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QUESTION2: social media and proleferation of fake news, dodgy health advice and fake cures.

The proliferation of fake news about the COVID-19 pandemic has been labelled a dangerous "[infodemic](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/14/fake-news-about-covid-19-can-be-as-dangerous-as-the-virus)". Fake news spreads faster and more easily today through the internet, social media and instant messagingThese messages may contain useless, incorrect or even harmful information and advice, which can hamper the public health response and add to social disorder and division.

fake news also contains a mixture of correct information, which makes it difficult to spot what is true and accurate. Fake news may also be shared by trusted friends and family, including those who are doctors and nurses. Most research on fake news has emerged from developed countries. Despite the Anti-fake news campaign launched in Nigeria, the spread of fake news remains alarming. Sharing news among Nigerians is seen as contributing to social cohesion. Users doing so are motivated by the emotional impact the news is seen to have, the relevance it might have for the receiver, and the sender’s intention to ‘provide advice or warning.’ This work suggests the need to increase fake news awareness through media and information literacy because, in Nigeria, fake news awareness campaigns have not been fully actualized. There is a need to increase the media literacy of the public, particularly young people to critically access and respond to media messages. An instagram post by barstoolnewnet reported that russia unleashed more than 500 lions on its streets to ensure that people are staying in door during this pandemic. Update by a controversial blogger kemi olunloyo tweeted that president muhammed buhari is very sick with persistent coughing, a ventilator has been brought in from a hospital to Aso rock to set up a makeshift ICU to treat our commander in chief, he had contact with his chief of staff mr Kyari who tested positive to Ccovid\_19. On 23 march, an audio clip emerged on whatapp of an allerged world health organization officially prediction that at least 45 million nigerians would die in the pandemic are all misleading information on social media known as FAKE NEWS.

Some of the dodgy health advice and fake cures of COVID 19

The Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says “We’re not just fighting an epidemic; we’re fighting an infodemic,” “Fake news spreads faster and more easily than this virus, and is just as dangerous.” If we believe misinformation rather than facts, “we are headed down a dark path that leads nowhere but division and disharmony.” Through the internet, social media and instant messaging fake news is spreading faster and more easily. These messages may contain useless, incorrect or even harmful information and advice, which can hamper the public health response and add to social disorder and division.

Some of the fake news are: intake of chloroquine to prevent COVID-19 this following the rumours, publicly endorsed by US president Donald trump that the drug could treat the deadly virus.

- Exposing yourself to the sun or to temperatures higher than 25C degrees helps prevent the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which was confirmed by (WHO) as fake cure.

-Search for hair in the bible to prevent COVID-19.

-inhaling hot hair from a hair dryer, gaggling with warm water, salt and vinegar.

- another remedy that kills the virus according to misleading social media post,m is drinking silver particles in liquid known as colloidal silver.

no truths about the information been passed around, Furthermore, social media users should be constantly informed about the consequences of fake news, how to spot it, and why it is important to be self-aware before forwarding any message There should also be adequate adverts, workshops, conferences, and other forms of sensitization across all media to enable individuals to differentiate between factual and made-up news.