NAME: MADUKA MARVELLOUS CHIMDI

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SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROLIFIRATION OF FAKE NEWS, DOGGY HEALTH ADVISE AND FAKE CURES OF COVID 19

The threat of fake news is even greater in this 2020 COVID-19(Corona Virus Disease 2019) case than in the 2014 EBOLA case. Without clear and immediate action to tackle false information, the accompying pandemic of fake news would make COVID-19 pandemic even more challenging. The global pandemic is arguably the earth greatest threat since the flu and ebola.The global pandemic has kept the world on hold as world economy, sports etc are currently on stand still. In bid to avoid the impacts of COVID-19, Brazil has antagonized the policy of social distancing. A vaccine or cure has not been found and this has fueled the proliferation of fake news and has led to the use of propaganda and alleged cure for COVID-19.The dilemma surrounding a solution to the problem has provided an opportunity for speculation and fake hypothesis that has been circulated online.

Who is spreading fake news? Fraudsters, Social media activists, influencers, styled warriors, people who want to drive political agendas so they can capitalize people’s fears and spread news that claims the system is wrong and they have a solution. This people are using their social media platforms and fringe websites to proliferate misinformation, propagate conspiracy theories and promote the denial of COVID-19.Sometimes their motivation is for diplomatic reasons, commercial reasons, political reasons or to grow their media influence or online followership.

Fraudsters are wasting no time to make money from fear. Pastor Jim Bakker, a pioneer of Christian television has been sued for selling “Silver Solution”, a fake drug with claim that it cures COVID-19 within 12 hours. This drug is made with Silver anti-bacterial property. It is no cure for corona virus. In fact, exposure to this can be toxic. The news on a photo that shows bodies of COVID-19 victims on the streets of Italy is actually an art instillation in Germany.Also, Drinking alcohol to kill the virus is tempting but it does not work.

So-called experts have proffered cures such as constant sitting in the sun or have claimed that African blood is immune to corona virus. None of these have any medical basis. South African mayor claims that there is a vaccine that a vaccine against corona virus has been developed and would prevent getting COVID-19.Hydro Cloroquine was also put out by the president of the United states of America, Donald Trump, as a “cure” to COVID-19 which improves the immune system. It was said to be given to patients based on their symptoms with doctor’s prescription. However, due to misinformation it led to the death of people for overdose. Chewing heaps of garlic is put out to be a preventive measure towards getting infected by COVID-19, however, Doctors say it is good for the health as it kills microorganisms but no study has yet proved that it prevents or cures COVID-19.in fact if taken too much, one might end up in the hospital.

Another fake cure of COVID-19 is that if you boil orange pill and inhale the stream, corona virus can be cured.Suppliments like fish oil, zinc and vitamins were said to help prevent COVID-19, however, they are only useful when a person has had the virus and has developed antibodies. They can improve the immune system but cannot prevent the virus. The rumor that loss of smell or taste is a sign of severe case of COVID-19 is not yet proven. About 60% of people tested positive, have that symptom to a greater or lesser extent. It sounds convincing but the only problem is that losing sense of smell or taste is also closely associated with other respiratory infections. It is more common than we think and that is why WHO is still deciding on whether to add this as an official symptom of corona virus.

The marvels of globalization has indeed led to the establishment of 5th Generation of wireless technology, paradoxically an event that should be celebrated as it promises internet efficiency, speed and easy access etc.However, Pastor Chris Oyakhilome, linked the corona virus to the 5G.meanwhile it has been proved that the radiation from the 5G does not affect the human cell however an environmental biologist stated that it affects the oxygen living things breath in if it is a 60GHz millimeter wave because the wave can be absorbed into the atmosphere which makes 5G dangerous however it has no link with the virus.

There are also conspiracy theories that the virus was created in a lab in china and released deliberately to reduce the population. News about COVID-19 being genetically modified to be used as a biological weapon is not true as a team of researchers published some compelling arguments in the article “The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2” and figured that the virus was not engineered and must have naturally evolved. Any scientist trying to build a super bug would have started with one that has already been proven to make people sick.COVID-19 is not a mutation any bio-engineer would have chosen to build as a super bug because the models would have said they don’t really work. So no, COVID-19 was not designed by humans. There is also fake news this virus was released so an organization that already made vaccine can sell it. This is obviously not true because till date no vaccine or cure has been found. Or that Chinese government has found a cure but is keeping it to themselves.