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HOW THE GLOBAL NORTH POTRAY THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Today the world is much more complex than we think it is as many poorer countries have experienced significant economic and social development. However, inequality within countries has also been growing and some commentators now talk of a ‘Global North’ and a ‘Global South’ referring respectively to richer or poorer communities which are found both within and between countries. For example, whilst India is still home to the largest concentration of poor people in a single nation it also has a very sizable middle class and a very rich elite. There are many causes for these inequalities including the availability of natural resources; different levels of health and education; the nature of a country’s economy and its industrial sectors; international trading policies and access to markets; how countries are governed and international relationships between countries; conflict within and between countries; and a country’s vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.

The global north portray the global southThe Global South's often discussed struggle is to be equally represented in the media compared to the North. When looking at media coverage of developing countries, a generalized view has developed through Western media. Negative images and coverage of the Ills and Poverty are frequent in the mass media when talking about third world countries. This common coverage has created a dominant stereotype of the Global South. Elisabeth Farny describes this as, "the 'South' is characterized by the economic and political backwardness, measured against Western values and standards." Mass media's role often compares the Global South to the North and is thought to be an aid in the divide.

Mass media has also played a role in what information the Global South receives. The news often covers developed countries and creates an imbalance of information flow. The Global South does not often receive coverage of the other parts of the south but instead gets generous amount of coverage on the north.

Annette Trefzer and Kristen Dellinger in their article titled Interdisciplinary Investigations (pp1-15) sheds more light to the subject matter in question.

CHALLENGES OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Foreign correspondence is the reportage and filing of new stories by a Journalist known as a foreign correspondent (who works for a media organization) from a foreign country. A Foreign correspondent is a journalist who sends news reports and commentary from a foreign country for publication or broadcast.  His is an agent who contributes reports to a newspaper, radio or television, from a remote, often distant location. The foreign correspondent is stationed in a foreign country. Challenges are the part of every job and journalism is not escaped from it. This profession invites maximum number of challenges and a correspondent has to take them as part of his/her occupation. According to a famous journalist, “the biggest challenge for a today’s journalist is to survive”. Foreign correspondence, even from a layman’s perspective has a lot of challenges especially because the Journalist has to leave his/her own country for another country that he/she is not familiar with.

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has put a stop to the normal routines of everyday life both in Nigeria and abroad. And while social distancing is the course of action to take until told otherwise, moves aren’t always something that can wait. How does moving during a pandemic work though, and more importantly—are moving services even still available?

In such a time, foreign correspondents are faced with various challenges coupled with the fact that most of them are not used to the environment that they are presently.

As a foreign correspondent right now, there’s a lot to look out for. The major reason they find themselves where they currently are is for work which is majorly sourcing for information and happenings around to write about or report.

The first challenge that foreign correspondents are faced with right now is not being able to move around as much as they normally would because of the Pandemic that the world is battling right now.

Secondly, Racism. China has ordered three foreign journalists of the Wall Street Journal to leave the country over an opinion piece it said was "racist**"**

The article published on 3 February criticised the country's response to the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

The Chinese foreign ministry said it had asked the newspaper to apologise several times but it had declined.

"The Chinese people do not welcome media that publish racist statements and maliciously attacks China," Mr Geng said, without naming the journalists being expelled.

Though the foreign correspondents put out the article because of some the activities that they had witnessed at the time, the Chinese government did not entertain the news story.

China is the not the only country with racists or racist tendencies. Foreign correspondents are battling racism almost every day in the various countries that they have been assigned to.

The solution to managing or curbing racism has to first of all start with people making personal decision to refrain from making other people feel less because of their race, colour or where ever they come from. 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 learn in school or prior to an assignment while on the job.

Foreign correspondents will also be 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 South Africa, he will probably have to freeze and develop cold. Some things that are accepted in 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.

Political instability is another problem faced by a foreign correspondent. When there is political instability in a country, especially right now that nations around the world are struggling to battle the Covid-19 Pandemic. 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.

One of the major problems that foreign correspondents will have with regards to the Pandemic is the lockdown because the nature of the job involves moving around from reporting live to just personally observing the environment. Movement will strictly be limited and right now even though the lockdown has been lifted in the city, some cities still have curfew depending on their environment and the level of spread.