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- Authoritarianism, Dictatorship and the Nigerian Press
- 1990 Press Law in Cameroon
- Indigenized Philosophy of Communication
- Radio and Rural Development

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Comments on the Contents of this Issue

Communication education, research and practice in Africa trace their roots to the colonial era and hence have been influenced by western-oriented paradigms of communication and social theory. This issue of the AMR presents papers which propose an indigenized philosophy of communication education in Africa, and examine certain press laws enacted both during the colonial period and in the post independence era.

Chris W. Ogbondah compares major press laws enacted in two major periods in Nigeria's journalism — the British colonial rule and the period of military rule. He investigates and compares the objectives of the laws enacted by both governments and public reactions to them. In the same vein, Ewumbue-Monono Churchill examines the 1990 press law of Cameroon, its objectives, the changes it brought about and its major defects.

The article by Stanford Mukasa and Lee B. Becker reviews the approaches to communication education study in Africa in the post-colonial state, and the growth and development of communication education in Africa. The authors then analyse communication education resources and needs that must be dynamically addressed by policy makers in Africa.

Also attracting attention in this issue are the rôle of radio in the development process and its use as a source of development information, particularly among the rural population. Polly McLean's article analyses the application of radio in rural development by non-broadcast professionals in Swaziland. She traces the history of radio programming produced by non-broadcast professionals, training of non-broadcast professionals and their relationship with their audiences. She concludes that Swaziland needs to train content specialists who understand the needs of their target audiences for effective programme production.

Stella Okunna in her paper presents a case study of the sources of development among a select number of rural women in Nigeria. Her study confirms that the mass media are relatively unimportant, with the exception of the radio, as sources of development-oriented information for rural dwellers in Nigeria and underscores interpersonal communication as potent sources of information.

Table of Contents

- 1 British Colonial Authoritarianism, African Military Dictatorship and the Nigerian Press by **Chris W. Ogbondah**
- 19 The Right to Inform and the 1990 Press Law in Cameroon by **Ewumbue Monono Churchill**
- 31 Towards an Indigenized Philosophy of Communication: An Analysis of African Communication Educational Resources and Needs by **Stanford G. Mukasa and Lee B. Becker**
- 51 Radio and Rural Development in Swaziland by **Polly E. McLean**
- 65 Sources of Development Information Among Rural Women in Nigeria: A Case Study by **Stella Okunna**
- 79 Index to Volume 6