QUESTION 2: social media and proliferation of fake news ,dodgy health advice and fake cures of covid-19.

Definition: the corona virus (covid-19 ) pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War Two. Since it’s emergence in Asia late last year ,the virus has spread to every continent except Antarctica and Europe countries are racing to slow the speed of the virus by testing and treating patients carrying out contact and canceling large gatherings such as sports,concerts and schools. The pandemic is moving like a wave and that may yet crash on the least able to cope. But covid 19 is much more than a health crisis. By stressing everyone of the countries it touches it has the potential to create devastating social, economic and political crises that will leave deep scars. Many of our communities are now unrecognizable.dozens of the world’s greatest cities have asked people to stay at home or indoors either by choice or by government order . Across the world shops , theaters restaurants and bars are closing. Every day, people Are loosing jobs and income ,with no way of knowing when normality will return. Small island nations, heavily dependent on tourism have empty hotels and deserted beaches . The international labor organization estimates that 25million jobs could be lost.

Most research on fake news has 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 among Nigerians is seen as contributing to social cohesion. Users doing are so motivated by the emotional impact of the news is seen to have the relevance it might have for the receiver and the senders intention to provide advice or warning. Most Nigerians tend to trust information shared by family members ,friends more than strangers. They are more likely to share misinformation about entertainment, political news jobs adverts kidnapping and those that have elements of patriotism and emotions. Moreover, religious or ethnic organization or someone they hold in high esteem and share the same faith with 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 authorized. There is a need to increase the media literacy of the public, particularly young people to critically access and respond to the media messages. Furthermore social media users should be constantly informed about the consequences of fake news and the way it is important to be self aware before forwarding any messages. 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 .

The contrast between the media’s courage of the corona virus and the climate crisis illuminates another core truth about the media. Collectively the media exercise perhaps the greatest power there is in politics: the power to define reality to say what is and what is not important at any given time . The corona virus has currently been treated as supremely important, dominating virtually every home page and broadcast. The proliferation of fake news about the pandemic has had been labeled a dangerous infodemic . Fake news spreads faster and more easily today through the internet, social media and instant messaging. 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 confusingly of correct information, which makes it difficult to spot what is true and correct . Fake news may be shared by trusted friends and family including those who are doctors and nurses. They might not have read the full story before sharing or just glance over it. Before you decide to share , make sure to read stories properly and follow some seeks to determine the accuracy. Fake news about corona virus has been spreading rapidly via email and messaging platforms often supposedly from a doctor at hospital, country or academic institution with some outlandish claims about how to care or prevent yourself from contracting the virus. Meanwhile a coordinated global operation to tackle the illegal scale of medicine online has caused a huge rise in fake medical products related to corona virus the medicines and healthcare products regulatory agency (HMRA) took part in the operation which revealed a disturbing trend of criminals exploiting fears about the pandemic and increased demand for products such as personal protection equipment and hygiene products. Among the products seized were counterfeit face masks and unauthorized medication. Even government messaging and the mainstream media can get things among , but they are more trustworthy there’s unified sources on social media and viral messaging for instance the conversation is a more trusted source because all content is written by academics who are experts in their fields confusingly some fake news also contains a bit of correct information which makes it difficult to spot what is true and accurate. Fake news may also be shared by trust friends etc. the proliferation of fake health care related news particularly misinformation spread on social media could be making infectious diseases outbreaks worse according to new research. The research also suggests however that taking steps to keep people from sharing dangerously misleading information about a contagious disease could help save lives . When it comes to covid 19 three has Been a lot of speculation,misinformation and fake news circulating on the internet about how the virus originated what causes it and how it is spread. According to a study a 2014 study one in two Americans believe in some kind of medical related conspiracy theory that vaccines cause autism for example drug companies and the medical community are deliberately withholding information about a cure for cancer . Almost one in five believe in three or more such conspiracies. The simulations also considered people’s tendency to believe in conspiracy theories the phenomenon of online information bubbles and the fact that people are much more likely to share information that is false including bad health advice than information that is true. Misinformation online is typically much more exciting a factor that often fuels the spread of diseases, the researchers point out the rise of fake news could be making diseases outbreaks worse according to a new research of east anglia in the United Kingdom but less studied is the possibility that misinformation spread could harm human health especially during the outbreak of an infectious disease. Worryingly research has shown that nearly 40% of the British public believe at least one conspiracy theory and even more in the United States and other countries. When it comes to covid19 there has been a lot of speculations,misinformation and fake news circulating on the internet about how the virus originated. Researches also investigated strategies to fight fake news such as drowning bad information with good information and immunizing people against bad information through better education . We found that misinformation during epidemics of infectious disease could make those outbreaks more severe and hope to reduce spread of misinformation.

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