economic climate.

Since the economic crises do not just affect one aspect of societal living but encompasses all economic activities of every citizen in a country, it, therefore, becomes a pertinent issue for press coverage (Soroka, 2006). Given this dominant concern, economic news has been receiving extensive media coverage for years. Wu and Day (2005) posit that news coverage of the economy and economic reality are generally consistent; but during bad economic times, people are more attentive to negative coverage, and their perceptions of the economy are more likely to be influenced by negative coverage. Since economic crisis coverage can affect individual citizens' economic perceptions, examining the kind of information citizens are exposed to in the newspaper becomes pertinent (Vandalen, DeVreese and, Albaek, 2015; Fogarty, 2005).

Such times demand the public be aware of the situation, and one key way to be privy to this issue is by the level of importance media houses attach to the matter. Due to the economic crises of Nigeria in the last two years, one of the essential things that should be considered worthy of coverage by the Nigerian media ought to be the issue of the economic recession. Since the media is known for setting public-agenda, it becomes pertinent to examine the level of attention given to themes that relate to the economic crises in Nigeria. Given the relevant consequences of media coverage of economic events, this study seeks to analyze the manifest content of newspaper reportage of the economic downturn in Nigeria.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Mass media reportage of issues of public concern has always been a critical issue for intellectual discourse amongst communication experts and scholars alike (Fogarty, 2005; Cottle, 2009). It is argued that the media have aided in setting agenda for public discourse on issues by giving them prominence and vast coverage (Vandalen, DeVreese and, Albaek, 2015). One of the normative functions of economic news is surveillance, making citizens aware of significant economic developments.

Empirical studies that analyzed media content during the 2008 global economic crisis have shown that the media were paying attention only to some sectors of the economy and that their evaluation was not very critical (Starkman, 2009; Tett, 2009). Other scholars have criticized financial journalists for being unaware of the institutional framework in which they (journalists) operate (Tambini, 2010), for not being trained and knowledgeable enough (Doyle, 2006) or paying too little attention to economic details (Schiffman and Fagan, 2013).

Adebumiti (2016) noted that the mass media (newspapers) have not been timely in their reportage of economic crisis. Other scholars also show that Nigerian newspapers have not effectively played a surveillance function in the reportage of economic recession, neither have they displayed a high level of interpretation in their reports (Afolabi, 2011; Agu, 2017). Others accuse the mass media of being more negative during economic recession and misrepresentation of economic reality (Fogarty, 2005; Soroka, 2006).

Also, it is suggested that the Nigerian mass media do not give significant coverage and provide effectual awareness on economic issues even as they fail to offer adequate explanations to economic issues in general (Ajulo, 2015). This raises a lot of arguments about the volume of coverage, the subject matter used to report economic nosedive, and the direction of the coverage of the 2016-2017 economic recession in Nigeria. It is based on the above that this study seeks to elicit data by making an empirical inquiry into the

newspaper reportage of the 2016-2017 economic recession in Nigeria.

a) *Objectives of the Study*

The general issue of this study is to analyze the newspaper coverage of the 2016-2017 economic recession in Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks:

1. Examine the frequency of coverage on economic recession stories in the selected newspapers;
2. Determine the level of prominence given to economic recession stories in the elected newspapers;
3. Examine the direction of stories on economic recession in the selected newspapers;
4. Examine the type of story genre that received more attention in the coverage of economic recession in the selected newspapers; and
5. Assess the treatment of stories on economic recession in terms of depth in the selected newspapers.

b) *Research Questions*

The following questions have been generated to guide this study:

1. What is the frequency of coverage on economic recession stories in the selected newspapers?
2. What is the level of prominence given to economic recession stories in the selected newspapers?
3. What is the direction of stories on the economic recession in the selected newspapers?
4. What is the type of story genre that received more attention in the coverage of economic recession in the selected newspapers?
5. What is the treatment of stories on economic recession in terms of depth in the selected newspapers?

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

a) *Economic Recession: An Overview*

Economic recession has been conceptualized by many scholars and experts. CBN (2012) sees the economic recession as a business cycle contraction, which every economy will have to experience from time to time.

In practical terms, a recession is a period when a nation's gross domestic product (GDP) declines for at least two consecutive quarters in a quarter-to-quarter comparison (Mazurek and Mielcova, 2013). This shows that if an economy grows by 2% in one quarter and then contracts by 0.5% in each of the next two quarters, it is judged to be in recession. Although this definition, which was first suggested by Shiskin (1974) in Rewane (2016), is instructive, it has two weaknesses. First, the "two-quarter" rule is flawed. Judgment should be made based on monthly data of economic activity such as industrial production, employment, real income, and wholesale and retail trade. Second, the focus on GDP

alone is narrow. GDP figures themselves can be misleading because that they are subject to big revisions (The Economist, 2008). Therefore, according to Claessens and Kose (2012), it is often better to consider a bigger set of measures of economic activity to determine whether a country is indeed suffering a recession.

Awujola and Ejezie (2015) note that the roots of recession rest in several quartets of positive but slowing growth. They further aver that a recession generally lasts from 6 to 18 months as efforts made to stimulate the economy during this period. These efforts include offering cheap rates to borrow money. Rewane (2016) also posits that a recession occurs after two consecutive quarters of negative growth. Fapohunda (2012) posits that an economic recession is a period of economic slowdown featuring low output, illiquidity, and unemployment. She further adds that it is always characterized by its length, abnormal increases in unemployment, falls in the availability of credit, shrinking output and investment, numerous bankruptcies, reduced amounts of trade and commerce, as well as highly volatile relative currency value fluctuations, mostly devaluations, financial crises, and bank failure.

b) *Causes of the 2016 Economic Recession in Nigeria*

The following was alleged to be the causes of the 2016 economic recession in Nigeria. The suggestions here were gathered from the views of different experts.

- a. *Delay in forming the cabinet:* Government vacuum for over seven months in 2015 is a critical factor that led to the recession (RTC advisory services, 2016). Oladapo (2016) explains that the present administration ran like a sole administrator in its first eleven months. He further states that this led to a policy vacuum as there were no managers of the economy on the ground to make sound economic decisions.
- b. *The fall in the global crude oil prices:* Nigeria, a mono-product dependent economy, is easily affected by a slight fluctuation in crude oil prices. The oil price decline of 56.39% from 2014's peak became a challenge (Rewane, 2016).
- c. *Sabotage by the Niger-Delta Avengers:* Renewed violence and attacks of oil and gas installations in the Niger-delta form part of the causes of the economic crisis faced in 2016 in Nigeria. Their actions accounted for income loss on approximately 800, 000 barrels of crude daily for about five (5) months (RTC advisory services, 2017). This loss led to a sharp decline of 26.3% in oil production (Rewane, 2016).
- d. *Removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government:* The subsidy removal, though intended to remove the cabals and liberalize the petroleum sector, its

ripple effects on the economy were very severe. Since everything in Nigeria revolves around oil, when the pump price increased, it caused inflationary pressure (Oladapo, 2016).

- e. *Implementation of the TSA*: In a bid to bring sanity, stop corruption and to consolidate all FG funds, the Government introduced, and implemented the Treasury single account (Orode, 2016). The impact of this, as he further notes, is that the withdrawal of enormous deposits from banks reduced the ability of banks to grant loans to their customers. Oladapo (2016) avers that the TSA mopped up liquidity in circulation and stifled credit creation and economic activities in the country.

- c) *Patterns of Economic Coverage by the Mass Media during Economic Recession and Economic Boom*

Journalism research in areas other than the economy has given insight into why media coverage intensifies in some periods. Studies of the coverage of, for example, the threat of street violence have shown that journalists at times open the gates and focus on specific societal problems. Similar mechanisms may increase attention to the economy and lead to an overly negative or positive tone of economic news, depending on the economic cycle (Dalen, Vreese, and Albæk, 2015).

One of the mechanisms driving these periods of intensive coverage is the emergence of a dominant news theme, which provides a popular interpretation or labeling under which diverse events can be summarized (Dalen, Vreese, and Albæk, 2015). When journalists cover a complicated topic, they orient themselves towards their “competitor-colleagues” to reduce ambiguity. This orientation can lead to the development of one dominant journalistic interpretation, which is shared across different outlets (Dalen, Vreese, and Albæk, 2015). Pack journalism is strengthened by increasing competition among media outlets and journalists’ fear of missing the important stories of the day (Frank, 2003). Once such a dominant news theme emerges, it “leads to a high degree of uniformity in the news selection and pressure on every news desk to join the pack” (Vasterman, 2005, p. 514 in Dalen, Vreese, and Albæk, 2015).

As a consequence, the threshold to report about events that fit the dominant news theme is low, and the media gates are open to report similar issues. When the media gates at the same time shut out stories that do not fit the dominant perspective, the result is continuous reinforcement of the dominant theme (Dalen, Vreese, and Albæk, 2015). Journalism studies have shown that such dominant news themes or organizing devices used to construct news stories are hard to change once they become mainstream among journalists and societal actors (Huxford, 2012 cited in Dalen, Vreese, and Albæk, 2015).

“Recession” or “economic crisis” are examples of such common news themes that can trigger self-reinforcing spirals of coverage about the economy. Due to the complexity of the economic system as well as the availability of a wide variety of sometimes contradictory economic indicators, the state of the economy news is often ambiguous (Huxford, 2012). The theme of economic recession gives both journalists and their audience a similar interpretation, which helps to simplify economic reality. Huxford (2012) in Dalen, Vreese, and Albæk (2015) argues that during the economic downturn in America in 2000, journalists diminished the economic complexity by “corralling the multitude of economic states and indicators within the label recession; and then treating that as a single entity” p.350.

Later, McCarthy, and Dolfsma (2009) showed that crisis-related terms in *The Economist* increased sharply in 2007 and 2008. Kleinnijenhuis, Schultz, and Oegema (2015) showed that the complexity decreased during the start of the crisis in 2007 and 2008, which could indicate that a dominant angle emerged. Once such a dominant angle is established, it can lead to more stories about the negative state of the economy, which spread from the financial section of the newspaper to other parts. The crisis frame lowers the threshold for negative stories but raises it for stories with a more optimistic outlook. The crises frames may result in more economical coverage with an overly negative tone.

IV. EMPIRICAL REVIEW

- a) *Frequency of Economic News during Economic Recession*

A study entitled “Reflecting on the Nigerian Media Coverage of the Dwindling Economy in Q1, 2016” was carried out in 2016 by Adebumiti. The study sought to ascertain, among others, if the mass media gave attention to the dwindling fortunes of the Nigerian economy. The functionalist and social responsibility theories is the theories used to explain the study. Content analysis was employed as a research design while the code sheet served as the instrument of data collection. Finding from the study revealed that the newspapers reviewed (i.e. *The Nation* and *The Punch* newspapers) gave adequate attention to issues of the economy for the period under review.

Damstra and Vliegthart (2016) carried out a study entitled “(Un) covering the Economic Crisis?” The aim of the paper was to analyze ways in which Dutch newspapers have reported the economic crisis in the Netherlands. Another objective was to discover the factors that accounted for variation in coverage by different outlets. Content analysis was the research design. Findings from the study revealed that Dutch newspapers cover the crisis extensively but with marked inter-outlet differences.

b) Prominence of Stories

A study was also carried out in 2014 by Fadairo, Fadairo, and Aminu, entitled coverage of corruption by major newspapers in Nigeria. The researchers sought to ascertain the coverage of corruption issues and their effects on the economy of the country. Using the content analytical method, the researchers analyzed stories from *The Nation*, *Tribune*, and *The Guardian* newspapers. Findings revealed that most (87.4%) of the stories analysed on the issue were on the inside pages, which point to the fact that low prominence was attached to the subject. Further findings revealed that news stories accounted for the majority of the stories analyzed as it had an overall percentage of 76.7%. Recommendations were made from the results that prominence is attached to corruption issues by journalists by writing more editorials and putting such matter on the cover pages to be more visible.

c) The direction of Economic News during the Recession

Another research effort was carried out by Forgatry (2005) entitled "Determining economic news coverage." Using the content analytical design and using Poisson auto-regression analysis (an economic analytical tool), the researcher discovered that more news about the economy is tilt towards the negative direction than the right direction. He puts it; thus, "news media are inclined to emphasize the negative when the economy is doing poorly."

A study has also been conducted by VanDalen, DeVreese, and Albaek (2015) on the media as the magnifying glass for business news coverage. Using the content analytical method, the researchers found out that economic news became more negative in times of recession.

Damstra and Vliegthart (2016) carried out a study entitled "(Un) covering the Economic Crisis?" The study aims to explain ways in which Dutch newspapers have reported the economic crisis in the Netherlands. Another objective was to discover the factors that accounted for variation in coverage by different outlets. Content analysis served as the research design. The finding showed that newsworthiness is driven more extensively by the unexpectedness of events than the negativities of consequences. Thus Novelty rather than severity steered attention for the crisis coverage.

V. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Two theories of mass communication will explain this study. They are the Agenda setting and priming theories.

a) Agenda Setting Theory

According to Baran & Davis (2006), "Agenda setting implies that the media do not tell people what to think but what to think about, the media sets the agenda

of what their publics are supposed to think about" p.319. Folarin (2002) further states that "Agenda setting means that the mass media predetermine what issues are important at a given time in a given society. Agenda setting theory does not ascribe to the media the power to determine what we think, but it does ascribe to them the power to determine what we are thinking about" P. 68.

Lipman (1922) in Okunna (2002) added that the media help to "put pictures in our heads" (p. 21). This explains the power of the mass media to set the agenda and raise the issue of public importance. This function is closely related to public opinion generation since it is often the mass media that raise subjects upon which public opinion is aired.

Wimmer and Dommick (2000) opined that the theory on agenda-setting by the media proposes that what kinds of things people discuss, think and worry about is powerfully shaped, and directed by what the media choose to publicize. Cohen (1963) in Wogu (2008), corroborated this stance when he stated that "the press is significantly more than a purveyor of information and opinion. It may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think, but it is stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about" (p. 140). In this light, if news media chooses to give most time and space to reporting Fulani herdsmen attacks in various communities in Nigeria, it will become the most important thing on the audiences' minds.

The theory is relevant in this research because it helps to explain the function of the media in attaching importance to the economic downturn issue in the country. The newspapers can do this by giving prominence to the matter, giving the issue a sustained coverage which will help set the agenda for public discourse and aid policy-makers in making working policies that will help stem reduce the effects on the masses. This means the more the media project the issue of economic crisis, the more important the public will attach to it, and probably the faster policy-makers will attend to the problem.

b) Priming Theory

The main media-priming process consists of two steps. In the first step, information received through a media channel (i.e., the media prime) activates pre-existing associated knowledge in the mind of the receiver (i.e., available cognitive units or concepts). This activation makes the cognitive units more accessible, which means that the receiver is more likely to use them in interpreting and evaluating a subsequently encountered target stimulus (i.e., the attitude object). A media priming effect occurs if, in the second step, the receiver applies the primed, now accessible concept to a target stimulus when he/she would not otherwise have done this. The first step thus consists of the priming process, and the second speaks to its consequences.

Furthermore, it refers to the ability of the media to control the interpretation of new information by feeding the public prior ideas. This existing context set frames of reference within the audience members, which ultimately affects their judgments (www.communication studies.com). Mass communication media, therefore, can influence people to think based on the media concepts that is to them.

For example, if the press continuously reports an issue that might ordinarily seem irrelevant, once the event becomes news, it tends to become relevant. Thus, the more coverage an issue receives, the more of an impact it has on the opinions the public forms about the issue and those involved. Iyengar and Kinder (1987), quoted in Chong and Druckman (2007), describe priming as follows: By calling attention to some matters while ignoring others, television news influences the standards by which governments, presidents, policies, and candidates for public office are assessed.

Mass communication media, therefore, play an indispensable role in society. The public does not always notice the effects of persuasive advertisements or well-narrated news stories presented by media. However, the increasing demands determine the impacts of these media concepts to the people in all aspects. People buy a certain product because of the appealing commercial on television. People conform to the latest fashion trends because of the models and endorsers on the magazines. People vote for a particular politician because of the constant release of propaganda through the news. These are just a few of the many examples showing the extreme effects of mass media on the public. Even though the people are often unaware of these influential demands and clear consumerism, the society still relies on the ability and credibility of mass media for providing information that would help each cluster function well in a country.

The theory is relevant to the present study in the sense that by making economic issues more salient in people's minds, the mass media can shape the considerations that people take into account when making judgments about economic issues.

VI. METHODOLOGY

a) Research Design

To ensure quality study, the researcher used content analysis. Content analysis as a research design studies already documented materials systematically.

b) The population of the Study

The population of the study include all issues published by the three selected national dailies: *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian*, and *The Vanguard* newspapers from July 1st, 2016 to March 31st, 2017, which amounted to 822.

c) Sample Size

A total of 231 editions of the three selected newspapers formed the sample size of this study. The procedure for arriving at this sample size is shown in the sampling technique below.

d) Sampling Technique

In defining the sample size, this research made use of the multi-stage sampling technique whereby varying techniques were involve at different stages in the selection process. *Vanguard*, *Daily Sun*, and *The Nation* newspapers were selected using the purposive sampling technique. These papers were chosen based on of their national reach and on the assumption that national papers have a higher readership.

These selected newspapers were studied for nine months. That is from July 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017. The period was selected because it was the period that Nigeria experienced an economic recession.

In determining an appropriate sample size for the study, in each of the weeks of the months studied, two issues were chosen for the three newspapers. The days of Monday and Wednesday were chosen for *Daily Sun*, Thursday and Saturday were chosen for *Vanguard* while the days Tuesdays and Fridays were chosen for *The Guardian*. The choice to study two issues for each newspaper was based on a stratified sampling technique where the days were picked to stand in for the rest of the days that could not be studied since it would have been unwieldy to study all the editions of the three newspapers within the period. The newspapers amounted to 231 issues from the newspapers chosen for the nine months. The selected newspaper is presented in the table below:

Table 1: Details of the editions selected from the sampled newspapers

Months	Daily Sun	The Guardian	Vanguard
July	4, 11, 18, 25, 6, 13, 20, 27.	5,12,19,26,8,15,22,29.	7,14,21,28,2,9,16,23,30
August	8,15,22,29,3,10,17,24,31	2,9,16,23,30,5,12,19,26	4,11,18,25,6,13,20,27
September	5,12,19,26,7,14,21,28	6,13,20,27,2,9,16,23,30.	1,8,15,22,29,3,10,17,24
October	3,10,17,24,31,5,12,19,26	4,11,18,25,7,14,21,28	6,13,20,27,1,8,15,22,29
November	7,14,21,28,2,9,16,23,30	8,15,22,29,4,10,18,25	3,10,17,24,5,12,19,26
December	5,12,19,26,7,14,21,28	6,13,20,27,2,9,16,23,30.	1,8,15,22,29,3,10,17,24
January	2,9,16,23,30,4,11,18,26	3,10,17,24,31,6,13,20,27	5,12,19,26,7,14,21,28
February	6,13,20,27,1,8,15,22	7,14,21,28,3,10,17,24	2,9,16,23,4,11,18,25
March	6,13,20,27,1,8,15,22,29	7,14,21,28,3,10,17,24,31	2,9,16,23,30,4,11,18,25
Total	77	77	77

e) *The instrument of Data Collection*

The code sheet will be the instrument of data collection. It is the most appropriate tool for analyzing recorded messages and information. The code sheet covers all the variables necessary for arriving at reliable answers to the research questions.

i. *Content Categories*

The content categories used for this study include

- Gas/Oil
- Banking/Financial
- Housing
- Agriculture
- Labour

ii. *Units of Measurement*

The units of analysis for this study include: news stories, editorials, letters-to-the-editor, features stories, pictures: photographs, cartoons, charts and graphs, and opinion articles. The units of measurement are divided into categories that will serve as a guide for the study. Thus:

- Frequency
 - Gas/Oil
 - Banking/Financial
 - Housing
 - Agriculture
 - Labour
- Prominence

Placement

 - Front Page
 - Back Page
 - Centre Spread

B (4) Inside Page

Illustration

- Photographs
- Cartoons
- Charts
- Graphs
- Not Illustrated

3. Direction of Coverage

- Positive
- Negative
- Neutral

4. Story Genre

- News
- Features
- Editorials
- Letters to the Editor
- Opinion Articles

5. Depth (Length of Coverage)

- 1 – 5 Inches
- 6 – 10 Inches
- 11 – 15 Inches
- 16 Inches and above

f) *Description of Sample*

This study examined coverage of the 2016-2017 economic recession in selected newspapers in Nigeria. The period studied was from 1st July 2016 to 31st March 2017. The study conducted within a time frame of nine months. All data analyzed were collated from the three national newspapers studied—*Daily Sun*, *The Guardian*, and *Vanguard*.

VII. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Research Question One: What is the frequency of coverage on economic recession stories in the selected newspapers?

Table 1: The Frequency of Coverage

Content Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Gas/oil	125	51%
Banking	42	17%
Housing	33	14%
Agriculture	18	7%
Labour	25	10%
Total	243	100%

Research Question two: What is the level of prominence given to economic recession stories in the selected newspapers?

Table 2: Placement of Stories

	Content categories						
	Gas/oil	Banking	Housing	Agriculture	Labour	Total	Percentage
Front Page	2	-	-	-	3	5	2%
Back Page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Centre Spread	3	-	-	-	-	3	1%
Inside Page	120	42	33	18	22	235	97%
Total	125	42	33	18	25	243	100%

Table 3: Illustration of Stories

	Content Categories						
	Gas/oil	Banking	Housing	Agriculture	Labour	Total	Percentage
Photographs	19	13	8	3	5	48	20%
Cartoons	3	-	-	-	-	3	1%
Charts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graphs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not illustrated	103	29	25	15	20	192	79%
Total	125	42	33	18	25	243	100%

Research Question three: What is the direction of stories on economic recession in the selected newspapers?

Table 4: Direction of Reportage

	Content Categories						
	Gas/oil	Banking	Housing	Agriculture	Labour	Total	Percentage
Positive	42	13	11	5	7	78	32%
Negative	71	21	17	11	14	134	55%
Neutral	12	8	5	2	4	31	13%
Total	125	42	33	18	25	243	100%

Research Question four: What is the type of story genre that received more attention in the coverage of economic recession in the selected newspapers?

Table 5: Story Genre

	Content Categories						
	Gas/oil	Banking	Housing	Agriculture	Labour	Total	Percentage
News	99	22	18	11	15	165	68%
Features	12	4	5	7	8	36	15%
Editorials	5	7	3	-	2	17	7%
Letters to the Editor	5	4	2	-	-	11	4%
Opinion Articles	4	5	5	-	-	14	6%
Total	125	42	33	18	25	243	100%

Research Question five: What is the treatment of stories on economic recession in terms of depth in the selected newspapers?

Table 6: Depth of Coverage

	Content Categories						
	Gas/oil	Banking	Housing	Agriculture	Labour	Total	Percentage
Inches 1-5	103	24	23	14	17	181	74%
Inches 6-10	12	13	10	4	5	44	18%
Inches 11-15	6	5	-	-	3	14	6%
Inches 16 and above	4	-	-	-	-	4	2%
Total	125	42	33	18	25	243	100%

VIII. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Research Question One: What is the frequency of coverage on economic recession stories in the selected newspapers?

The frequency of coverage seeks to ascertain the volume of coverage given to economic recession by the newspapers within the period under the study. The answer to the question is the content analysis provided in table one. The manifest data from the data presentation revealed that there were a total of 243 stories on economic recession within the period of the study. The content category they use to report economic downturn includes gas/oil, banking, housing, agriculture, and lastly labor. Out of the 243 stories on economic crises, the newspapers carried 125 stories (51%) regarding gas/oil industry, 42 stories (17%) on the banking and the Nigerian naira, and another 33 stories (14%) on the housing industry, 18 stories (7%) on the agriculture category and 25 stories (10%) on the labor category. This data shows that the frequency of coverage is sufficient.

The above findings revealed that the media reported more on the oil and gas sector. The oil and gas sector as regards economic recession came under a lot of media report due to the lingering fuel scarcity and the activities of vandals that have affected the free flow of premium motor spirit also known as petrol in the country. The result of this study is consistent with that of Adebumiti (2016), who reported that newspapers gave adequate attention to issues of the economy. This finding is also in line with Shah et al. (2002). They find that when the economy is negative, the media give the economy a great deal of attention.

Since there is a positive correlation between media agenda and public agenda, it means that the members of the public probably spent more time talking about gas/oil in the country than the time they spent in discussing other issues regarding the economic recession.

Research Question two: What is the level of prominence given to economic recession stories in the selected newspapers?

Research question two sought to ascertain the level of prominence given to economic recession stories in the selected newspapers. To answer this research question, the placement of stories, and the illustration attached to them by the print media used.

In the placement of stories, the result is that almost all the stories is on the inside pages, 235 (97%), 5(2%) on the front page, and 3(1%) on the center spread. There were no stories on the back pages of the newspapers. The result shows that the prominence attached to the placement of the issues on the economic recession is low. Front pages are very strategic in attracting the attention of readers.

This finding corroborates the findings of Owolabi (2014), who discovered that stories about SMEs for economic development were found more on the inside pages of the newspapers. The implication of this is that most of the stories, no matter how good and educating they might have been, may not have been read or seen by the readers as they were 'hidden' on the inside pages of the newspapers. Most readers do not get past stories on the front page since there are so many things begging for their attention, and there may not be time to peruse through the whole broadsheet. Thus, the selected newspapers for the study period did poorly in giving prominence to recession stories as others like political issues since a good number of the stories were inside the pages of the newspapers.

On the illustration of stories, a majority of 192 (79%) stories is not illustrated while only 48 (20%) stories is illustrated with photographs, and 3(1) is illustrated with cartoons. None of the stories were illustrated with charts and graphs. This finding is in line with that of placement of stories as it gives credence to the fact that the level of prominence attached to the coverage of economic recession by the newspapers is low. Pictorial illustrations serve as attention-grabbing devices to newspaper stories. They attract people's attention to read. Stories without images hardly elicit the attention of newspaper readers.

The implication of the above is that low prominence was given to reports on the economic recession by newspapers. The majority of the issues about economic downturn are pushed to the inside pages of the print media and were not illustrated, where readers might not see nor get attracted to it and therefore carries little or no effect on the general public. The media has the responsibility of featuring business bankruptcy and oil prices as relates to the economic recession, for instance, on the front and back pages of newspapers with suitable illustrations regularly. This illustration could engender the government to embark on quality economic policies. The agenda-setting function of the media suggests that the selection and prominent display of stories on economic recession will provoke public discussion of the same (i.e., Economic crises), which may invariably influence the government to align its financial policies as appropriate.

Research Question three: What is the direction of stories on economic recession in the selected newspapers?

This question aimed at identifying the direction the newspapers take in reporting economic recession. From table four, the result show that out of the 243 stories analyzed, a majority of 134 (55%) were negative. The result means that the direction of the reportage on the economic recession by the selected newspapers was negative. This is followed by 78(32%) stories, which were positive and 31(13%), which were neutral.

Examples of pessimistic reports include, among others: 2nd January 2017 edition of *Daily Sun*, page 9, which reads- *Recession biting hard on Nigerians, says Saraki*. November 26th, 2016 issue of *Vanguard*, page 27, which reads- *Nigeria's economic situation worse than stagflation-NESG*.

Some of the positive reports in the newspapers include September 23rd, 2016 edition of *The Guardian*, page 3, which reads- *Reps discuss the strategy to end economic downturn*. 12th January 2017 edition of *The Guardian*, page 40, which reads- *Economists proffers solution to the recession*. The neutral reports include 22nd October 2016 edition of *The Guardian*, page 19, which reads- *recession confirmed. Now what?* 29th March, 2017 *Daily Sun*, page 12, which reads, *Recession: Falana urges FG to de-emphasize oil*.

This finding follows the assertion of Fogarty (2005, p.153), who said that "The news media have a penchant for emphasizing the negative when the economy is performing poorly." Further, in his findings, Fogarty (2005) discovered the prevalence of negative stories over positive ones when the economy was doing poorly. This finding corroborates the results of the present research. One reason for this negativity is the fact that newspaper organizations are business outfits, and to sell their papers, stories that capture the interest of the public. Fogarty (2005, p.165) puts it clear that "one possible reason is that reporters and editors may emphasize the negative to pique the public's interest, thus attempting to maximize revenues from readership and viewership."

The consequence of this is that citizens were exposed more to the side effects of the menace and this made them to believe that the government was doing little or nothing to contain the situation as it ought to.

Research Question four: What is the type of story genre that received more attention in the coverage of economic recession in the selected newspapers?

On the issue of story genre, this study limited them to five important category- news, features, editorials, letters to the editor, and opinion articles. In the presentation of data, as seen in table 5, the story genre that received more attention out of the 243 stories studied is news 165(68%). Also, 36(15%) stories on features, 17(7%) stories on editorials, 11(4) stories on letters to the editor, and 14(6%) stories on opinion Articles. The news was the dominant genre used in reporting economic recession. Using current events, journalists mainly report the views of others, thereby missing important angles in an economic crises. It is not that the opinions of experts will not covered. But more analyses are needed to streamline these views to guide the public and government in their actions.

Ochonogor and Hyacinth (2011, p.363) aver that "serious and current events are given straight news treatment." The implication of this is that the agenda-

setting function of the press is done through straight news treatment, which would aid set agenda for public discourse on the issue of economic recession in Nigeria. Thus, it is said that the press, as it relates to recession, gave the audience news stories mostly based on the occurrence of events around the issue. It is worthy of mentioning that straight news stories, unlike opinion articles, and news analysis is brief and not in-depth. Thus, it could be said that audience members were exposed to just peripherals and fundamentals without giving them a full story of the happenings.

Even though there were a couple of features, editorials, letters to the editor and opinion articles, the ratio of straight news stories were much, and since straight news is just a scratch on the surface, more in-depth news or feature articles would have been better to give the audience an in-depth knowledge of the economic challenge facing the country. Another implication of this finding is that the press didn't take the initiatives to make analyses or give their say on the issue as features had just 15% and editorial had 7% of the total stories analyzed. This implies that more need to be done by the press in terms of reportage because more initiatives need to be taken by the print media to report not to wait for events or occurrences to prompt them to make reports as it is in news stories.

Research Question five: What is the treatment of stories on economic recession in terms of depth in the selected newspapers?

In terms of story depth, out of 243 stories examined, 181(78%) was within the range of 1-5 inches, followed by 44 (18%) stories within 6-10 inches, and 14 (6%) stories within 11-15 inches, while 4 (2%) stories were within 16 inches and above.

This above result show that most stories did not have depth, as most of the stories are as a news story. News reports are always straight to the point without opinions, interpretations, analyses, or explanations. It is clear, therefore, that story types such as features, editorials, news analysis, columns, among others, which are platforms through which newspapers can do in-depth coverage, recorded low figures.

Thus, it could mean that the press, as it relates to recession, gave the audience news stories mostly based on the occurrence of events around the issue, as can be seen in the result of research question four. It is worthy of mentioning that straight news stories, unlike opinion articles and editorial, is brief and not in-depth.

Since the amount of space or column inches given to a story shows how essential such a story or issue is to either the press or government, it then follows that the newspapers does not accord enough depth to stories or matters emanating from the economic recession. As a result of the above, the government of the day is in the dark as to where and how to intervene for her people, and the people suffer in the long run. The

press should, therefore, live up to their responsibility as the watch-dog of the society by reporting and covering the economic recession very well and equally call for the actions of the government to the issues so covered.

IX. CONCLUSION

Across the world, the media are acknowledged for their time-tested abilities to set agenda, initiating social discourse, spearheading issues of national interest, and generally advancing the well-being of society. The media as the fourth estate of the realm are part of the foremost informers, attitude builders, and influencers of the community. In times of economic recession, what goes out to the public becomes important topic as citizens are willing to update their monetary expectations more often than they do in quiet times. It is expected of the media to be at the front burner of the campaign by giving in-depth analysis, interpretations, and navigating possible solutions to address the issue.

However, this is not the case in Nigeria, as results from this paper showed. Aside from sufficient coverage of the issue, other findings from the study revealed that the media failed to attach prominence and in-depth coverage of the matter.

Therefore, this study concludes by calling on the media to match sufficient coverage with enough interpretations and depth to issues of societal importance like the economic recession.

X. RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the findings of this research, the following suggestions are proffered.

1. Newspapers should sustain its reportage of economic recession stories since they have the power to shape opinions through their agenda-setting role.
2. Newspapers should also ensure a paradigm shift in their coverage of important issues like the economic recession. As the study revealed, most of the story types on economic downturn were predominantly news stories. Others, such as editorials, columns, features, analysis through which the media can perform its agenda role, received less attention than they deserved. To this end, newspapers should embark on investigative and interpretative reporting of Nigeria's economy.
3. Business reporters should liaise with economic experts to understand some of the reports they get and be able to internalize it and simplify it for public consumption. By assimilating the information they receive, they can package it in simple language by breaking down the economic jargon without distorting the actual data.
4. Another study should be done to examine the opinions of economic experts and government

officials in Nigeria specifically about their perceptions of the quality of economic recession stories published in Nigerian newspapers. Such study will reveal and confirm the conflicts (as reported by business reporters interviewed in this study) that government officials often have with business reporters.

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Social Support and Sex Role Orientation as Predictors of Quality of Life in Senior Citizens

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Abstract- The present study was aimed to explore the relationship of social support and sex role orientation with quality of life in senior citizens. The sample comprised of 400 senior citizens with equal number of educated males and females (200 each). The analysis revealed that for the male's sample, social support explained the maximum variance (5%) followed by femininity (4%) in quality of life. In all, these variables have accounted for 9% of the variance. In female's sample, only social support has contributed (5%) of variance. Further, t-test has revealed the superiority of males in masculinity, femininity and quality of life and female's superiority on social support.

Keywords: social support, sex-role orientation, quality of life, gender.

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Yajvinder ^α & Dr. Anita Sharma ^σ

Abstract- The present study was aimed to explore the relationship of social support and sex role orientation with quality of life in senior citizens. The sample comprised of 400 senior citizens with equal number of educated males and females (200 each). The analysis revealed that for the male's sample, social support explained the maximum variance (5%) followed by femininity (4%) in quality of life. In all, these variables have accounted for 9% of the variance. In female's sample, only social support has contributed (5%) of variance. Further, t-test has revealed the superiority of males in masculinity, femininity and quality of life and female's superiority on social support.

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I. INTRODUCTION

It's not enough to just be alive. Good quality of life is especially important for older adults who are dealing with chronic health conditions and major life changes. Life, as are many things, is often not always about quantity so much as it is about quality. Aging seniors often face losses in the quality of their lives well before they face the end of their days. In fact, having a positive view of life can help seniors have more energy, less stress, better appetite, and prevent cognitive decline.

Globally, quality of life among elderly is an important area of concern which reflects the health status and well-being of this population. Quality of life is affected by the many demanding situations and associated with aging related factors that are changing in health status, coping with new restrictions in life, identifying new roles, opportunities and available social support (Rayirala, Nallapaneni, Bhogaraju, & Mandadi, 2016).

Social support may play a particular important role in maintaining health and decreasing susceptibility to illness among the elderly (Pilisuk & Parks, 1988). Senior citizens with loss of social support have been observed to be at a higher mortality health risk (Silverstein & Bengtson, 1991) and higher levels of psychological distress due to mistreatment (Comijs, Penninx, Knipscheer & van Tilburg, 1999).

Social support is a tangible or an instrumental support which includes physical or financial assistance

and emotional support from family, friends and neighbours which leads an individual to feel a sense of belonging (Tomaka, Thompson & Palacios, 2006).

Loss of social support harms the quality of life (Baxter, Shetterly, Eby, Mason, Cortese & Hamman, 1998). In a social milieu where family networks continue to be the major source of psychosocial support and deep-rooted culture norms and perception regarding the family, although apparently dwindling in the near past, the role of the family as the crucial source of social support for the elderly people assumes a greater significance. Thus, effective family support is a key component of the overall well-being of the elderly people (Naing, Nanthamongkolchai & Munsawaengsub, 2010). In the elderly, social aspects involve social networks and social support. Better social networks, which are linkages among group of known people, and better social support lead to better health outcome and well-being. Relationships protect from insecurity and psychosocial risk and hence are important for a good quality of life (Cavallero, Morino-Abbele, & Bertocci, 2007 & Chong, Ng, Woo, & Kwan, 2006).

Another important factor which plays a vital role in determining ones' quality of life is sex role orientation. Gender roles are usually centered on conceptions of *femininity* and *masculinity*. Individuals who score high on masculinity and low on femininity are classified as masculine. Similarly, individuals are classified as feminine if they score high on femininity and low on masculinity.

Masculine men are characterized by a greater tendency to perform health behavior, which lead them to a faster recovery after myocardial infarction (Batlis & Small, 1982; Radley et al., 2000). Moreover, people with androgynous (i.e., mixed feminine and masculine) type of psychological gender rate themselves as healthier than people with other types of psychological gender (Batlis & Small, 1982; Gale-Ross, Baird, & Towson, 2009). Other studies report that high femininity predicts better outcome among men after myocardial infarction (Barrett-Connor, 2007, Helgeson, 1991; Hunt, Lewars, Emslie, & Batty, 2007).

Underlying the importance of these factors, the present study is aimed at testing these formulations to understand the exact variance contributed by the sex role orientation and social support on quality of life in senior citizens.

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II. METHOD

a) Sample

A sample of the study comprised of 400 educated senior citizens with equal number of males and females (200 each) above 60 years of age group from different districts of Himachal Pradesh. The sample was selected on the basis of purposive convenient sampling technique.

b) Design

A correlational design was used to see the association between social support and sex-role orientation with quality of life. Regression analysis was computed separately for both the genders (males and females) to find out the best set of predictors of quality of life. t-test was also computed to find out the significance of differences on all the predictor variables and criterion variable.

c) Tools

Social Support (Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet, & Farley, 1988): Social support was measured with the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support. The MSPSS was designed to assess the perceived adequacy of social support from family, friends, and significant others (Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet, & Farley, 1988). The MSPSS comprises of 12 items, four items in each of three subscales. Items for each source are scored on a seven-point Likert-type scale ranging from "very strongly disagree" (1) to "very strongly agree" (7). Each set of items provides an index of support from each source. The subscale score for each respondent is computed by summing the ratings for each item for each support scale and then dividing the resulting total by 4. For the total score, ratings are summed and divided by 12. Total and subscale scores range from 1 to 7, with high scores indicating a heightened perception of available social support. For this study, the focus was on the total score.

Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974): This scale is used to measure sex-role orientation. This scale treats masculinity/femininity as two orthogonal dimensions rather than as two ends of a single dimension (Bem & Watson, 1976). It consists of sixty personality characteristics. Twenty of the characteristics are stereotypically feminine e.g., affectionate, gentle, understanding, sensitive to needs of others etc. and twenty are stereotypically masculine e.g., ambitious, self-reliant, independent, assertive etc. The BSRI also contains twenty characteristics that serve as buffer items e.g., truthful, happy, conceited etc. When taking the BSRI, an individual is asked to indicate on a 7 point scale, how well each of the 60 characteristics describes herself or himself. The scale ranges from 1 (never or almost never true) to 7 (always or almost always true) and is labeled at each point.

WHOQOL-BREF (WHOQOL, 1996): The data were collected with a questionnaire named WHOQOL-BREF (1996) conceptualized by Alisen Harper. The 26 items WHOQOL-BREF consist of two overall items measuring general quality of life and health conditions and 24 items that are universally adopted for the WHOQOL-BREF in four domains are health, psychological well being, social relationship and environment. Each item was rated on a 5 point likert scale (higher score denotes higher quality of life).

III. RESULTS

Results indicate that quality of life of male senior citizens is significantly and positively correlated with social support, $r = .329^{**}$ ($p < .01$) and femininity $r = .246^{**}$ ($p < .01$) and in female senior citizens, only social support, $r = .457^{**}$ ($p < .01$) has turned out to be the significant correlate of quality of life (see figure 1). In the male's sample, when independent variables were entered in the regression model with quality of life, social support emerged as the best predictor accounting for 5% of variance. A significant increase of 4% was observed in R^2 when it was entered along with femininity accounting for 9% of the total variance in quality of life (see table 1). Whereas in female's sample, when independent variables were entered in the regression model with quality of life, social support emerged as the only best predictor accounting for 5% of variance in quality of life (see table 2). Results have further shown the superiority of males on quality of life with $t = 1.98$, $p < .05$, masculinity with $t = 1.92$, $p < .05$ and femininity with $t = 1.68$, $p < .05$ to that of females and female's superiority on social support, $t = 6.82$, $p < .01$ to that of males.

IV. DISCUSSION

In the regression analysis of both the samples, social support has come up as the best and common predictor of quality of life. Social support is the emotional and practical support received from family and friends (Ajrouch, Blandon & Antonucci, 2005). Support from family and friends help overcome loneliness and health problems related to aging. Family relations are important aspect of healthy aging among the elderly and the lack of social support and family and friends may likely cause the individual to perceive old age as uncertain and insecure (Khan & Tamir, 2014). Social support is the particular source of happiness and subjective well-being of senior citizens (Sharma & Malhotra, 2010). Social support is important for the quality of life of senior citizens, as it gives one a feeling of being loved, cared for, and esteemed, valued and belonging to a network of communication and mutual belongingness (Singh, 2005; Sharma, 2011). Several studies showed that family support and social relationship are positively related to a better quality of life



(Sharma, 2011; Siedlecki, Salthouse, Oishi & Jeswani, 2014; Kumcagiz & Sahin, 2017). The reason being that elderly people who receive sufficient support from family, friends tend to develop positive attitudes and behaviours, improve social skills which in turn have a positive effect on quality of life. Moreover, social support independently affects mood and well-being in the elderly and risk of depression increases with the severity of loneliness (Golden, Conroy, Bruce, Denihan, Greene, Kirby, & Lawlor, 2009). Another study found that older adults who had poorer social network had also worse quality of life (Garcia, Banegas, & Paerez-Regadera, 2005). Kahan, Hessling, & Russell (2003) found that relationship between perceived social support and psychological well-being were quite strong. Moreover, increased socialization is advantageous for emotional health and overall well-being. Femininity is another important factor that has predicted the quality of life in male senior citizens. A feminine individual is one who endorses more feminine characteristics such as gentleness, patience, kindness and concern for interpersonal relationship and emotional expression. Males with more femininity traits exhibit higher levels of internal health control and higher levels of psychological well-being (Matud, Garcia, & Fortes, 2019; Pudrovskaya, 2015; Priess, Lindberg, & Hyde, 2009).

The results further revealed the superiority of male senior citizens on quality of life, masculinity and femininity to that of females who have scored significantly higher on social support. Male senior citizens reported significantly better quality of life than females. The reason being that males are more committed, take the challenges willingly and control their emotions which strengthen their physical and mental power thereby improving quality of life and overall subjective well-being (Singh, 2005; Sharma, 2011). Men have less health problem and better quality of life in comparison to women. This may be related with the culture that men have dominance in traditional Indian family structure. They have better social life, economic freedom and less responsibility (Deshmukh, Dangre, Rajendran & Kumar, 2015). On masculinity, males have scored significantly higher indicating stereotypical gender differences. Men endorsed masculinity traits to a greater extent than did women. On femininity, males have scored significantly higher because they are trying to show that they are more kind-hearted and care for others which is desirable in society and they think that endorsing feminine traits will make them better character as men (Strough, Leszczynski, Neely, Flinn & Margrett, 2007). On social support, females have scored significantly higher pointing to the fact that females participate in more domestic activities and keep busy themselves in social activities and hence get more social support which enhances their quality of life and overall well-being (Sharma, 1995; Sharma, 2011). Females tend to report larger social networks than

males and turn to others for emotional support in stressful circumstances (Taylor, Klein, Lewis, Gruenewald, Gurung, & Updegraff, 2000). According to Kessler, McLeod and Wethington (1985) women provide more emotional support to both men and women and they get more help in return. Moreover, women are generally more empathetic and expressive than men (Bell, 1981).

V. CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, social support has been found to be the common significant predictor of quality of life in senior citizens (males and females). Moreover, significant gender differences have been found on quality of life, masculinity, femininity and social support. The papers' findings point to the need to encourage both the genders to imbibe each other's characteristics for proper adjustment and better quality of life. Further, senior citizens must be encouraged to spend more time with family and friends, to actively participate in collective activities and actively talk to family members or friends when encountering troubles or are confused with something. This way their quality of life may be enhanced.

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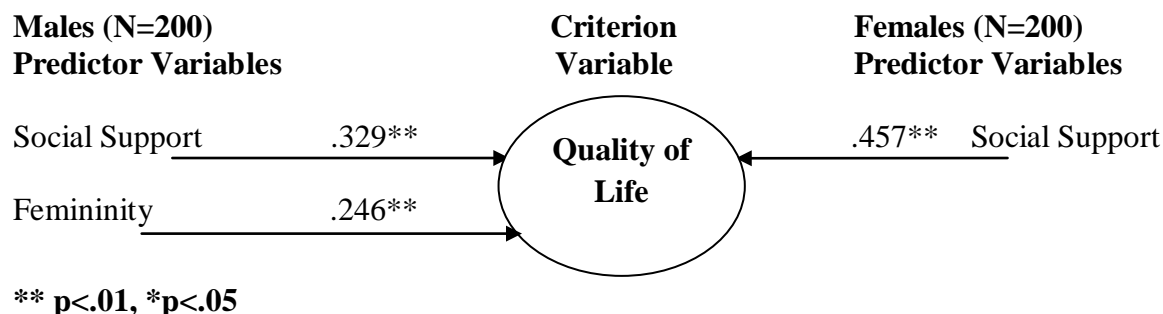


Figure 1: Inter- correlations among Quality of Life, Social Support and Femininity in both the Genders (Males and Females, N=200)

Table 1: Stepwise Regression Analysis: Predictors of Quality of Life in Senior Citizens for Males' Sample (N=200)

Predictors	Order of Entry	r	R	Beta Weight	R ²	R ² Change	F	Sig
Social Support	1	.329**	.598	.370	.357	.052	19.61	.01
Femininity	2	.246**	.632	.325	.399	.042	13.26	.01
Total Variance Explained						9%		

Table 2: Stepwise Regression Analysis: Predictors of Quality of Life in Senior Citizens for Females' Sample (N=200)

Predictors	Order of Entry	r	R	Beta Weight	R ²	R ² Change	F	Sig
Social Support	1	.457**	.514	.435	.264	.051	16.431	.01
Total Variance Explained						5%		

Table 3: Comparative Analysis of Male and Female Senior Citizens on Social Support, Femininity, Masculinity and Quality of Life.

Variables	Gender	N	\bar{X}	SD	t	Sig.
Quality of Life	Males	200	142.78	18.56	1.98	.05
	Females	200	139.02	20.19		
Social Support	Males	200	43.45	6.60	6.82	.01
	Females	200	48.10	7.03		
Masculinity	Males	200	80.13	7.24	1.92	.05
	Females	200	77.36	8.47		
Femininity	Males	200	84.89	7.36	1.68	.05
	Females	200	83.12	7.54		

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Acknowledgments

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The following is the official style and template developed for publication of a research paper. Authors are not required to follow this style during the submission of the paper. It is just for reference purposes.



Manuscript Style Instruction (Optional)

- Microsoft Word Document Setting Instructions.
- Font type of all text should be Swis721 Lt BT.
- Page size: 8.27" x 11", left margin: 0.65, right margin: 0.65, bottom margin: 0.75.
- Paper title should be in one column of font size 24.
- Author name in font size of 11 in one column.
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- Main text: font size 10 with two justified columns.
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Structure and Format of Manuscript

The recommended size of an original research paper is under 15,000 words and review papers under 7,000 words. Research articles should be less than 10,000 words. Research papers are usually longer than review papers. Review papers are reports of significant research (typically less than 7,000 words, including tables, figures, and references)

A research paper must include:

- a) A title which should be relevant to the theme of the paper.
- b) A summary, known as an abstract (less than 150 words), containing the major results and conclusions.
- c) Up to 10 keywords that precisely identify the paper's subject, purpose, and focus.
- d) An introduction, giving fundamental background objectives.
- e) Resources and techniques with sufficient complete experimental details (wherever possible by reference) to permit repetition, sources of information must be given, and numerical methods must be specified by reference.
- f) Results which should be presented concisely by well-designed tables and figures.
- g) Suitable statistical data should also be given.
- h) All data must have been gathered with attention to numerical detail in the planning stage.

Design has been recognized to be essential to experiments for a considerable time, and the editor has decided that any paper that appears not to have adequate numerical treatments of the data will be returned unrefereed.

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The full postal address of any related author(s) must be specified.

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The abstract is the foundation of the research paper. It should be clear and concise and must contain the objective of the paper and inferences drawn. It is advised to not include big mathematical equations or complicated jargon.

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One must be persistent and creative in using keywords. An effective keyword search requires a strategy: planning of a list of possible keywords and phrases to try.

Choice of the main keywords is the first tool of writing a research paper. Research paper writing is an art. Keyword search should be as strategic as possible.

One should start brainstorming lists of potential keywords before even beginning searching. Think about the most important concepts related to research work. Ask, "What words would a source have to include to be truly valuable in a research paper?" Then consider synonyms for the important words.

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Numerical methods used should be transparent and, where appropriate, supported by references.

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Authors must list all the abbreviations used in the paper at the end of the paper or in a separate table before using them.

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Authors are advised to submit any mathematical equation using either MathJax, KaTeX, or LaTeX, or in a very high-quality image.

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Figures are supposed to be submitted as separate files. Always include a citation in the text for each figure using Arabic numbers, e.g., Fig. 4. Artwork must be submitted online in vector electronic form or by emailing it.

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TIPS FOR WRITING A GOOD QUALITY SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PAPER

Techniques for writing a good quality human social science research paper:

1. Choosing the topic: In most cases, the topic is selected by the interests of the author, but it can also be suggested by the guides. You can have several topics, and then judge which you are most comfortable with. This may be done by asking several questions of yourself, like "Will I be able to carry out a search in this area? Will I find all necessary resources to accomplish the search? Will I be able to find all information in this field area?" If the answer to this type of question is "yes," then you ought to choose that topic. In most cases, you may have to conduct surveys and visit several places. Also, you might have to do a lot of work to find all the rises and falls of the various data on that subject. Sometimes, detailed information plays a vital role, instead of short information. Evaluators are human: The first thing to remember is that evaluators are also human beings. They are not only meant for rejecting a paper. They are here to evaluate your paper. So present your best aspect.

2. Think like evaluators: If you are in confusion or getting demotivated because your paper may not be accepted by the evaluators, then think, and try to evaluate your paper like an evaluator. Try to understand what an evaluator wants in your research paper, and you will automatically have your answer. Make blueprints of paper: The outline is the plan or framework that will help you to arrange your thoughts. It will make your paper logical. But remember that all points of your outline must be related to the topic you have chosen.

3. Ask your guides: If you are having any difficulty with your research, then do not hesitate to share your difficulty with your guide (if you have one). They will surely help you out and resolve your doubts. If you can't clarify what exactly you require for your work, then ask your supervisor to help you with an alternative. He or she might also provide you with a list of essential readings.

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11. Pick a good study spot: Always try to pick a spot for your research which is quiet. Not every spot is good for studying.

12. Know what you know: Always try to know what you know by making objectives, otherwise you will be confused and unable to achieve your target.

13. Use good grammar: Always use good grammar and words that will have a positive impact on the evaluator; use of good vocabulary does not mean using tough words which the evaluator has to find in a dictionary. Do not fragment sentences. Eliminate one-word sentences. Do not ever use a big word when a smaller one would suffice.

Verbs have to be in agreement with their subjects. In a research paper, do not start sentences with conjunctions or finish them with prepositions. When writing formally, it is advisable to never split an infinitive because someone will (wrongly) complain. Avoid clichés like a disease. Always shun irritating alliteration. Use language which is simple and straightforward. Put together a neat summary.

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15. Never start at the last minute: Always allow enough time for research work. Leaving everything to the last minute will degrade your paper and spoil your work.

16. Multitasking in research is not good: Doing several things at the same time is a bad habit in the case of research activity. Research is an area where everything has a particular time slot. Divide your research work into parts, and do a particular part in a particular time slot.

17. Never copy others' work: Never copy others' work and give it your name because if the evaluator has seen it anywhere, you will be in trouble. Take proper rest and food: No matter how many hours you spend on your research activity, if you are not taking care of your health, then all your efforts will have been in vain. For quality research, take proper rest and food.

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Refresh your mind after intervals: Try to give your mind a rest by listening to soft music or sleeping in intervals. This will also improve your memory. Acquire colleagues: Always try to acquire colleagues. No matter how sharp you are, if you acquire colleagues, they can give you ideas which will be helpful to your research.

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22. Upon conclusion: Once you have concluded your research, the next most important step is to present your findings. Presentation is extremely important as it is the definite medium through which your research is going to be in print for the rest of the crowd. Care should be taken to categorize your thoughts well and present them in a logical and neat manner. A good quality research paper format is essential because it serves to highlight your research paper and bring to light all necessary aspects of your research.

INFORMAL GUIDELINES OF RESEARCH PAPER WRITING

Key points to remember:

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- Write your paper in the form which is presented in the guidelines using the template.
- Please note the criteria peer reviewers will use for grading the final paper.

Final points:

One purpose of organizing a research paper is to let people interpret your efforts selectively. The journal requires the following sections, submitted in the order listed, with each section starting on a new page:

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This will provide understanding of the data and projections as to the implications of the results. The use of good quality references throughout the paper will give the effort trustworthiness by representing an alertness to prior workings.

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To make a paper clear: Adhere to recommended page limits.



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- Submitting a manuscript with pages out of sequence.
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- Align the primary line of each section.
- Present your points in sound order.
- Use present tense to report well-accepted matters.
- Use past tense to describe specific results.
- Do not use familiar wording; don't address the reviewer directly. Don't use slang or superlatives.
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Reason for writing the article—theory, overall issue, purpose.

- Fundamental goal.
- To-the-point depiction of the research.
- Consequences, including definite statistics—if the consequences are quantitative in nature, account for this; results of any numerical analysis should be reported. Significant conclusions or questions that emerge from the research.

Approach:

- Single section and succinct.
- An outline of the job done is always written in past tense.
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The introduction should "introduce" the manuscript. The reviewer should be presented with sufficient background information to be capable of comprehending and calculating the purpose of your study without having to refer to other works. The basis for the study should be offered. Give the most important references, but avoid making a comprehensive appraisal of the topic. Describe the problem visibly. If the problem is not acknowledged in a logical, reasonable way, the reviewer will give no attention to your results. Speak in common terms about techniques used to explain the problem, if needed, but do not present any particulars about the protocols here.



The following approach can create a valuable beginning:

- Explain the value (significance) of the study.
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- Present a justification. State your particular theory(-ies) or aim(s), and describe the logic that led you to choose them.
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Use past tense except for when referring to recognized facts. After all, the manuscript will be submitted after the entire job is done. Sort out your thoughts; manufacture one key point for every section. If you make the four points listed above, you will need at least four paragraphs. Present surrounding information only when it is necessary to support a situation. The reviewer does not desire to read everything you know about a topic. Shape the theory specifically—do not take a broad view.

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Materials may be reported in part of a section or else they may be recognized along with your measures.

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- Report the method and not the particulars of each process that engaged the same methodology.
- Describe the method entirely.
- To be succinct, present methods under headings dedicated to specific dealings or groups of measures.
- Simplify—detail how procedures were completed, not how they were performed on a particular day.
- If well-known procedures were used, account for the procedure by name, possibly with a reference, and that's all.

Approach:

It is embarrassing to use vigorous voice when documenting methods without using first person, which would focus the reviewer's interest on the researcher rather than the job. As a result, when writing up the methods, most authors use third person passive voice.

Use standard style in this and every other part of the paper—avoid familiar lists, and use full sentences.

What to keep away from:

- Resources and methods are not a set of information.
- Skip all descriptive information and surroundings—save it for the argument.
- Leave out information that is immaterial to a third party.



Results:

The principle of a results segment is to present and demonstrate your conclusion. Create this part as entirely objective details of the outcome, and save all understanding for the discussion.

The page length of this segment is set by the sum and types of data to be reported. Use statistics and tables, if suitable, to present consequences most efficiently.

You must clearly differentiate material which would usually be incorporated in a study editorial from any unprocessed data or additional appendix matter that would not be available. In fact, such matters should not be submitted at all except if requested by the instructor.

Content:

- Sum up your conclusions in text and demonstrate them, if suitable, with figures and tables.
- In the manuscript, explain each of your consequences, and point the reader to remarks that are most appropriate.
- Present a background, such as by describing the question that was addressed by creation of an exacting study.
- Explain results of control experiments and give remarks that are not accessible in a prescribed figure or table, if appropriate.
- Examine your data, then prepare the analyzed (transformed) data in the form of a figure (graph), table, or manuscript.

What to stay away from:

- Do not discuss or infer your outcome, report surrounding information, or try to explain anything.
- Do not include raw data or intermediate calculations in a research manuscript.
- Do not present similar data more than once.
- A manuscript should complement any figures or tables, not duplicate information.
- Never confuse figures with tables—there is a difference.

Approach:

As always, use past tense when you submit your results, and put the whole thing in a reasonable order.

Put figures and tables, appropriately numbered, in order at the end of the report.

If you desire, you may place your figures and tables properly within the text of your results section.

Figures and tables:

If you put figures and tables at the end of some details, make certain that they are visibly distinguished from any attached appendix materials, such as raw facts. Whatever the position, each table must be titled, numbered one after the other, and include a heading. All figures and tables must be divided from the text.

Discussion:

The discussion is expected to be the trickiest segment to write. A lot of papers submitted to the journal are discarded based on problems with the discussion. There is no rule for how long an argument should be.

Position your understanding of the outcome visibly to lead the reviewer through your conclusions, and then finish the paper with a summing up of the implications of the study. The purpose here is to offer an understanding of your results and support all of your conclusions, using facts from your research and generally accepted information, if suitable. The implication of results should be fully described.

Infer your data in the conversation in suitable depth. This means that when you clarify an observable fact, you must explain mechanisms that may account for the observation. If your results vary from your prospect, make clear why that may have happened. If your results agree, then explain the theory that the proof supported. It is never suitable to just state that the data approved the prospect, and let it drop at that. Make a decision as to whether each premise is supported or discarded or if you cannot make a conclusion with assurance. Do not just dismiss a study or part of a study as "uncertain."



Research papers are not acknowledged if the work is imperfect. Draw what conclusions you can based upon the results that you have, and take care of the study as a finished work.

- You may propose future guidelines, such as how an experiment might be personalized to accomplish a new idea.
- Give details of all of your remarks as much as possible, focusing on mechanisms.
- Make a decision as to whether the tentative design sufficiently addressed the theory and whether or not it was correctly restricted. Try to present substitute explanations if they are sensible alternatives.
- One piece of research will not counter an overall question, so maintain the large picture in mind. Where do you go next? The best studies unlock new avenues of study. What questions remain?
- Recommendations for detailed papers will offer supplementary suggestions.

Approach:

When you refer to information, differentiate data generated by your own studies from other available information. Present work done by specific persons (including you) in past tense.

Describe generally acknowledged facts and main beliefs in present tense.

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Discussion	Well organized, meaningful specification, sound conclusion, logical and concise explanation, highly structured paragraph reference cited	Wordy, unclear conclusion, spurious	Conclusion is not cited, unorganized, difficult to comprehend
References	Complete and correct format, well organized	Beside the point, Incomplete	Wrong format and structuring



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