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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

CMS 204

SPECIALISED REPORTING

**S0CIAL MEDIA PROLIFERATION OF FAKE NEWS, DODGY AND HEALTH ADVICE AND FAKE CURES OF COVID 19 NTRODUCTION**

CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Corona virus outbreak was first documented in Wuhan Hubei province, China in December 2019. As of this writing, it has now been confirmed on six continents and in more than 100 countries. As the world’s health systems funnel resources into learning about, treating and preventing infections is released daily.

Corona Virus belongs to the family of coronaviridae. Corona viruses have have enveloped virions [virus particles] that measure approximately 120nm[1nm=10-9 meter] in diameter. Club-shaped glycoprotein spikes in the evelope give the virus a crown like, or coronal appearance. The nucleocapsid made up of a protein shell known as a capsid and containing the viral nucleic acids, is a helical or tubular. The Coronavirus genome consists of a single of positive-sense RNA [ribonucleic acid] The RNA viruses are currently classified into four genera; Alphacoronavirus, Betacoronavirus, Gammacoronavirus, and Deltacoronavirus .Alphcoronaviruses and betacoronaviruses are found exclusively in mammals, whereas gammacoronaviruses and deltacoronaviruses primarily affect birds.

**THE FAKE NEWS AND FAKE CURES ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE ON COVID 19**

**ON THE FAKE NEWS QUOTATION OF COVID 19**

‘I do not know much about these experts. But I know for sure that they do not know anything about the value of human motivation and determined efforts’. Quoted by Ratan Tata

What’s making these uncertain times even more worrisome is the sheer amount of misleading information online, at a time when trustworthy news and helpful advice are needed more than ever.

Research has been made it known that the various analyzed examples of fake news that are hitting people’s news, feeds from the seemingly harmless though to be dangerous. The most research on fake news emerged from developed countries. This work concentrated on the Nigerian setting. 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 on the receiver, and the sender’s intension to provide the advice or warning. Most Nigerians tend to trust information shared by family members, friends more than strangers. They are more likely to share false misinformation about entertainment, political news, job adverts, kidnaping and those elements of patriotism and emotions. Moreover, religious or ethnic organization or someone they hold in high esteem and share the same faith, also motivates such sharing. 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 need to increase the media literacy of the public, particularly young people to critically access and respond to media messages. Furthermore, social media users should constantly be 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 be adequate adverts, workshops, conferences, and other forms of sensitization across all media to enable individuals to differentiate between factual and make up news.

**The dodgy health advice and fake cures of covid 19**

The world health organization has made it known that exposing yourself to the sun or to temperatures higher than 25c degrees does not prevent the coronaviruses disease [covid 19]. No matter how sunny or hot the weather is. The countries with hot weather have reported cases of covid 19. Drinking alcohol does not protect you against covid 19 and can be dangerous. Frequent or excessive alcohol consumption can increase your risk of health problems. Taking hot bath does not prevent the new coronavirus disease. Your normal body temperature remains around 36.5c to 37c regardless of the temperature of your bath or shower. Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body does not kill the new coronavirus. The best method to avoid being contacted with covid 19 is to always wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, nose and objects and surfaces around you. You should also meet the doctor, when you have this symptoms;

Fever, headache, dry cough and difficulty in breathing

 **CONCLUSION**

Individuals should be careful on the source of news and health advice they listen and base their trust on. For it is known that it is not every source on social media that is prominent and valid. Awareness campaign should be done frequently, in order to reduce the activities and intake of fake news and dodgy health advice on covid 19.