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**MATRIC NO: 17/SMS04/053**

**DATE: 04th JUNE, 2020**

QUESTION

1. How is the portrayal of the Global South by the Global North news organization/ media?
2. What are the challenges a foreign correspondent is likely to face in these times, especially with coronavirus, racism and all other fears in view/ proffer the solutions you think will overcome the challenges you raise.

**PORTRAYAL OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH BY THE GLOBAL NORTH NEWS ORGANIZATION/ MEDIA.**

What are the Global North and the Global South?

The Global North represent the economically developed societies of Europe, North America, Australia, Israel, South Africa, amongst others, Global North countries are wealthy, technologically advanced, politically stable and aging as their societies tend towards zero population growth. The Global North has continued to dominate and direct the global south in international trade and politics. Whereas the Global South refers to less developed countries characterized by low level of economic development, large inequalities in living standards and low life expectancy. Loosely entails poor southern countries that are frantically seeking to transform their economies. They are the less socio-economically developed **global** regions in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. The Global North has portrayed the Global South in diminishing ways, for the curse of this assignment I would be focusing on how the latter has portrayed Africa in news organizations. Global North media coverage of Africa has long been a subject of controversy. A study on international communication cites under-reporting and negative coverage as major problems of Global North media reporting of the African continent. These problems are present specifically in US television coverage of African countries. Western media are said to only cover Africa as a ‘backdrop to disaster or the scene of a celebrity visit’. While it has been claimed that this type of coverage is only natural as the media prefer bad news, such coverage is said to be based on a deliberate and systematic process that has led to misreporting and under-reporting. Africa's incalculable natural wealth, which is barely available to its indigenous populations, and her ecosystem, are endangered by insatiable Western consumption. This item goes unnoticed or is ignored by consumers in the metropoles of Europe, Japan, and North America-the U.S. consumes about 60% of the world's resources but has only a fraction (4.1 %) of the world's population. With the reports from journalists, Africa, her continent, and her descendants are pejoratively reduced to nothing: a bastion of disease, savagery, animism, pestilence, war, famine, despotism, primitivism, poverty, and ubiquitous images of children, flies in their food and faces, their stomachs distended. .   On the other hand, little is said about Africa's strategic importance to so called industrialized nations; her indispensability and relevance to world development, global technology, and the wealth of nations, derived from involuntary African largesse, are not acclaimed in the media. Without access to certain raw materials from Africa, Western industrial capacity would wither much like a "raisin in the sun". Even less is communicated via the media or anywhere else about the incalculable volume of African art and crafts that end up in private collections and museums: books, calendars, and artistic publications, produce minimal income and royalties, if any, for Africans creating such works of art. Mega profits are gained by expatriate marketers in royalties, commissions, exhibitions, documentaries, movies, shows, and other niches in the U.S and world art and craft consumer market. While the perceived misrepresentation and under-reporting of the continent have been cited as a problem, individual African countries receive even less coverage. These portrayals suggest that individual countries are only covered as a consequence of negative events and are of even less significance. Western Media treat the African continent as a malignant appendage rather than as an integral, systemic part of the earth and all its natural functions in accordance with universal laws. Its indigenous populations are depicted as without value. News in general displays a tendency for negativity, as the truism “If it bleeds, it leads” would suggest. Journalists have long spoken of a coups-and-earthquakes approach to covering the world outside, but the tendency appears to be more pronounced regarding news of the African continent. A study of US television news found more than [60% of news of Africa focused on conflicts, terrorism, disasters, disease and other tragedies](http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1748048507084577). A study of [Japanese newspapers](http://globalnewsview.org/archives/4192) found 70% of coverage of Africa to be negative — more negative than that of any other continent. Even within news about conflicts, the more positive aspect of peacemaking is less likely to be covered for conflicts in Africa than it is for conflicts in the Middle East. Similarly, a Western victim of a kidnapping or killing by an armed group in Africa is far more likely to be covered than an African victim.

This cannot simply be written off as a case of media based at “home” focusing on “our” people from the perspective of nationality. Misinformation about Africa has become a growth industry in the West. A vocabulary of metaphors is used in describing Africa. For example, “black on black violence” is a euphemism the Western press used in writing about South Africa in the 1980s, yet British journalists do not report on “white on white violence” when reporting the conflict in Northern Ireland One cannot help but come to the conclusion that race (and/or socioeconomic status) is also playing a role in the determination of newsworthiness. In a situation in which no US citizens are involved, for example, a French citizen kidnapped in North Africa will attract US media coverage where a kidnapped Ethiopian citizen will not. The coverage of Africa remains largely fixated on the problems the continent faces, but it also has very selective views about what these problems have to do with the rest of the world. The absence of the positive aspects as well as the failure to highlight the endeavors and innovation made by, and resilience of, people in Africa in overcoming the challenges they face, it should come as little surprise that immigrants from these places come to be seen as the tired, poor and huddled masses, incapable of contributing to society and destined to become little more than a burden upon it. Also, importantly, news coverage misses a whole host of issues associated with Africa’s problems, not least their causes. Similarly, the news media rarely talks about unfair trade or the trade rules and pressures that sustain it, or how the [rich and powerful countries benefiting from this state of affairs](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jul/16/outcome-document-addis-ababa-ffd3-financing-for-development) work to maintain it. The following are listed examples of how Africa has been portrayed in Global North media:

1. May 13th, 2000 issue of “*The Economist”*, the influential British weekly magazine, has become famous for symbolizing how Africa is represented in the western media. Aside from the week’s cover which boldly described Africa as the *‘HOPELESS CONTINENT’*, the lead articles stated, “The new millennium has brought more disaster than hope to Africa. Worse, the few candles of hope are flickering weakly. This hopeless representation of Africa in the economist and indeed in most other western media outlets has persisted since the late nineteenth century during the era of slavery and colonialism. Africa has been known as the needy Dark Continent characterized by primeval irrationality tribal anarchy, civil war, political instability, flagrant corruption, incompetent leadership and managerial ineptitude hunger famine and starvation as well as rampant diseases.
2. An examination of *Newsweek* and *The Economist* between 2003 and 2005 found the majority of reports on Nigeria were negative and focused on politics and the economy. Moreover, no reports covered education, science and technology, arts/entertainment, sports, or war/defence. Among UK-based newspapers between 1997 and 2007, [Malaolu (2014)](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1742766518760086) found coverage was dominated by foreign sources, especially, among evaluative reports where Nigerian sources were scarcely represented.
3. Western media’s failure to report on issues of importance was demonstrated in 2015, when the world’s attention was focused on the terror attack that left 17 dead at the offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and around Paris. In the same week, hundreds were killed by Boko Haram militants in and near Baga, Nigeria. The mass killing scarcely garnered mention in the Western media. While the top 25 US media outlets ran 1000 sentences mentioning *Charlie Hebdo* the day after the attack, the same outlets only ran 20 sentences mentioning Baga the day after that attack. Although this news would present Nigeria for negative reasons, this example shows that even those do not receive much attention compared to events of similar or less magnitude in other parts of the world.
4. The Rwandan genocide, which resulted in the mass killing of Tutsis by the Hutu majority, was largely ignored because of Western media reluctance to feature more than one African story at a time.

**CHALLENGES A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT IS LIKELY TO FACE IN THESE TIMES, ESPECIALLY WITH CORONAVIRUS, RACISM AND ALL OTHER FEARS IN VIEW/ PROFFER THE SOLUTIONS YOU THINK WILL OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES YOU RAISE.**

A foreign correspondent is a journalist who is responsible for reporting news from another country. This may mean covering anything from wars to politics to living conditions and attitudes in this country. Foreign correspondents are the public's eyes and ears across the globe. Unlike other journalists, the correspondent's audience is often not near enough to witness the events for themselves. Correspondents may be the public's only source of information about the events in a foreign country. This profession invites maximum number of challenges and a correspondent has to take them as part of his/her occupation. Some of these challenges are:

1. Language Barrier: 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.
2. 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.
3. The Economy Of His Country Of Assignment: A foreign correspondence should have knowledge of the economy of his country of assignment. Sometimes foreign correspondence makes the mistake of reporting wrong figures. He/she 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.
4. Political instability: When there is political instability in a country, a correspondent will not be able to carry out his assignment effectively. He/she 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 turmoil. . 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.
5. 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.
6. Cultural Challenges: culture is the way of life of a particular group of people. the foreign correspondent if not conversant with the culture of his place of assignment will have problems. The correspondent has to learn the culture of the people; the way they dress, what they eat, different seasons in the country, courtesy among the people, their lifestyle, the laws of the land (dos and don’ts) and their 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; 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.
7. Global pandemics: the outbreak of pandemics can hinder a foreign correspondent from carrying out his/her job effectively as there may be restrictions such a ban on travels, risk of contacting diseases, restrictions of movement and curfews etc. a foreign correspondence is also as exposed to these viruses as the doctor because they would always be there at the break of the news in case of new developments.
8. Wars: war and disputes are major challenges faced by foreign correspondents. 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. 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.
9. Racial Abuse: racism is judging one with their skin colour which is very wrong. Even in modern day racism is still on going, and it has been the cause of death for some people, foreign correspondents as well. A foreign correspondence could go to a country for example the United State of America and could get killed because majority of the Americans are racists to Black people as well as Asians.

SOLUTIONS

As a foreign correspondent, you should be open to read a lot and learn also about other people’s culture because your place of assignment would be another man’s countries, you have to be prepared for whatever you might encounter there. Have good knowledge about your place of assignment. Learn and read about their culture, lifestyle, food, language, dressing, and their seasons. Be open most especially to learn other languages and communication skills so as to make your work easier and for communication to flow better. In the outbreak of global pandemics, a foreign correspondent should always listen to the heath directors on health tips to keep them safe. In times of reporting from countries having wars, a foreign correspondence should always have accurate and true facts so as not to get in any troubles with the authorities of their place of assignment. A foreign correspondent should be brave and courageous at all times.