Analytical Approach to Ascertain the Origin of Different Kinds of News on Corona Virus (Covid-19) Pandemic across Social Media

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Abstract:- This paper work is met to address the numerous updates on Covid-19 pandemic on social media in their various news feed. Its alarming news of Covid -19 on the internet is spreading like a wild fire on dried particles or elements. The varsity of the news range from facts, tragedy, comedy, irony, triviality, threats and monetizing. Researches have revealed that most of the information on social media are not factual nor help in the curb of this global disease, instead increase fear due to misinformation ad junks of data dumped on the internet all for the purpose of public sensitization. What really spur this article is to look into an analytical approach to check or ascertain the origin or source of any information uploaded on social media/ internet on Covid 19 pandemic in order to eradicate or reduce the menace caused by fake news pertaining to this deadly virus that has shaken and changed the world we knew yesterday. Now we have two common enemies fighting the world: the Covid-19 pandemic and Covid -19 Infodemic. Some statistical and computerized analytical approaches can actually be used to deal with this infodemic.

Keywords:- Fake News, Covid-19, Social Media, Internet, Pandemic, infodemic, Analytical Approach.

I. INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus is in the class of Coronaviridae family in the order of Nidovirales. Corona depicts Crown-like spikes on the external surrounding of the micro-orgamism. Coronavirus disease 2019, hence called COVID-19 because it was detected in 2019, is defined as infection caused by a novel coronavirus now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; formerly called 2019-nCoV), it was initially detected in October 2019 as an outbreak of respiratory illness in Wuhan City, China. This was officially reported to World Health Organization (WHO) in December, 2019. The WHO declared the COVID-19 "outbreak" a global health crisis in January, 2020. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

This Sickness caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was recently termed COVID-19 by the WHO, the new acronym derived from "coronavirus disease 2019." On February 11, 2020, the Coronavirus Study Group of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses issued a statement announcing an official designation for the novel virus: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The infested victim will have difficulty in breathing (Short breath), sneezing, coughing, high body temperature, and weakness of the body, as reported by medical professionals on the frontline battling with this deadly virus (Covid-19). Unfortunately, this virus can spread from a victim to another person through physical contact or by any of the symptoms been manifested by the infested person via droplets or body contact.

As COVID-19 spreads globally (Pandemic), likewise the hypothetically harmful misinformation and disinformation (Infodemic) even are spreading faster the virus. As countries all over the world contending to control the spread of the coronavirus, the need for tough, autonomous, and accurate media is becoming increasingly superficial. A lots of media organisations, including some of GFMD's members and partners, governments, WHO, UN, have been working on projects to help prevent the spread of false information, the spread of misinformation around COVID-19.

Somehow the effects of this infodemic is more fierce than that of the pandemic, because when not informed you are socially, mentally, and psychologically deformed temporally but when wrongly informed, you are socially, mentally, and psychologically deformed permanently which is very disastrous. There is a popular saying that when you are not informed, you are deformed because you cannot perform; but "It is better not to be informed that to be wrongly informed, because wrong information could lead to permanent deformity, while not informed can only led to temporary deformity. Once you are later informed, then you can fully perform" RacyRoland (2017).

No there is need to put up a measure to analytically scrutinize the origin/sources and aims of different news found on the social media/ internet.

A. Statement of the Problem

The increasing awareness by unverified sources and from unqualified persons on the internet and news feed has been of great concern to those trying to eradicate this deadly disease (Covid-19). Statistics has shown that the number of fake news on covid-19 is alarming, which has led to infodemic in parallel to the current pandemic.

Thus, had made things so difficult for governments, leaders, rulers and professionals whose responsibilities are to save us all from this terminal virus. While NCDC and other governmental agencies are sensitizing the public on how to prevent and detect the symptoms of the Covid-19, they should alongside educate the world and their citizens on the danger of infodemic. There are no proper measures put in place to check news feed on social media, hence the internet users read and meditate on every junks dumped on the internet by on ethical personalities.

B. Research Question
➢ Is there system or approach to control or check information concerning covid-19 posted on social media?
➢ Is the world currently experiencing infodemic?

C. Objectives of the Study

There are relevant reasons that initiated this paper work, this forms the basic aims of this research work, hence the objectives are stated as follows:-
➢ To help critically analyse the origin of news on social media
➢ The vast effects of fake news on covid-19 on the internet
➢ To ascertain the degree of infodemic in the present covid-19 pandemic.
➢ What is in this online news on social media that attracts most readers and make them to believe and act in it.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

➢ *Review of Online News and Infodemic In Covid-19*

"What we see is what we read, what we read is what we are, what we are, is what defeat us." (RacyRoland, 2020). There should be a strict measures to reduce or control unverified information on the present pandemic that are flying around on social media. Just like we set parental control on the control panel of operating system in the computers given to our kids or teens at home, which helps to control or regulate the limit of information they can have access to. This same analytical approach or similar can be implemented in this covid-19 flood of fake news. People are acting or doing abnormal things based on information they have been fed with. Some people are adding sanitizer in their water to bath, while some others are sleeping with nose mask to avoid inhaling covid-19 while at sleep. You can see how funny and unpredictable these practices could be, but we can't blame the people because that is what they were told via social media.

Infodemics is a growing threat with increased use of social media, a rapid distribution of information about a problem that makes the solution more challenging, and COVID-19 appears to be a true infodemic of social media compared to previous viral outbreaks.

The concerns surrounding COVID19 were especially exaggerated on social media, leading to the spread of exceptional disinformation that has contributed to an atmosphere of increased confusion that has contributed to anxiety and prejudice. Considering a computer-based model, scientists found that reducing the amount of misleading information online by 50 percent or having at least 60 per cent of the population unable to exchange false advice decreases the severity of the outbreak of the disease.

Use risk communication to mitigate anxiety and eliminate confusion is an evidentiary technique to prevent disease spread.
- explaining what is known and unknown frankly and exp licitly,
- listening to the group about their worries and expectatio ns, and
- handling rumors and infodemics as quickly as possible;

Target audiences must trust the source of information, and leaders should communicate timely, easy to understand, open, and available information to create confidence.

III. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Threat of Fake News on Social Media

As individuals around the globe battle with the impacts of the COVID-19 widespread, we are too adapting with a parallel infodemic. To begin with coined by the World Wellbeing Organization, the term alludes to the flow of our cutting edge data space, where reliable data is troublesome to recognize from an overpowering commotion of competing, and in a few cases clashing, voices. Undoubtedly, with COVID-19, there are as of now incalculable cases of wrong rumors, intentional deception, and unjustifiable trick speculations spreading both online and off.

Speculations and deception are nothing unused to the emergency setting. Analysts have long depicted rumoring—the act of making and spreading rumors—as a characteristic reaction to conditions of instability and uneasiness that go with emergency occasions. The humanist Tamotsu Shibutani indeed portrays a collective sense making prepare where individuals work together to produce shared translations of the unfurling occasion, building off each other's theories. This sense making handle has positive effects—when rumors turn out to be genuine, they bring with them vital educational and mental benefits.

All things considered, our collective endeavors at sense making too make us intensely defenseless amid times of emergency to the spread of both coincidental deception and purposefulness disinformation. Due to its inborn and determined instability, the COVID-19 widespread could be

a culminate storm for the spread of deception. The science of how the malady spreads and can be treated is questionable and energetic, and these scientific questions will take time to resolve. Which makes us both on edge and defenseless.

B. Corona Virus: *Protecting Against the 'Infodemic' in Africa and the World at Large*

In Uganda's Entebbe International Airplane terminal, guests are welcomed by blurbs on how to avoid COVID-19 transmission, indeed some time recently having their temperatures taken by restorative staff. Video messages play within the flight and entry lounges. So distant, the number of individuals in Africa affirmed to have the infection is much littler than other parts of the world. But as more wellbeing services in Africa have affirmed the nearness of the infection in their nations, what was once a far off danger is presently much closer.

Conventional strategies of wellbeing hazard communication have been put to great utilize within the African locale. As well as utilizing blurbs and video informing at travel centers and other focuses of section, the Ugandan Service of Wellbeing and World Wellbeing Organization (WHO) in Uganda have countered the stream of deception with visit radio interviews and broadcast press conferences. "The media are our accomplices and our major interface to the open. We ought to capitalize on our great relationship with them to advise the common open around COVID-19", says Dr Yonas T. W., WHO Agent in Uganda.

In Nigeria, the affirmation of sub-Saharan Africa's to begin with case of COVID-19 on 28 February activated a whirlwind of bits of gossip almost the roots and potential cures for the novel coronavirus. One viral WhatsApp message in Hausa indeed proposed drinking garlic-infused water and chewing crude garlic cloves, another that the infection started interior rhino horn. In the days taking after the declaration of Nigeria's to begin with case, WHO authorities voyage to Ogun State, to reach out to concerned communities near to where the quiet had worked. "You can

as it were envision our alleviation when authorities from the Service of Wellbeing and WHO gone to to sensitize us on the dangers and side effects [of COVID-19], and how to secure ourselves." said Chief Adisa Olaleye Joseph of Itori, a community leader.

All inclusive, WHO has collaborated with Twitter, Facebook, Tencent and TikTok to undertake to guarantee substance on their particular stages is exact and accommodating. In January, WHO and Google joined strengths to dispatch an SOS Alarm on COVID-19. Now, when individuals hunt for data on Coronavirus on Google, it is data from WHO's SOS caution that shows up at the best of the page. Recordings on YouTube implying to be valuable overhauls on Coronavirus are surrounded by a banner redirecting clients to the WHO web entrance. And on the off chance that somebody were to explore for 'coronavirus' on Facebook, the primary result coordinates web clients to their national WHO office's page. Fighting fake news nearby WHO is the worldwide press office AFP. The news agency has brought its fact-checking and data gathering skill to bear on this worldwide open wellbeing emergency, joining forces with major tech firms along the way to assist refute viral stories circulating on the net.

Social media post should be fact-checked, Facebook will stamp it as such within the Facebook newsfeed. In case it marked as 'false' it'll be minimized by Facebook's calculation. When somebody following endeavors to share the post, the client is given a caution and coordinated to a fact-check page. "There is an quick affect on views," says Julie Charpentrat, AFP's wellbeing and environment fact-checking pro. AFP too works with a instrument to surface confirmed stories at the best of look comes about on Google and Bing.

C. *Ratio of Those Infected By the Global Pandemic and the Infodemic*

From research, it has been shown the number of persons infected by these two deadly enemies: Pandemic and Infodemic.

Fig 1:- Ratio of Those Infected By the Global Pandemic and the Infodemic (Source: Wikipedia[April 26, 2020])

NUMBER OF INFECTED CASES IN THE WORLD AS AT APRIL 2020	
Covid 19 (Pandemic)	Covid 19 (Infodemic)
3 million plus	30 million plus

Table 1:- Number of Infected Cases of COVID - 19 in the World

The simple analysis shown for the table above depicts that the ratio of the pandemic to infodemic is 1:10 which indicates that the number is frightening.

➢ *The issue of these fake news or mere speculations are in two phases;*

Firstly, world wealth of running highlights habitually etch fear, inclination, disgust and adversarial vibe into tangled hash tags and monikers, branding isolation and nourishing solidify. Those monikers and appalling substance ceaselessly bunch up with each other inside the epicenter of infodemic, wherein one sheds light on the social malady of the other. The past few weeks has seen an unsteady advancement of stigmatized monikers, which have found their ways in day by day communication and contributed to reverse discharge against Chinese and those exterior the nation.

Secondly, no learned title, no battling hail of data showdown with disinformation campaign. As an indispensably component of readiness, suitable terminologies ought to be properly relegated to the recently recognized coronavirus and caused respiratory tract infection in people, which has potential open wellbeing affect. So distant, there are not all around acknowledged names however, either for academic-industrial utilization or consistency with universal infection scientific classification.

D. Information (Data) Mining and Amalgamation

As of 29 February 2020, COVID-19 has spread to 60 nations and domains. Of these, the World Health Organization (WHO) distributed the number of total cases in 54 Part States on 29 February 2020, as well as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. We recovered from the aggregate cases of three non-member states – Iceland, Azerbaijan and Monaco – from their official websites. The comparing add up to populaces of 2019 comes from Joined together Countries (Division of Financial and Social Undertakings, Global Population Division (2019).

IV. ANALYTICAL APPROCHES TO SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND INFODEMIC

Covid-19 is real, that is one basic fact that the world should first agreed on before thinking of any possible solution to this pandemic. In view of COVID-19 is spreading so quick which causes troubles in containing the illness, we, as a community of shared future for mankind, require way better coordination in worldwide participation and assist enhancement within the multi-sectorial participation in arrange to rapidly take reaction and anticipate from the widespread. In expansion, we too require way better coherence of our assets with more international partners, at slightest, able to rapidly progress our need settings in sharing data and information, on investigate need settings, on reconnaissance and reaction to flare-ups at a worldwide level.

A. Participation on Sharing Data and Information

In arrange to rapidly share the data and datasets for countermeasures, the activities on quick and open announcing of episode information and sharing of infection tests, hereditary data, and investigate comes about are empowered for all universal communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as administrative teach around the world. Through territorial and nation office of WHO, more preventive data against COVID-19 can be dispersed to the open within the defenseless countries.

B. Digital Analytical Approach

Some applications and systems can actually be used to check or ascertain the origin or sources of all relevant and irrelevant information on Covid-19.

Firstly, IP address tracker can be used to prevent fake news on social media even as the information partaking to this global pandemic can be restricted to authorized body for uploading or speculation. System tracker definitely will help.

Secondly, there are internet access restrictions techniques that can be to check fake news uploaded from unverified source.

In addition, some systems mentioned below can as well be used analytical to curb the spread of fake news of covid -19 on social media.

➢ **Bellingcat** *–Devices for scrutinizing coronavirus misinformation*

At Bellingcat, they are decided to bring your consideration to the wide cluster of instruments and guides to conduct online examinations at this troublesome, befuddling, and perilous time of COVID-19.

➢ **BIRN** *– Digital Rights in the Time of COVID-19*

BIRN and SHARE Foundation are bringing you the most recent upgrades and cases of self-assertive captures, observation, phone tapping, security breaches, and other computerized rights infringement as nations of Central and Southeast Europe force crisis enactment to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In conclusion, after a critical analysis it was discovered that the effects of the fake news on the covid-19 is more potent than the covid-19 itself. There should be a measure or technique to regulates information that goes online or social media concerning covid -19 in order to reduce the fear syndrome and the vast effects of infodemic.

With an accentuation on infodemiological investigation and meta-analysis on COVID-19 scourge and COVID-19 infodemic, we scrutinize collective communication behaviors on the Web and relevant utilizations in distributions in sociocultural ideal models to reveal a few unfurled inspirations and results:

➢ As a prior terminology hone, the neologism "coronavirus" came from the thought of Anthony Diminish Waterson and his colleagues. Due to the misjudgments of its make a big appearance in course readings, the history of science and innovation can be re-imagined, which might result in debilitating us to think back those unsung pioneers who have introduced acceptance and incitement of seminal motivation.

➢ In spite of the fact that clinicians regularly make claims around the relatedness between scourges and freeze on the premise of subjective prove. The quantitative comes about of merged cross-mapping (CCM) correspondence examination uncovers that individuals are perpetually helpless to freeze assaults amid scenes of scourges with baffling nature

➢ Infodemic takes after closely on the heels of each pathogen like never-departing shadow , branding separation and stirring freeze. The portfolio of full-fledged official names would appropriately debilitate the spread of territorial stigmatization and racial segregation, and invert negative perceptual inclination and collective behavioral penchants in the midst of open freeze.

It is also highly recommended that there should be a system to track or prevent fake news on social media.

Moreover, it should be made known to the public of the great penalty if anyone is caught publishing unverified information on covid-19.

Finally, authorized government agencies or NGO should be the bodies qualified to share information on covid-19 to the public.

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