

Question 2

Social media and proliferation of fake news, dodgy health advice and fake 'cures' of Covid 19

By Dosunmu Sunmisola Omotoyosi

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The Corona virus also known as covid'19 was detected in Wuhan, China was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in China on 31 December 2019, The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020.

The use of social media has not helped the citizens to act accordingly due to the proliferation of fake news ,different ways are being posted to cure the virus Social media activists, influencers are using their social media platforms and blogs to proliferate misinformation, propagate conspiracy theories and promote the denial of COVID-19.

Sometimes their motivation is simply to grow their online followership. For instance, the controversial blogger Kemi Olunloyo tweeted that President Muhammadu Buhari is sick with a persistent cough and that a makeshift ICU had been set up to treat him. Within hours, the tweet had been liked 3,300 times and retweeted more than 2,000 times.

Another fake news is the cure for covid 19, most people believe that eating garlic , drink warm water , wearing mask and hand gloves and using sanitizer always are cures to the virus but the truth is those are just preventive

measure. And several post about how garlic can cure Covid-19 have been circulating on WhatsApp in Nigeria. They include a whatsapp voice notes in Hausa Translated into English, it says : “Here is what you should do to protect yourself from the disease. The disease will not affect you. Your body will fight the disease. You should use garlic in your drinking water and in your food, add it while cooking, chew it all the time and use it all the time.” This advice is false ,also the use of a Hydroxychloroquine sulfate has not been approved by the W.H.O.

The World Health Organization says there Isn't a vaccine , drug or treatment for covid-19 at the moment and they have advice citizens to stays safe , keep social distancing and The best sources to go to for health information about COVID-19 are your government health websites and the World Health Organization website. Primary sources are generally better than news articles.