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Mainstream media coverage and social media narratives about Covid-19

As the world gets on it feet and unavoidably crippled due to the ever increasing damages and adverse effects of a widely fought common enemy- Covid-19. It is pertinent to note that the mass media has a very pivotal role to play in ensuring that the right information is passed across per time and also to ensure that the wrong information doesn't as a matter of fact get to kill people faster than the dreaded novel coronavirus disease ravaging the globe. It is on this premise that we are set to have a look into the various ways in which the mass and new media are going about in information dissemination, facts check and verification and also keeping the world at large on the know with respect to the disease.

Also, a look at defining some key terms would suffice.

Mainstream Media
According to the Collins Dictionary,the mainstream media refers to conventional  newspapers, television and other news sources that most people know about and regard as reliable.

Social media
According to Wikipedia, Social media are interactive computer-mediated technologies that facilitate the creation or sharing of information, ideas, career interests and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks. The variety of stand-alone and built-in social media services currently available introduces challenges of definition; however, it's definition and description cannot be exhaustive as it possess certain features.

Covid-19
Following from the World Health Organization (W.H.O), Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious ailment brought about by a newfound coronavirus.

Coronavirus is a respiratory sickness, that can spread from individual to individual through respiratory droplets. This strain is accepted to have risen up out of a animal source and was first ascertained during an examination concerning an experience in Wuhan, China. SARS (extreme intense respiratory disorder) and MERS (Middle East respiratory disorder) are likewise sorts of Coronaviruses, yet this present form of the infection is an diverse strain. It's obscure now if the new infection is as serious or as infectious as SARS.

The vast majority infected with the COVID-19 infection will encounter mild to direct respiratory sickness and recoup without requiring unique treatment.  Older individuals, and those with basic clinical issues like cardiovascular ailment, diabetes, incessant respiratory disease, and cancerous traits are bound to develop serious illness.

Now examining the level at which the mainstream media has covered the novel coronavirus disease globally, I'd say it's really quite impressive, given the fact that there are restrictions of movement, closure of super economies globally which could adversely affect supplies needed by the media in ensuring excellent service delivery but in the midst of this, almost everything is covered. However, the mainstream media has enjoyed some level of immunity and exemption, due to the fact that as the "4th Estate of the realm", everyone needs to be kept on the know of things. At this point, the mainstream media more like works hand in hand with the government to ensure that figures according to confirmed cases, suspected cases, deaths and recovered cases are properly documented and told to the public thereby helping individuals and top government functionaries to make informed decisions as to what the next line of action would be.

The mainstream media in some climes could cause an infodemic, they did misinform the public and rather acted large in disseminating vital information. According to Vox Media(vox.com), in the United States, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for instance, didn’t tell the country to stop gathering in groups until March 15 — weeks after a top CDC official announced that the virus would begin spreading throughout the US. And after telling Americans for months that they should not wear masks unless they are sick, the government formally flipped that advice on April 3 and said that everyone should wear some kind of covering on their face in certain public settings.

Much of the mainstream media amplified this slow and muddled reaction to the rapidly spreading virus. Since alarming reports about Covid-19 began to emerge from China in January, the media often provided information to Americans that later proved to be wrong, or at least inadequate.
Also, the mainstream media has covered traits of discrimination against asians probably due to the way the virus had been talked about and it's origin- especially the Chinese, according to (global.chinadaily.com), "examples and many more in Western mainstream media, incidents of xenophobia are on the rise and have been reported online from individuals even as young as 10 who have come to associate the virus directly with China and indirectly with the Asian continent. In Georgetown, Ontario, TIME reported children playing a new game of testing Chinese-looking playmates for coronavirus. The New York Times reported car drivers speeding by shouting things like "keep your virus, dirty Chinese" and "you are not welcome in France" at people from Asian descent and everywhere around the world, if you look like you're from Asia and happen to cough on a bus or a train without a mask on, you should expect plenty of hostile stares. In incidents such as these, it is extremely difficult to clarify where the line can be drawn between justifiable fear and indisputable discrimination".

Now the social media narratives of Covid-19 are so numerous, first of all there was a widely circulated video of a Popular pastor on Instagram Television (IGTV), where he was quoted to have said that the 5G network helps in triggering the spread of Covid-19 and as such his members came defending him and subscribing to his "discovery". He is also quoted to have said that the Antichrist are here as the vaccines for Covid-19 would be forcefully administered to everyone globally. This coincides with a recent Facebook documentary video where in Sweden, micro metallic chips are being inserted in the thumb of citizens to access healthcare, banking services and other national identity management systems. The veracity of these have not been proven as no one can tell, but certainly 5G doesn't trigger Covid-19.
Furthermore, it was on circulation on WhatsApp that China is fighting a biological war in order to become the next world power and as such depopulate the world and subdue it given it large numbers. To further buttress this point the statistics of total confirmed and recovered cases in china, showed above an 85 percent success rate as compared to other nations who record below 45-40 percent. China is also accused through the social media of sending test kits and other medical items such as face masks which are all infected with Covid-19, but the truth is that coronavirus can't stay for long on items for more than 24 hours, so such allegations are atleast baseless for the time being.

Finally coronavirus is believed to be airborne, but the World Health Organisation, debunked this statement saying that Covid-19 isn't airborne but passed through droplets of sneezing and coughing which is why face masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing is highly encouraged.