

# Review of: "“We Only Came Home to Find His Body Dangling”: Voices and Practs in Selected Nigerian Newspapers Reportage on Suicide"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study focuses on an important register for analysis: reporting of suicide in Nigerian newspapers. The need for the study is well justified with statistics on suicide in this country. The authors analyse pragmatic acts in these reports.

The study would be strengthened if the resulting categories were revised as some of the examples do not correspond with the headings (e.g., blaming the victim).

More importantly, the conclusions drawn in the discussion seem to be about the causes of the reported suicides rather than the way the suicides are reported.

See notes below for more detailed feedback:

I assume that ‘practise’ stands for ‘pragmatic acts’. This needs to be clarified early.

## 1. Introduction:

- Does the definition of suicide include attempts? What’s the source for this definition?
- “Since the past few decades, there has been a spate of suicides committed across the globe” - There have been suicides throughout history. Is there evidence of an increase in suicide rates, either globally or in Nigeria?
- “While it is not encouraged in many tribes because of the stigma attached to it, suicide nevertheless remains a significant cause of death worldwide (Rataemane, 2008).” This sentence is mixing information from Nigeria (“tribes”) with global death rates. It also doesn’t follow from the classification before it.
- Newspaper reports on suicide may differ within and across countries, *with the advent of technology; (this phrase doesn’t follow)*
- “Dunlop et al. (2011) claim that the internet, and specifically the enhanced website model, is an important source of information for learning about suicidal behaviour. It has also been observed that suicide has a close link with inequity, social exclusion, and economic deprivation (Berk and Dodd, 2006).” These ideas don’t follow.
- Make sure you use appropriate suicide language. Avoid ‘successful, fail, commit, completed suicide’

## Methods:

What was the criterion to select 15 out of more than 20? Was 20+ the total number of suicide cases reported in these

three news outlets?

Results:

This example doesn't seem to belong in this category. Or it seems that it is conflating describing the victim and the incident.

Pract of describing suicide incidents

- **P7:** "He was a very quiet boy, who took his academics very seriously. He doesn't go out and never showed any sign of depression whatsoever," he said. (**Vanguard, September 11, 2021**)

Pract of blaming suicide victims:

The example below seems to be blaming the parents for ignoring him rather than the victim. Indicating that someone suffers from depression does not qualify as blame to me.

His wife, \_\_\_\_X, revealed that "he had been acting strangely for some days before his death. I complained about his strange behaviour to his parents but they ignored it until he died." (**Nation December 31, 2021**)

**P15:** "A source from the community, who spoke on condition of anonymity yesterday evening, said the deceased had been suffering depression for about a year." (**Nation 25 October, 2021**)

**Discussion:**

**The first claim is not substantiated by the evidence presented. Being only 15 cases, a table could be presented as for the reasons reported for the suicide. But more importantly, I don't think the purpose of the paper is to establish the reason for the suicide but whether the reporting is appropriate or not. (e.g., does it blame the victim? Does it provide unnecessary detail?)**