




Media and the Corona pandemic: credibility or crises and rumors?

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Strategies to Confront Rumors about the COVID 19 Crisis and Its Repercussions on Official Websites: An Applied Study on the Websites of the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization

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Abstract

The study handled strategies to confront rumors about the COVID-19 crisis and its repercussions on the websites, and explored definition of the content of the rumor and knowledge of its types, purposes, and its targets through what the websites have done to deny the rumors and respond to them, and the official affiliation to confront them by denying their pages and presenting facts that represent the period from March 1 to May 31, 2020.

- The research found from the analytical results that the rumors targeted followers on social networking sites by 42.4%, through rumors that spread myth and scientific misinformation reached 48.4% and the awareness method was used by 33.3% to attract citizens to believe these rumors as the content of the rumor takes multiple forms and types, it is often related to nature of the circumstances and situations in which it appears, and it is directed to individuals and societal symbols, groups, movements, organizations, or societies linked by certain factors such as race, religion, or even an issue that represents a link between them.

- It was also clear that the official electronic websites faced the rumors by playing a major role in denying the rumors and revealing the facts. These rumors are being promoted by social networking sites, and through "their official websites, they seek to provide the correct information to the public and develop their awareness, as the World Health Organization has cooperated with social media to fight the rumors and provide the correct information about the COVID 19 virus, as denying the wrong information, have failed to reduce incorrect perceptions.

- It was also apparent that the official websites faced the rumors by playing a major role by denying the rumors and showing the facts. These rumors; are being promoted by social media and through the rumors sites, are the correct information.

- It was also clear from the results that there is absolute transparency in dealing with the COVID 19 virus from the Egyptian government, and this transparency is present with the World Health Organization, and information is available to the World Health Organization to help it to diagnose a treatment for the COVID 19 virus.

Keywords: Virus COVID-19, Social Media, Rumors.