



Traditional versus Online News Sources: A Comparative Study of News Consumption Preferences among Undergraduate Students of Universities in Kogi State

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Abstract

The advent of digital media has transformed news consumption patterns among university students; however, limited research exists on how Nigerian undergraduates compare traditional and online news sources. This study examined the news consumption preferences of undergraduate students in universities in Kogi State, focusing on commonly used sources, factors influencing platform choice, perceptions of credibility, and access challenges. Guided by the Uses and Gratifications Theory, a quantitative cross-sectional survey was conducted with 380 respondents from three universities. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and analysed through descriptive statistics. The findings revealed a strong preference for online news platforms, driven primarily by cost, instant access, and social-sharing capabilities. While students acknowledged the superior credibility of traditional media, they often neglected fact-checking online content. Major barriers included high internet data costs, poor network connectivity, and frequent power outages, which affected access to both traditional and digital news. The study concludes that digital transformation has fundamentally reshaped undergraduate news consumption, emphasising the need for media literacy programmes, enhanced digital strategies by traditional outlets, and improved infrastructure to support equitable access to credible information.

Keywords: News consumption, Traditional media, online news platforms, undergraduates Credibility, Digital transformation.

Introduction

News has historically remained a cornerstone of public life, serving as a vital instrument for informing, educating, and shaping public opinion while promoting civic participation. From the era of newspapers and radio bulletins to the visually engaging age of television, traditional media once dominated the global information landscape. Their structured editorial oversight and adherence to professional standards earned them credibility and public trust, allowing them to influence generations of audiences. Over the past two decades, however, digital communication technologies have fundamentally transformed this landscape. Online news platforms ranging from digital newspapers and blogs to social media networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and X (formerly Twitter) have redefined how audiences access, share, and interact with information. Newman, Fletcher, Robertson, Eddy, and Nielsen (2023) report that, globally, younger

demographics now consume significantly more news through digital channels than through traditional outlets. Unlike newspapers and broadcast media, which operate on fixed schedules, digital platforms deliver personalised, algorithm-driven, and real-time updates, thereby reshaping patterns of news consumption.

This global shift presents a dual reality. On one hand, digital news promotes immediacy, interactivity, and audience participation. On the other hand, it raises growing concerns about misinformation, credibility, and the erosion of editorial gatekeeping. Uwalaka and Watkins (2018) caution that the absence of rigorous verification processes in many online spaces has contributed to declining public trust in news content. Consequently, both traditional and digital media now coexist in a dynamic yet contested information ecosystem, each offering unique advantages and posing distinct challenges. In Nigeria, these global transformations are reflected in the country's evolving media environment. Traditional media such as the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), national newspapers, and community radio stations continue to play crucial roles in informing the public (Ezeah, Asogwa, & Obiorah, 2013). Nevertheless, as Okorie and Salawu (2016) observe, younger audiences are steadily gravitating towards digital news platforms, a shift largely driven by increased internet penetration, smartphone ownership, and the affordability of data services. This generational transition underscores the importance of examining how young Nigerians, particularly university students, negotiate between traditional and online media in their quest for credible and accessible information.

Among university students, this shift is especially pronounced. Constantly connected to multiple information sources, they embody the characteristics of a digitally oriented audience. Okon and Bello (2022) note that students' news preferences are increasingly shaped by factors such as convenience, affordability, digital competence, and perceived credibility, rather than mere availability. Despite this trend, however, limited empirical research exists that compares how undergraduates in specific Nigerian contexts such as Kogi State navigate the intersection of traditional and digital news platforms. It is within this context that the present study seeks to examine the news consumption preferences of undergraduate students in universities across Kogi State. Specifically, it investigates the extent to which students rely on traditional and online news media, their motivations for using particular platforms, and their perceptions of accessibility and credibility.

Statement of the Problem

Traditional news sources such as newspapers, radio, and television have historically served as the backbone of information dissemination in Nigeria, valued for their editorial rigour, regulatory oversight, and credibility (Ezeah, Asogwa, & Obiorah, 2013). However, the digital transformation of the media landscape has disrupted this dominance. With the proliferation of smartphones, affordable internet access, and social media platforms, a growing number of Nigerians especially youths now obtain news from online sources that prioritise speed and engagement over verification. This shift has altered not only modes of access but also perceptions of credibility and trust in the media. Although studies such as Ariyibi and Aduradola (2020), Okon and Umoren (2016), and Musa and Salihu (2021) have explored the general rise of online news consumption in Nigeria, most have treated the phenomenon at a national level without systematically comparing traditional and online media preferences among specific population groups. Consequently, the dynamics of news consumption among university students a demographic known for digital literacy and opinion leadership remain underexplored, particularly within the socio-cultural setting of Kogi State.

The absence of empirical evidence from Kogi State creates a critical gap in understanding how undergraduates navigate between traditional and digital media in an environment where both forms coexist. Are students abandoning traditional media entirely, or do they still rely on them for credibility? What motivates their choice of one platform over another? These unanswered questions hinder efforts to understand the evolving patterns of news trust, accessibility, and preference among young Nigerians. Therefore, this study seeks to bridge this gap by comparatively examining how undergraduate students in Kogi State consume, evaluate, and trust news across traditional and online platforms. By situating this inquiry within a specific state context, the study contributes to the broader literature on digital media transition in Nigeria while providing localised insights that can inform journalism education, media policy, and audience research in the digital age.

Objectives of the Study

The main aim of this study is to compare the news consumption preferences of undergraduate students with regard to traditional and online news sources. This aim has been subdivided into the following specific objectives:

1. To determine the frequency at which undergraduate students in Kogi State universities consume news from both traditional and online sources.
2. To examine the factors influencing undergraduate students' preference for traditional and online news platforms.
3. To evaluate undergraduate students' perceptions of the credibility of traditional and online news sources.
4. To identify the challenges undergraduate students face in accessing and using traditional and online news platforms.

Literature Review

Review of Concepts

Traditional News Sources

Traditional news sources encompass the established mass media institutions that dominated information dissemination throughout the twentieth century, including print newspapers, broadcast television, and radio stations. These platforms are characterised by hierarchical organisational structures, professional journalistic standards, and centralised gatekeeping processes that determine which events become news and how they are framed for public consumption (Shoemaker & Vos, 2009). Historically, traditional media operated within relatively predictable cycles: newspapers published daily editions, television networks aired scheduled bulletins, and radio stations broadcast hourly updates, creating routines that shaped audience expectations and information habits. The strength of these outlets has long resided in their institutional credibility, editorial accountability, and capacity for investigative reporting attributes reinforced through regulatory frameworks and professional codes of conduct that distinguished journalism from other forms of communication (McNair, 2017). However, the financial models sustaining traditional news sources, particularly advertising revenue and subscription fees, have faced significant disruption in recent decades as audiences migrate towards digital alternatives, forcing many legacy outlets to adapt or risk obsolescence.

Online News Sources

Online news sources represent the digital platforms and services that have emerged alongside internet proliferation, fundamentally altering how individuals access, consume, and interact with information. Unlike their traditional counterparts, online sources include a diverse

array of formats: dedicated news websites operated by legacy media organisations, digital-native outlets without print or broadcast heritage, aggregator platforms that curate content from multiple publishers, and social media networks where news circulates through peer sharing and algorithmic recommendation (Kümpel et al., 2015). The defining features of online news sources include immediacy, as stories can be updated continuously rather than waiting for publication cycles; interactivity, enabling audiences to comment, share, and participate in shaping discourse; and personalisation, where algorithms tailor content to individual user preferences and browsing histories. These characteristics have democratised information production, allowing citizen journalists and independent voices to bypass traditional gatekeepers; yet they have also introduced challenges related to misinformation, echo chambers, and the erosion of shared public narratives (Tsftati & Arieli, 2014). As mobile technology becomes ubiquitous, online news consumption increasingly occurs through smartphones and social media applications, creating fragmented but highly accessible information environments that differ markedly from the centralised model of traditional media.

Review of Empirical Studies

Ariyibi and Aduradola (2020) conducted a study on news consumption habits of university Students in Southwestern Nigeria. The study sought to identify the preferred news platforms among undergraduate students and the frequency of news consumption. Anchored on the Uses and Gratifications Theory, the study adopted the survey method and administered 400 questionnaires across four universities. Findings revealed that a majority of the students consumed news primarily through online sources, particularly via mobile phones, due to convenience and immediacy. However, a small percentage still relied on traditional newspapers for detailed and credible information. The study concluded that while traditional news sources have not been entirely abandoned, the trend is shifting towards online news platforms, especially among younger demographics. The researchers recommended that legacy media organisations should improve their online presence and adopt multimedia content strategies to appeal to this growing audience base. They also emphasised the need for media literacy to help students discern credible news from misinformation online.

In another related study, Okon and Umoren (2016) investigated the credibility and patronage of online news platforms in Nigeria. The study was grounded in Media Credibility Theory and focused on comparing audience perceptions of traditional newspapers and online news outlets. Using a descriptive survey method, data were collected from 300 respondents in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The results indicated that although online news platforms were more frequently accessed due to their speed and accessibility, respondents considered traditional newspapers to be more credible and better curated. The study recommended that online news platforms invest in fact-checking mechanisms and employ professional journalists to improve content quality. It also noted the need for regulatory bodies to monitor online news content to curb the spread of fake news, which was a major concern for respondents. Traditional media, meanwhile, were advised to adapt to digital trends in order to remain competitive.

Similarly, Musa and Salihu (2021) carried out a study titled “Audience Preference and Transition from Traditional to Digital News Platforms in Northern Nigeria.” The study applied the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) to examine the factors influencing audience migration to digital news media. A survey was conducted with 500 participants across three northern states (Kano, Kaduna, and Bauchi). The results showed that ease of access, perceived usefulness, and cost-effectiveness were the leading reasons for the gradual abandonment of radio and newspapers

in favour of online platforms such as blogs and social media news pages. The researchers concluded that traditional media must innovate or risk becoming obsolete, especially among younger audiences who value immediacy and interactivity. They advocated a hybrid approach, whereby traditional media incorporate digital tools to deliver news, and also emphasised training for journalists to develop digital competencies necessary for modern news dissemination.

Furthermore, Agbolabori (2018) examined news consumption on the Internet by undergraduate students of public Universities in Nigeria. The study investigated patterns of internet news consumption and the influence of performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, and facilitating conditions on usage among undergraduate students in public universities. Using the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model, the researcher administered questionnaires to undergraduate students across multiple public universities. Findings revealed that mobile phones were the most popular devices used, entertainment news was the most popular type of news consumed, and Facebook was the most popular platform for news consumption. Poor internet connectivity and high data costs were identified as major challenges to news consumption. The study recommended that internet service providers improve connectivity infrastructure and reduce data costs to enhance students' access to online news content.

Additionally, Okoro and Nwafor (2016) conducted a study on social Media typology, usage and effects on students of Nigerian tertiary institutions. "The research examined social media preferences and credibility perceptions among Nigerian university students using a survey approach across various tertiary institutions. Findings showed that over 70% of respondents preferred social media to traditional mass media, mainly due to convenience. However, the level of believability of social networking sites remained very low, indicating low credibility. The study concluded that while students prefer social media for convenience, they remain sceptical about its credibility compared to traditional media sources. The researchers recommended stricter verification processes and content moderation on social media platforms to build user trust and credibility.

It can be deduced that existing studies have concentrated on specific geographical regions. Ariyibi and Aduradola (2020) examined Southwestern Nigeria; Musa and Salihu (2021) focused on Northern states; Agbolabori (2018) studied public universities across Nigeria; and Okoro and Nwafor (2016) examined various tertiary institutions. This leaves North-Central Nigeria, particularly Kogi State, underexplored in undergraduate news consumption research. also, previous research has also not systematically compared student preferences between traditional and online news sources. While Ariyibi and Aduradola (2020) identified online usage patterns, Okon and Umoren (2016) examined credibility perceptions, Agbolabori (2018) focused solely on internet news consumption, Okoro and Nwafor (2016) studied social media usage patterns, and Musa and Salihu (2021) examined migration to digital platforms, none directly analysed comparative preferences between traditional and online platforms alongside the factors influencing these preferences within a single comprehensive framework. Current literature also lacks focused examination of news consumption within specific state contexts using multiple institutions, thereby limiting understanding of regional preference variations.

Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on the assumptions of the Uses and Gratifications Theory. The Uses and Gratifications Theory was propounded by Elihu Katz, Jay Blumer, and Michael Gurevitch in 1974. The theory postulates that people put specific media content and media channels to specific

use in the hope of having certain needs gratified. It seeks to explain media use and the satisfactions derived from such use in terms of the motives and self-perceived needs of audience members. The theory stresses how and why audiences use the media (Klapper, 1963, cited in Haridakis & Hanson, 2009). In other words, it focuses on what people do with the media rather than what the media do to people.

The theory argues that people use the media to satisfy basic needs such as cognitive needs, affective needs, personal integrative needs, social integrative needs, and tension-free needs. Cognitive needs involve the acquisition of knowledge, information, and facts. Affective needs relate to emotional experiences, while personal integrative needs involve reinforcing self-esteem and status. Social integrative needs refer to interaction and socialisation with others, while tension-free needs are fulfilled when people use the media for escapism and stress relief. The Uses and Gratifications Theory provides a comprehensive lens for this study, explaining how audiences actively engage with media to fulfil specific personal and social needs, including information needs. These information needs may be satisfied through either online or traditional news platforms.

Methodology

This study adopts a quantitative research design using a comparative cross-sectional survey approach to examine news consumption preferences among undergraduate students in universities across Kogi State. The target population comprises undergraduate students from Prince Abubakar Audu University (PAAU), Anyigba; Federal University Lokoja (FUL); and Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTECH), Osara, representing the three senatorial zones of Kogi State. According to official records from the academic planning units of the respective institutions, the student population includes 21,878 undergraduates from PAAU, 10,947 from FUL, and 5,041 from CUSTECH, giving a total population of 37,866 students. Based on Cochran's sample size formula at a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error, a sample size of 380 respondents was determined. The sample was proportionately distributed among the universities according to their student populations: PAAU (219), FUL (110), and CUSTECH (51).

To ensure fair representation while maintaining feasibility, a proportionate stratified random sampling technique was used for sample allocation across the universities, followed by simple random sampling of respondents within each stratum. This approach improved representativeness and reduced bias compared to convenience sampling. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire consisting of closed-ended items based on a four-point Likert scale, ranging from Strongly Agree (4) to Strongly Disagree (1). The four-point scale was selected to eliminate neutral responses and encourage participants to express clear opinions. The decision benchmark for interpretation was set such that mean scores of 2.50 and above indicate agreement (positive perception), while mean scores below 2.50 indicate disagreement (negative perception).

Ethical considerations were duly observed. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were informed of the study's purpose and assured of confidentiality and anonymity. Informed consent was obtained prior to questionnaire administration. Data were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 25, employing descriptive statistics such as frequency distributions, percentages, means, and standard deviations. Results were presented in tables for clarity and ease of interpretation. This design ensured transparency, replicability, and methodological rigour throughout the study.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Three hundred and eighty copies of questionnaire were personally distributed by the researcher and all were returned for analysis. The analysis of the responses are done as shown below;

Table 1. Prevalence of Online News Consumption

Item	SA	A	D	SD	N	Mean	SD	Decision
I primarily rely on online news platforms (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp) for my daily news updates	142	156	62	20	380	3.11	0.85	Accepted
Traditional news sources (TV, Radio, Newspapers) are my main source of current affairs information	45	89	168	78	380	2.27	0.91	Rejected
I frequently check social media platforms for breaking news and updates	158	147	55	20	380	3.17	0.86	Accepted
I prefer reading news from established online news websites rather than traditional media	134	162	64	20	380	3.08	0.84	Accepted
Cumulative Mean						2.91		

Table 1 presents a Likert-scale analysis of respondents' most commonly used news sources among undergraduate students. Following the statistical rule that statements with mean averages of 2.5 and above are accepted while those below 2.5 are rejected, the respondents affirmed that they primarily rely on online news platforms (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp) for daily news updates, frequently check social media platforms for breaking news and updates, and prefer reading news from established online news websites rather than traditional media. The cumulative mean of 2.91 suggests that undergraduate students predominantly favor online news sources over traditional media platforms for their news consumption.

Table 2. Determinants Influencing News Platform Choices

Item	SA	A	D	SD	N	Mean	SD	Decision
Cost of internet data significantly influences my choice of news platform	178	134	48	20	380	3.24	0.87	Accepted
I prefer online news because it provides instant access to breaking news updates	152	148	60	20	380	3.14	0.85	Accepted
Traditional news sources are more credible and trustworthy than online platforms	38	82	174	86	380	2.18	0.91	Rejected
The ability to share and discuss news with friends on social media influences my platform choice	125	168	67	20	380	3.05	0.81	Accepted
Cumulative Mean						2.90		

Table 2 presents analysis of respondents' factors influencing news platform preferences among undergraduate students. Three out of four statements were accepted, as respondents agreed that cost of internet data significantly influences their choice of news platform, they prefer online news because it provides instant access to breaking news updates, and the ability to share and discuss news with friends on social media influences their platform choice. However, respondents rejected the statement that traditional news sources are more credible and trustworthy than online platforms. The cumulative mean of 2.90 suggests that respondents acknowledge multiple factors that drive their preference for online news platforms over traditional media sources.

Table 3. Perceptions of Credibility and Reliability

Item	SA	A	D	SD	N	Mean	SD	Decision
I often fact-check online news stories before believing or sharing them	48	86	156	90	380	2.28	0.95	Rejected
Traditional news sources (TV, Radio, Newspapers) undergo better editorial oversight than online platforms	102	138	98	42	380	2.79	0.92	Accepted
Online news platforms often contain misleading or false information	156	148	58	18	380	3.16	0.82	Accepted
I trust news from established media houses more than social media platforms	134	162	64	20	380	3.08	0.84	Accepted
Cumulative Mean	2.83							

Table 3 analyzes students' perceptions of credibility regarding traditional versus online news sources. Three out of four statements were accepted, with the respondents agreeing that traditional news sources undergo better editorial oversight than online platforms, online news platforms often contain misleading or false information, and they trust news from established media houses more than social media platforms. However, the respondents rejected the statement that they often fact-check online news stories before believing or sharing them. The cumulative mean of 2.83 indicates that while students recognize the credibility advantages of traditional media and acknowledge the problems with online platforms, their actual verification practices remain moderate rather than comprehensive.

Table 4. Access Challenges and Structural Barriers

Item	SA	A	D	SD	N	Mean	SD	Decision
High cost of internet data limits my access to online news platforms	189	134	42	15	380	3.29	0.81	Accepted
Poor network connectivity affects my ability to access online news regularly	172	148	48	12	380	3.26	0.78	Accepted
Traditional newspapers and magazines are difficult to find or purchase on campus	76	112	134	58	380	2.52	0.98	Accepted
Power outages frequently disrupt my access to both traditional and online news	165	142	56	17	380	3.20	0.82	Accepted
Cumulative Mean	3.07							Accepted

Table 4 presents analysis on the challenges students encounter in accessing and using news platforms. All four statements were accepted, with respondents agreeing that high cost of internet data limits their access to online news platforms, poor network connectivity affects their ability to access online news regularly, traditional newspapers and magazines are difficult to find or purchase on campus, and power outages frequently disrupt their access to both traditional and online news. The cumulative mean of 3.07 indicates that students face significant and multiple challenges in accessing news from both traditional and online platforms, with infrastructure-related issues such as data costs, connectivity problems, and power supply being the primary barriers to effective news consumption among undergraduate students in Kogi State universities.

Discussion of Findings

Results from the study indicated that undergraduate students across Kogi State universities show a strong inclination toward online news platforms rather than traditional media. With an overall mean score of 2.91, most participants reported depending on social media, digital newspapers, and mobile news applications for daily information, while rejecting radio and printed newspapers as their main news sources. This observation aligns with global patterns identified by Newman et al. (2023), who noted that younger audiences now engage more with digital news platforms. In a similar vein, Ariyibi and Aduradola (2020) also observed this transition among Nigerian university students, emphasizing convenience and speed as key motivators. However, unlike their findings, where some students still valued newspapers for their credibility, the present study indicates a more decisive disengagement from traditional media. This demonstrates a generational shift in how credibility and accessibility are understood, with students valuing immediacy and interactivity over traditional editorial controls. Through the lens of the Uses and Gratifications Theory, this pattern underscores how audiences actively choose media that satisfy their desires for quick information, connection, and engagement.

The study further revealed that practical considerations such as the cost of internet data, ease of access, and opportunities for social interaction significantly shape students' choice of news platforms. With a cumulative mean of 2.90, respondents identified affordability and immediacy as key drivers of their media habits. This finding supports the assertion by Musa and Salihu (2021) that usefulness and cost efficiency are central to the transition toward online media. However, this study goes further by highlighting that students not only seek low-cost information access but also derive social satisfaction from sharing and discussing news on digital networks. Hence, online news consumption among students is both functional and social, influenced by their desire for connection and peer interaction. Within the Uses and Gratifications framework, this shows an intersection between cognitive gratifications (information-seeking) and social gratifications (interaction and recognition), demonstrating why online platforms are more adaptable to the needs of modern audiences compared to traditional outlets.

It has also be found that, although students largely favor online media, their perceptions of credibility remain nuanced. With a mean score of 2.83, findings show that while respondents acknowledge the editorial oversight of traditional media and the prevalence of misinformation online, they rarely engage in fact-checking before believing or sharing news. This finding advances the work of Okon and Umoren (2016), who reported that audiences clearly distinguished between credibility (attributed to traditional media) and accessibility (linked to online sources). In contrast, this study suggests that students' awareness of credibility issues exists alongside lax verification behaviors meaning credibility judgments are now more intuitive than evidence-based. Theoretically, this shift signifies a change in gratification priorities: immediacy and convenience have overtaken accuracy and critical evaluation. As such, trust in media among young audiences appears to be more habitual and perception-driven than analytical.

The study also revealed persistent infrastructural and financial challenges that hinder students' access to news. Respondents pointed to high data costs, unstable network connections, and erratic power supply as major limitations, reflected in a mean score of 3.07. These findings correspond with Okoro and Nwafor (2021), who emphasized infrastructural inadequacies as barriers to digital participation in Nigeria. Nonetheless, the present study expands this understanding by illustrating that both traditional and digital media are equally affected by such

access difficulties. From the standpoint of Uses and Gratifications Theory, these constraints highlight that media use is not solely a matter of personal choice but also influenced by structural and economic realities. Students' ability to fulfill their information needs depends largely on the availability of essential resources including affordable data, reliable electricity, and functioning media outlets demonstrating that the pursuit of gratification is often limited by external access conditions.

Conclusion

This study finds that although traditional news outlets continue to hold credibility advantages, undergraduate students in Kogi State universities increasingly prefer online news platforms due to their convenience, speed, and opportunities for social interaction, even when access remains challenging. The results indicate that students prioritize practical factors such as affordability, accessibility, and ease of sharing over strict concerns about source credibility, though they remain conscious of the quality differences between media types. From a theoretical standpoint, these findings reinforce and expand Uses and Gratifications Theory, showing that in digital environments, practical and social motivations often outweigh traditional notions of trust in shaping media consumption. In practical terms, the study highlights the need for traditional media organizations to integrate digital strategies that preserve credibility while offering the accessibility and interactivity that online platforms provide. Policy implications include the necessity of enhancing digital infrastructure, making data more affordable, and promoting digital literacy to ensure that students can reliably access quality news.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Enhancing Digital Presence of Traditional Media:** Given that students increasingly consume news online rather than through traditional platforms, media organizations in Kogi State should strengthen their digital presence and create multimedia content strategies to attract undergraduate audiences.
2. **Improving Accessibility and Convenience:** Since factors like convenience, immediacy, affordability, and social sharing strongly influence students' preference for online news, news organizations should implement cost-effective access solutions and optimize platforms for instant delivery and easy sharing of content.
3. **Promoting Media Literacy and Fact-Checking:** Although students recognize differences in credibility between traditional and online sources, the study found that many do not fact-check information. Universities should integrate media literacy programs to equip students with skills to verify news content before accepting or sharing it.
4. **Addressing Infrastructure Challenges:** The study identified poor network connectivity, high internet/data costs, and unreliable power supply as major barriers to accessing news. Government and telecommunications providers should improve digital infrastructure, reduce data costs, and ensure stable electricity to facilitate consistent access to both traditional and online news.

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