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- Development by Rules
- Traditional Lore in Population Communication
- Film and Development
- Domestic Miscommunication
- African Countries in Nigerian Press

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Comments on the Contents of this Issue

This issue ushers in 1992 with a reminder of the efficacy of communication in addressing development problems on the continent. With a repertoire of six papers, each focussing on an element of communication, this edition attempts to mirror contemporary concerns regarding Africa's socio-economic crisis. There is a thread of hope in all the papers with some optimism being attributed to the potential of the African indigenous media in alleviating the crisis and the role of the African woman in development, the argument being that communication can help liberate the African woman and unleash her energies towards development.

Robert Agunga's article attributes the failure of development projects in Africa to the lack of development support communication as a vital component of project management. This component would assist in the dissemination of management information including basic rules of management which the African operators seem to lack.

With less and less food to feed her ever increasing population, Kwesi Yankah, in his contribution, recommends that Africa should utilise its own folk-lore to spread the message of family planning. The paper presents a case study of the Akan, an ethnic community in Ghana.

The film industry could be used in empowering the African through increased awareness. This is the message in Matthew E. Sauer's paper as he studies the role of cinema in Nigeria and India. He notes the monopoly of Western movies on the continent and suggests further research in the promotion of the film industry for Africa's development purposes. There are two papers on gender issues. One is by Noma Owens-Ibie in which the issue of wife-beating is addressed. The paper argues that wife-beating, as a manifestation of domestic violence, hinders communication of development messages to grassroot women in Africa. Living under fear, the African woman sits on the fence when called upon to participate in development. On the other hand, Chinyere Stella Okunna's paper argues that women should join mass communication training institutions, if the media are to change their bias against women. Graduating through their tutelage, a new crop of female journalists would emerge, changing the image of the woman in development, the paper concludes.

Finally, Umaru A. Pate's paper looks at the volume of news about Africa in the Nigerian press. His findings are that the print media are heavily influenced by the official government foreign policy. There is a big volume of African news in the papers in line with the official policy that seems to encourage African contacts.

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