NAME: SUBAIRU FAROUK OMEIZA MATRIC NUMBER :15/sms01/043 LEVEL:400 COURSE CODE: CMS 414

QUESTION 2: DO A WRITE UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROLIFERATION OF FAKE NEWS ,DODGY HEALTH ADVICE AND FAKE CURES OF COVID- 19.

Social media is one of the fastest means of spreading information. It refers to websites and applications that are designed to allow people to share content quickly, efficiently, and in real-time. Due to the freedom of speech, expressions, beliefs and opinions, many tends to misuse the social media by spreading fake news which is also known as false news. Talking about social media and proliferation of fake news, dodgy health advice and fake cures of covid-19.

A lot of fake news, claims and cure of covid-19 has flooded the social media due to the rampant nature of the virus and these have caused intense fear and havoc in the minds of citizen promoting some with symptoms to try unproven remedies in the hope of curing themselves. Unreliable and false information is spreading around the world to such extent, that some commentators are now referring the misinformation that's accompanied by covid-19 pandemic as 'disinfodemic'. Some have capitalized on the pandemic to spread disinformation for the

purposes of advancing their own agendas such as political aims, self promotion and attracting attention as part of a business model.

Such of those false claims is the fact that some people said that it can be transmitted through mosquito bite and so far, no house pets seem to have been infected by the virus.

Antibiotics have been said to be a remedy to the virus whereas taking antibiotics to treat or prevent the coronavirus could prove harmful by reducing a person's vigilance. In a press conference, Donald Trump claimed that hydoxychloroquine was a cure for the coronavirus, this forces some people to go to drug stores to get it and it was reported that people were rushed to the hospitals for chloroquine poisoning. This claim by trump had not been tested or confirmed by medical practitioners.

The governor of Oyo state, Seyi Makinde claimed that he treated covid-19 with items such as carrots, black seed oil, honey and vitamin c. He claimed these items helped to boost his immunity, these items are yet to be tested and endorsed by the medical practitioners.

Also, some wrongly maintain that people can protect themselves against COVID-19 by washing their hands with children's urine, applying sesame oil all over their body or consuming cannabis, all these are still part of false cure of COVID-19 because it hasn't been confirmed or tested by the medical experts.

REFERENCES

The Africa Report (2020); Top 10 coronavirus fake news item

UN News; During this coronavirus pandemic, 'fake news' is putting lives at risk: UNESCO

Research gate(2020); FAKE NEWS PROLIFERATION IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA ERA: COMBATING THE MENACE IN NIGERIA THROUGH AWARENESS STRATEGIES

GIKANDI, H. (2020). NIGERIA FIGHTS FAKE NEWS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS. *PRI.ORG*.

mayornaijablog. (2020). i fought covid-19 carrots, black seed oil, honey, vitamin c - governor makinde.

newspaper, t. g. (2020). chloroquine: trump's misleading claims spark hoarding and overdoses. *the guardian newspaper*.