

CONCLUSION

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dissemination of information became more critical than ever, given the global health crisis. This dissertation has delved into the multifaceted dimensions of the infodemic that emerged alongside the pandemic. It has examined the impact of age, gender, professional backgrounds, and various factors on individuals' perceptions, behaviors, and responses to the overwhelming flow of information.

A noteworthy finding was that 44.94% of participants were not aware of the COVID-19 related infodemic, signifying that there is room for improvement in disseminating information about this phenomenon. Furthermore, 56.91% believed that false information was being spread for political or economic gains or to target specific classes of society. This suggests a prevailing skepticism about the motives behind information dissemination during the pandemic.

A substantial number of respondents, 79.8%, reported being unable to distinguish between myths and true information circulating online. Additionally, 47.85% of participants only sometimes cross-checked the information that had an impact on them. These findings underscore the challenges individuals face in critically evaluating information sources during an infodemic.

Gender played a role in participants' responses. Females were more likely to be aware of the COVID-19 related infodemic and more inclined to believe that false information was being spread for ulterior motives. Moreover, females and males exhibited differences in how often they cross-checked information, with females being more diligent in this regard.

The study has important policy implications. It highlights the need for targeted information campaigns, especially among certain demographic groups that may be less aware of the infodemic. Moreover, efforts should be made to enhance health literacy and critical information evaluation skills, particularly among those who struggle to distinguish between myths and facts.

While this dissertation provides valuable insights into the infodemic during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not without limitations. The study primarily focused on healthcare professionals, which may limit the generalizability of findings to the

broader population. Future research could explore infodemic challenges in diverse populations and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions aimed at improving information literacy and verification.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 infodemic has demonstrated the need for a more discerning and critically engaged public when navigating the information landscape. As the pandemic continues to evolve, addressing the challenges posed by the infodemic remains essential for public health and societal well-being. The present study highlights the need for targeted interventions to address the COVID-19 infodemic. These interventions should focus on improving information literacy, promoting fact-checking, and ensuring the availability of reliable information sources. Additionally, understanding the demographic variations in information-seeking behaviors can aid in tailoring communication strategies to different population segments. Overall, mitigating the impact of misinformation is crucial for effective public health management during pandemics.