A STUDY ABOUT FAKE NEWS CIRCULATING ON SOCIAL MEDIA DURING LOCKDOWN IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to spot the impact of journalism on the situation of an epidemic in India. The entire world cares about controlling the spread of COVID-19; India is additionally trying to control the spread of COVID-19, but India is additionally trying to prevent the spread of faux news. India appears to be falling in infodemic condition the large number of faux news is spread by social media in the duration of lockdown. The Indian government has written a letter to top social media organizations like Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, youtube, etc. to regulate the rumours and misinformation on the coronavirus. This is often hardly any research with in the Indian perspective that explains the impact of faux news on Social Media during the lockdown in India. Therefore the importance of this research increases.

Keywords: *Fake news, fake news in India, post-truth era, verification, faux news.*

Introduction

The present Prime Minister of India confirmed the lockdown across the country for 21 days on Tuesday 24 March to manage the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Before this lockdown, a one day curfew was successful in India on 22 March. The announcement came after India reported over 500 confirmed cases of coronavirus. After completion of this time, it had been extended for 19 days. Then the lockdown was extended for two weeks till 17 May. Then Lockdown was extended till 31 May. After this another time, this lockdown was extended by 30 June. Despite all the strictures, all the Vantage was also given within the fourth phase of the lockdown. And more were provided within the fifth phase. But people need to look out that the fear of corona isn't over.

During the lockdown, huge fake news was approaching social media in India creating unnecessary panic. India may be the biggest marketplace for social media. This current research focused on Fake News circulating on Social Media during the COVID-19 pandemic period in India, and its impact on society. The influx of misinformation, false news raised the voice to watch social media during the lockdown.

MSN Times Of India (10 April 2020) "Indian center government home secretary instructed to all chief Secretaries monitor all social media platforms. They have been told to keep an eye on insidious circulations. Such a directive is seen to be crucial, especially during this week, as many festivals are lined up and law enforcement agencies will need to make sure people stay in."

On the one hand, while the country is fighting a new epidemic called the coronavirus pandemic, on the other hand, Fake news is increasingly on WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. The challenge of dealing with fake news being spread is also being faced. From extending the period of lockdown on social media to the declaration of the imposition of emergency in the country, there has been a lot of fake and misleading news.

Private agencies along with government agencies are also keeping an eye on such news and are exposing their lies to the people of the country. Despite this, the flow of half incomplete information and false news is not decreasing.

Nav Bharat Times (01 April 2020) "The Broadcasters Association (NBA) welcomed the Supreme Court's directive in which it said that the media should responsibly broadcast publish the news and fake news running on social media while showing any news related to the corona virus Lay off According to a statement released by NBA President Rajat Sharma, the association said it was pleased to learn that To

remove confusion among the people, the government will make daily bulletins available through all media avenues including social media and forums. According to the statement, this will help the media a lot to clear up the confusion and it will be able to show the right news." NBA welcomed the court's March 31 guidelines for sorting fake news running on social media before the broadcast."

According to a survey by Outlook, (5th April, 2020) reveals that most of people feel that 50 to 80 percent of the information or news related to the Coronavirus on social media is Fake. The survey was conducted by the Mass Communication Department of Rashtrasant Tukoji Maharaj University, Nagpur, from March 28 to April 4 on about 1200 people.

Importance of Study

The information has become the need of every person in today's society. No one can live in today's society without information. Today, society has many means of obtaining information. One of them is social media. These means of getting information make a person feel surrounded today. Fake news has also made its place in this information. Which are of three types.

1. wrong information
2. Dissatisfied information
3. Mall information

The entire world community is engaged in getting rid of the epidemic. And India is facing an epidemic in such a situation. False news is also creating negativity in society. And it is making an infodemic position. Therefore, the importance of this research becomes very important from the perspective of India.

Objectives of Study

The goal of the proposed research work depends on the worry of the spread of Feke news spreading during the lockdown from Social Media Platforms, through studies of social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn etc. to determine how fake news spreads. How those who spread it, spread a misinformation, and it is shared multiple times by followers on a specified social media over a specified period of time.

The study of all these things is the aim of this study.

Review of literature

The present study is predicated on information confusing within the Corona period in our society. The effect of faux news information etc. on the society has been studied.

Hunt (2016) also advised us to stop fake news. According to them, we should share the information responsibly. Much fake news will probably make you indifferent. But on your social network, you should only share the information that you believe to be true from your trusted sources.

Prachi Salve (3 May 2020) Students of Michigan University conducted a study which was released on 18 April 2020. And this study has been done on fake news in India. The study found an increase in the number of fake news after the announcement of Janata curfew by Prime Minister of India on March 22, 2020. Instances of misinformation increased to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the nationwide lockout two days later.

According to press trust of India (30 March 2020) Fake news, like 'infodemic', has also spread to WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms with many false claims, including an imminent announcement and extension of lockdown. Apart from this, herbal cures for Kovid-19 infection, pictures mimicking government information, communal material, audio clips declaring national emergency are some examples of how fake news and misinformation are circulating on social media platforms. is. And it is being broadcast, which is creating problems for the government and the common people.

Kant & Golecha (2020) Misinformation is not information supported facts that are inadvertently sent to influence popular opinion or obscure reality. Its danger is far-reaching and serious impact. Recently there was viral news in which wrong information on video blog and social media was posted about the special trains being operated to take the migrant laborers home through postpaid. Which led to a public health scare?

<u>Niranjan Sahoo</u> (13 May 2020) In India, Fake News is traveling much faster than the coronavirus. Even before the country registered its first case on January 30, India's social media was rife with fake posts, wild rumors, conspiracy theories, principled videos about the origin of the disease, its subsequent spread, and possible remedies. Once the country started reporting more cases, all the main social media platforms, especially Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Tickcock then on, began to have a torrent of faux messages. consistent with a recent report by the fact-checking website BOOM, fake news associated with COVID-19 which started within the third week of March, increased during a big way in early April, especially after the Tablighi Jamaat incident in Delhi.

Prakash Javadekar (14 May 2020) During the lockdown, there has been a significant increase in the circulation of fake news via print and electronic as well as social media such as Twitter, Facebook, and WhatsApp. For this, a Fact Check Unit has been established in the Press Information Bureau (PIB). As a positive result of which fake news was started taking cognizance, Some platforms are retracting these fake news items and placing facts in front of viewers and readers.

How does misinformation work?

Prachi Salve (3 May 2020) Misinformation is broadcast using media methods. Misleading information is misleading the required specifics through visuals, tweets, etc. on all the misleading statistics of treatment, A fact-checking instructor and journalism expert, JatinGandhi said, sometimes misinformation comes with an agenda, During a plague, there's concern and fear of the unknown which creates favorable conditions

for spreading misinformation. It's also used as a deviation from real issues, like a failure of governance, or thanks to the very fact there's no cure for the disease.

Hurricane sandy', Gupta, Kumaraguru, & Joshi (2013) did a study in 2012 to limit fake pictures about disasters. The researcher analyzed a sample of 10,350. From tweet samples circulated during his study period, he found that 86 percent Tweet tweeted spreading fake photos retweeted.

Conclusion

Fake news with the virus has spread to all countries, but with varying intensity. But in India, fake news has become a neighborhood of the media today, which is seen during a very bad form on social media. From where that fake news can reach the entire world during a jiffy. This power of the virtual world makes him different from TV radio and newspapers etc. And at the time of COVID-19, there was a flood of faux news in India. That created a negative environment. This negative environment has a deep impact in society. In order to prevent negativity, the administration and media have to tell the truth of the news spreading through social media to spread awareness in the society. But it is a difficult task.

There is a lot of confusion about the true impact of fake news. The impact of fake news cannot be estimated from the statistics of fake news spread in the society. But still fake news is a reality spread in the society due to which the effect of both society and government remains. There is also an increasing concern that fake news breaks the truth and presents the facts. And they spread rapidly in the society. Then create a state of confusion. And there is a lot of difficulty in resolving this confusion.

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