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**1. HOW IS THE POTRAYAL OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH BY THE GLOBAL NORTH NEWS/ORGANISATION MEDIA?**

To start with, we would first have to define or make known of what global north and global south is, global north is the economically developed societies of Europe, north America, Australia, Israel, south Africa, amongst others, the global south represent the economically backward countries of Africa, india, china, brazil, mexico, amongst others.

Global north countries are wealthy, technologically advanced, politically stable and aging as their societies tend towards zero population growth the opposite is the case with global south countries. While global south countries are agrarian based, dependent economically and politically on the global north, the global north has continued to dominate and direct the global south in international trade and politics.

If we are to look at how global south is been potrayed we would take a look at what we call global/international news flow, this refers to a field of study that deals with news coverage of events in foreign countries. It describes and even explains the flow of news from one country to another. Studies on global news flow typically attempt to understand why certain countries are more newsworthy than the others.

Along the years, it has been found that the economic power of countries plays a particular crucial role in their news prominence as well as the presence of international news agencies. Thus the U.S. has been found to be very prominent in news mentions around the world(18%), followed by china, western European and middle eastern countries(about 3-5% each).

The unequal representation of the world and the under-representation of developing countries have been already of a great concern at least since the 1950s, since they influence the way people perceive the world and the image of countries. This problem was addressed in the Mac-bride report and his set of recommendation for a new world information and communication order(NWICO). The unequal representation of the world has been also linked to the world system theory, and the unequal structure of the world.

Recent empirical studies show that among online news websites and news aggregators the unequal representations of the world has been perpetuated and even further intensified. Economically powerful countries, as well as their opponent countries(mainly in the middle east and Asia) get the most news coverage around the world.

The fundamental issues of imbalances in global communication had been discussed for sometime. **Wilbur Schramm** noted in **1964** that the flow of news among nations is thin, that much attention is given to developed countries and little to less-developing ones, that important events are ignored and reality is distorted.

In **1970,** at the 16th congress of a **UNESCO**, the **NWICO** was clearly raised for the first time. **NWICO** grew out of **the NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER** of **1974**. From **1976-1978**, the new world information and communication order was generally called the shorter **new world information order.**

Mass media concerns began with the meeting of non-aligned nations in Algiers, 1973; again in Tunis **1976**, and later in **1976** at the new Delhi, ministerial conference of non-aligned nations. The new order plan was textually formulated by Tunisia’s information minister Mustapha Masmoudi . masmoudi submitted working paper no.31 to the Mac bride commission. These proposals of **1978** were titled the **‘MASS MEDIA DECLARATION’**. The **Mac-bride** commission at the time was a 16 member body created by **UNESCO** to study communication issues.

The **UNESCO** work on the **NWICO** was immediately met with criticism from many areas. An interim report released in 1979 by **UNESCO** was targeted by the **AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION** and the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS. While these organizations took issue with some of the early proposals including right of reply and press councils. They were also troubled by the phrase’’ **NEW WORLD** **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORDER’’**, seeing it as a dog whistle for the use of government propaganda in the guise of information flow balance.

In 1980 the Mac-bride report was finally published. The report stated that the right to inform and be informed was critical to modern societies, and that information was a key resource. The report than proposed five main ideas of action to progress these goals:

1. include communication as a fundamental right.

2. reduce imbalances in the news structure.

3. strengthen a global strategy for communication while respecting cultural identities and individual rights.

4. promote the creation of national communication policies to be coherent and lasting in the processes of development.

5. explore how **NWICO** could be used to benefit a **NEW INTERNATIONAL** **ECONOMIC ORDER(NIEO).**

**2. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT IS LIKELY TO FACE IN THESE TIMES, ESPECIALLY WITH CORONA VIRUS, RACISM AND ALL OTHER FEARS IN VIEW? PROFFER SOLUTION YOU THINK WILL OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES YOU RAISE.**

**1. LOCKDOWN OR RESTRICTION OF TRAVELLING:** these problem will be faced by every foreign correspondent because their job will involve journeying abroad to get their stories. The most risky thing about this is the corona-virus pandemic, this pandemic is rampant abroad, only God save us Africans it isn’t that rampant like overseas countries like death rates, you can’t compare death rates in Italy to Nigeria, the death rates in the united states to south Africa, these oversea countries have a huge gap and huge difference in death rates, the only thing I can say Africa is really suffering from is the economic impact caused by the covid-19 pandemic, it would be risky and dangerous to assign a foreign correspondent to cover a foreign beat or news in this period, especially when the aviation industries have been shutdown at the moment, how will they fly? We should also take note that foreign correspondent love their lives more than anything else, no foreign correspondent would want to become positive to covid-19.

the second problem in this point, is when a particular foreign correspondent is stuck abroad because of the lockdown of the aviation industries due to corona virus, this is the worst thing that can happen to any foreign correspondent during the time of this deadly disease, how do we bring them home? The best suggestion someone said was to use private jet to bring them home, even the solution is full of dangers/ risk, now when there is social distancing, avoidance of large crowds, you want to pack how many people inside plane, you don’t even know the number of foreign correspondent stuck abroad, how do you know if one of them is not infected, but that’s the solution we can come with so far, but thanks to the isolation centre, immediately they land we don’t want to waste any minute at all, all roads lead to the isolation centre.

**2. COST OF OPERATION:** the cost of operation has risen, not only as a result of economic meltdown but also because of the advent of new technology. The media organization have to make sure they do not get out of their business as a result of citizen journalism, which has come to stay. The economic situation all over the world has made many countries call back their foreign correspondents. With advent of new technologies, media organizations don’t need to send their foreign correspondents abroad, before news information are gotten from the reliable sources. Reporters can now sit in comfort of the newsroom, access the internet and gather the necessary information. The technological progress over the past few years has enabled large parts of the general public to access and afford new ways of interaction and communication via the internets new intelligent web services and fast broadband connections. Personal digital assistance(PDA); in form of androids, smartphones, tablets. During this pandemic this is the best way to access news as a foreign correspondent, it is not encouraging for media organizations to send out foreign assignments, this is because individuals are now becoming citizen journalist, providing user generated content and relegating to the ground the function of the foreign correspondent.

**3.** The problem of **language barrier** , which is very common but can be avoided. Being a foreign correspondent means you report happenings in countries outside your country. The language in this foreign country is most definitely different from what is spoken in your own country; this may pose as a challenge to the foreign correspondence. This is why foreign correspondents need to possess a bilingual skill. The foreign correspondent should at least have a working knowledge of the language of the country of assignment. Foreign correspondence should learn international languages that will give him/her edge during an assignment and also

make it easy to interact with people in the country of assignment. Languages can be learnt in school or prior to an assignment while on the job.

**4. Wars, disputes and ripple** are major challenges faced by foreign correspondents and why many upcoming communication students avoid foreign journalism and journalism as a whole. Countries are made up of people with different perspectives and ideologies on issues. These differences when not well managed results to dispute and if not still curbed, may result to wars. During situations like these, foreign correspondents and reporters in general are injured, maimed or killed. Correspondence have to take protective measures while reporting wars because, it might entail reporting from the war front.

Foreign correspondents often have to visit places which are badly struck by natural

calamities like floods, heavy snowfall, volcanoes, etc,. In order to keep the authorities alert, of the affected area towards the welfare and rescue mission of the people, foreign correspondents have to visit the worst hit areas as well. This could also pose a serious threat to their lives as well. In some unfortunate accidents, foreign correspondents have suffered injuries while covering stories in dangerous places.

Foreign correspondence is also followed by assignments, like covering a war zone,

communal riots, and infiltrations in borders, civil wars and much more perilous coverage.

The spread of insecurity in a country not only threatens the lives the people of that

place, but foreign correspondents also become their targets. Many terrorist organizations do not hesitate to kill them; they accuse journalists for supporting the

government authorities and security forces. Sometimes these consequences can turn fatal. Foreign correspondence are also held hostage and detained during conflicts between the countries. It is really traumatic and sometimes situations can become extremely dangerous for the captured media professionals. So I think the media organization should also make security available for foreign correspondents to help reduce loss of a life.

**5**. The foreign correspondent is also faced with **cultural challenges**. The foreign

correspondent if not conversant with the culture of his place of assignment will have problems. The culture of the place of assignment of the foreign correspondent is usually different from that of his/her country. The correspondent has to learn the

culture of the people; the dress sense, what they eat, different seasons in the country, courtesy among the people, their way of live, the laws of the land (dos and don’ts) and the language and it’s usage. To know all these, the correspondence must read extensively.

Foreign correspondents at times find it difficult to eat some types of food in their

place of assignment; at times they break some rules not knowing they are breaking

them. The correspondence also has to take note of the seasons so as to bring the

appropriate clothing. For example if a reporter is sent from Nigeria and assumes the weather of Nigeria is similar to that of New York’s, he will probably have to freeze and develop cold. Some things that are accepted one country may not be accepted in other countries, things might be much more different in the place of assignment of the correspondent. This is why it is important to study the culture of the host country. A foreign correspondent must have a knowledge and appreciation of the history of the region concerned. So much news today evolves from events, decisions or incidents from years back and which puts things in context. You must be conversant with history to be able to analyze events with real authority and thus boost your credibility as someone who knows what he/she is talking about. It is certainly the case for print reporters, who are expected also to write lengthy analytical pieces and features about developments and what they all mean.

**6. Political instability** is another problem faced by a foreign correspondent. When there is political instability in a country, a correspondent will not be able to carry out his assignment effectively. He might even be sent back to his country. A foreign correspondent might not be able to carry out in his country of assignment when there is political upheaval.

Many western countries have “freedom of the press” but not all the countries give this right to their media professionals. In many countries media does not have freedom to speech and journalists (foreign correspondent) have to adhere with the set norms before writing or publishing a story, else they have to face dire consequences.

This is called self-censorship. The foreign correspondent is often oppressed by the

governments of his place of assignment. The foreign correspondent in some countries is not supposed to show any videos which could malign the government for violating human rights and taking innocent lives and creating havoc. The foreign correspondent also has some roles to play. He has to have a thorough knowledge of various political philosophy operation in his place of assignment i.e. should know the difference between capitalism which is operated in U.S and western Europe and communism a variance of socialism still practiced in China,

Cuba of North Korea. He should have the knowledge of authoritarianism, fascism and totalitarianism, which are almost stale. The knowledge of these philosophies will help the correspondent know what step to take in case of any situation. He should have a wide knowledge of the constitution of his country of assignment. The constitution is the primary law upon which a country is governed. This will also save him the trouble of asking too many questions about the political parties because the constitution gives the reporter access to the conduct of political parties in his country of assignment.

The foreign correspondence should have knowledge of the economy of his country of assignment. At times foreign correspondence makes the mistake of reporting wrong figures. He should be familiar with economic terms like inflation, and its effect on the economy, the lives of the citizens and the causes of the inflation, demand, supply, deficit, budget and deflation. To do this the correspondent has to maintain contact with experts on the field. He should be able to interpret data, charts and graphs.

**7.** Another challenge of foreign correspondence is that the correspondence will **require additional training** **to master** **other skills**. The Job of a foreign correspondent requires him to have other skills aside reporting. The old days when a Television foreign correspondent was nothing more than a reporter who telexed, faxed or later emailed his/her copy once or twice a day and did nothing else, leaving the cameraman to handle the pictures, are over.

Today's foreign correspondent is on duty 24 hours a day and has to be versatile with technology and in some cases do everything.

However, despite all intense challenges in foreign correspondence some foreign correspondent are determined to do their jobs with full dedications and nothing could deter them.