

## A Comprehensive review on role of Media Communication during Corona Epidemic.

Ms. Arpita Priyadarshi<sup>1</sup>, Prof. Raghvendra Mishra<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar,

Department of Journalism and Mass Communication,

Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh.

[priyadarshiarpita@gmail.com](mailto:priyadarshiarpita@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Research Director,

Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh.

**How to cite this article:** Arpita Priyadarshi, Raghvendra Mishra (2024) A Comprehensive review on role of Media Communication during Corona Epidemic. *Library Progress International*, 44(3), 2249-2254.

### ABSTRACT

Human Resource (HR) operations are being changed by artificial intelligence (AI), which is turning old methods into more efficient, data-driven, and personalized systems. AI-powered virtual humans are being used more and more to handle jobs like hiring, training, and managing employee performance. These systems are powered by AI and can quickly look at huge amounts of data. This helps HR workers make better decisions. For example, AI can speed up the hiring process by using algorithms to sort through resumes and find the best candidates, which saves time and avoids bias. AI-powered virtual assistants also help workers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, answering their questions and making the whole work experience better. AI frees up HR teams to work on more important tasks, like developing talent and getting employees involved, by handling routine tasks. As AI keeps getting better, it's likely that its use in HR will grow, which will change even more how companies handle and help their employees. Sample of 200 people from HR department were surveyed to know the factors that determines different role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Transforming HR Operations and found that Automated recruitment procedures, Onboarding Processes, Employee Engagement and Retention and Performance Management are the factors that determines different role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Transforming HR Operations.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence (AI), HR operations, Data-driven systems, Virtual humans, Hiring process, Employee performance management, AI-powered virtual assistants, Talent development.

### INTRODUCTION

A novel coronavirus named as COVID-19 crop up in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Quickly it spread to other countries worldwide to turn out to be a pandemic. Internationally, governments imposed quarantine and social distancing measures to put off the spread of the infection. Mass media and social media played a vital role in disseminating information regarding the COVID-19. Since little information and knowledge about COVID-19, various fake news, misinformation, and grapevine spread across the social media that scared people to make panic decisions. The swift spread of misinformation and stories through social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube became a crucial concern of the government and public health authorities. Medical misinformation and unverifiable content about the COVID-19 pandemic were spread on social media at an unparalleled pace. Social media as a secondary medium should be utilized to convey important information. Besides, it allows citizens to address their queries directly. Several governments across the world have taken actions against misinformation spreaders. Yet, measures are to be needed to stop misinformation. Mass media especially electronic tried to disseminated information through doctors and scientist and allotted separate columns

in newspapers. Due to misinformation about COVID-19, many people stopped subscription to newspapers. The advertisements revenue falls down. As a result, many newspapers reduced pages.

**Keywords:** Coronavirus disease 2019, Pandemic, Mass media, Lock down, COVID-19, Loneliness, Life satisfaction, Social media use.

## 1.1 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) was first reported in early December in Wuhan province of China spread worldwide to become a global pandemic. The first case of novel coronavirus outside of China confirmed in Thailand January 13, 20. Novel coronavirus disease named COVID-19 on February 11, 20. Governments across the world put into action social distancing and isolation methods to reduce the risk of infection. Self-quarantine and seclusion become a threat to the psychological health of the people. Since little was known about the novel coronavirus, it is essential to make available the accurate information acquired from an authentic source. In the initial stages of corona pandemic, it was difficult to collect the data of the affected, recovered, and casualties, because rapidly changing data on coronavirus. It was reported that the elderly and immunocompromised individuals were more at risk for COVID-19 infection. Initially, we lack pharmaceutical aids to manage the outbreak.

The tools to combat COVID-19 were identified as quarantine and social distancing. To reduce panic, social media platforms were used to encourage people to follow the directions of public health workers and the quarantine rules (Depoux *et al.*, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic considered as a unique and new to medical fraternity. The size of misinformation was so disturbing on the individual and community levels that governing bodies began to acknowledge its impact and made efforts to limit them. Usually, an outbreak of infectious disease unpredictable in a particular community, region, or period.

The misinformation, misapprehension, or rumors significantly hamper the communication response and escalate panic amongst the people. Since the information increases rapidly through social media, it is necessary to monitor media and manage rumor. Social media was one of the preliminary source proliferated the information regarding the virus. The major negative aspect of social media amid challenging circumstances as COVID-19 epidemic is that social media has been conveniently used as an approach to convey misinformation and fake news. The popularization of social networking platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, the information dissemination in disaster contexts has increased worldwide at diverse levels. Social media gives a platform for sharing public opinion and perceptions, which can be volatile and sensitive during a grave situation as COVID-19 pandemic.

The spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected almost every facet of people's day-to-day lives worldwide. Of importance to this study was the implementation of social distancing and stay-at-home orders by the government to help curb the spread of the disease. Given the magnitude of the pandemic, it is unsurprising research has already emerged identifying increased mental health concerns (Holingue *et al.*, 2020; Zhong *et al.*, 2020). From the start, communication technology was used to combat feelings of social isolation. Uses ranged from hosting virtual gatherings with friends to "attending" religious services through video-based platforms, among other things. This same research also found that Americans felt the virus had changed their lives; those surveyed identified several things they might normally do that they were now concerned about participating in given the risk of virus spread. While a vaccine has been administered to millions signaling a potential end to the pandemic, an April 2021 survey found 62% of Americans believed it would be a year or longer before things returned to "normal," and another 8% suggested things would never return to normal (Myers, 2021).

With social distancing requirements likely extending for some time, there remains a need to explore how individuals get their social needs met, if at all, through communication technology. While some people may be comfortable and proficient with communication technology, that is not true of all Americans. Further, communication technology may not be enough to sustain one's subjective well-being. Data from this noted that while 18-29-year-olds were more likely to use communication technology during the start of the pandemic, they were also twice as likely to experience a high degree of emotional distress than those who were 65+ years old.

These numbers were found at two different time points, suggesting continued emotional stress for young people as the pandemic progressed. Understanding how particular uses of communication technology may contribute to or help curb emotional distress is valuable as we move forward.

One of the most used forms of communication technology today is social media; seven in 10 Americans say they have used social media in the last year (Auxier & Anderson, 2021). This research explored how individuals in the United States coped with social distancing by using various social media and the relationship that use had with measures of subjective well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. While there is hope that life will return to “normal” as early as late 2021 (Myers, 2021), reflecting on the use of social media during the pandemic to connect with friends and family can offer insight into best practices for use when face-to-face interaction is not an option. In that regard, this study explored how some uses of social media may contribute to or combat feelings of loneliness and/or negative affect. In contrast, other uses may help increase life satisfaction or positive affect during the pandemic. The study also explored how individuals connected with friends and family outside of the home, conceptualized as strong and weak ties, meet daily social interaction needs.

### 1.1. Review of Literature

Regular social interaction is essential to sustain subjective well-being (Baumeister & Leary, 1995; Diener, 2000; Hall, 2020; Hall & Merolla, 2020). Social interaction can be understood as purposively engaging in communication with another individual (Hall, 2018a). For this study, subjective well-being is understood to include overall life satisfaction and feelings of positive affect, and low levels of negative affect and loneliness. Diener (2000) argues that life satisfaction and positive and negative affect are important concepts to provide a more well-rounded understanding of subjective well-being. Relatedly, loneliness has been found to have a negative relationship with life satisfaction and positive affect and a positive relationship with negative affect, making it an ideal measure to include, particularly in the framing of social loneliness (Neto, 2014).

Social media use encompasses a wide range of behaviors, framed primarily as active or passive. Active use (e.g., direct messaging, commenting on posts) has often been associated with minor improvements in subjective well-being (Burke & Kraut, 2016; Escobar-Viera et al., 2018; Frison & Eggermont, 2015; Verduyn et al., 2015, 2017). On a social level, research also supports active use as helping to maintain relationships while providing needed social capital and support.

(Carpenter et al., 2018; Ellison et al., 2014; McEwan, 2013). Carpenter et al. (2018) found the use of private, direct messaging through Facebook increased closeness in relationships, and McEwan (2013) also noted how engaging one-on-one on Facebook was a way to show caring and subsequently improved satisfaction, liking, and closeness. In terms of well-being, Frison and Eggermont (2015) found that when someone was already lonely and engaged in active public uses of social media (e.g., status updates, commenting), they were able to improve their mental health. This would suggest that active uses of social media may serve a crucial role during the pandemic to sustain one's subjective well-being and relationships. While pre-pandemic, the effect sizes were relatively small for active use across studies; it may be that the absence of FtF interaction may change how social media functions to meet one's needs. Indeed, when faced with social distancing, the ability to engage in active communication with friends and family through social media could be beneficial to those sheltered in place who want to sustain relationships and have regular social interaction outside of the home.

### 1.2 SOCIAL MEDIA AS AN ASSET DURING A PANDEMIC

Nowadays social media has become very important source of information; Twitter has the potential to provide real-time content acknowledging the public health authorities to reply the queries of the people promptly. During COVID-19 pandemic, social media had presented immediate disease-related information to exchange among the people in real time. It was found in a study that the H1N1 flu occurrence was also first reported in social media. Due instant approach and reach, government organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) started using social media to inform people of the noticeable infections such as Zika and Ebola outbreaks. The incessantly growing social media has turn out to be a key platform for messages during a crisis. Social media platforms are predominantly used by public health departments as well as individuals to communicate and interact with people during public health emergencies. The popular social media platforms such as Twitter, You Tube, and Face book, measure taken to avoid misinformation during COVID-19 pandemic,

remain questionable. In the environment, in which people are born, live, study, work, play, worship, and age are social determinants of health, which are the factors that influence a wide variety of health outcomes, risks, and overall quality of life.

### **1.3 EMOTIONAL CONFUSION DURING THE PANDEMIC DUE TO SOCIAL MEDIA**

Usually, a pandemic outbreak threatens the fitness of a huge range of people, thereby requiring on the spot measures to cease the contamination at the community level. The Studies have revealed that panic and rage resolve the correlation between social media access, menace perception at the personal level, and protective behavior and these emotions manipulate the association between threat perception and mass media. Anxiety was the relevant negative emotion during the COVID-19 pandemic. When in correct or false information pass on to the public, people may tend to panic and react to such in accurate information in different ways, which leads to take hasty decision to purchase and use unwarranted or even unsafe drug regimens.

The imperative obligation to ease the panic due to social media has become a priority (Depoux *et al.*, 2020). When the outbreak began, the public tried to find out appropriate online resources and information to protect themselves. The search term about infectious disease on social media garner much attention. WHO expressed grave concern over social media relating misinformation that caused anxiety, fear, and anger among people. Misinformation and misleading news about COVID-19 during pandemic fueled baseless panic, confusion, and hampered mental health of the citizens.

### **1.4 PANDEMIC MISINFORMATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

A major risk related to using social media is the posting and forwarding of unethical content which has adverse effects on health care professionals (HCPs), students, and health-care institutions. Facebook introduced a new update, which warned users if they are engaged with incorrect information. Some research mentioned that validated Twitter accounts and health care accounts had least unverifiable statistic in assessment with others. Some researchers found that the “humor effect,” of users joins the debate to derision the conspiracy theory inadvertently draws more attention to it, turning out as a threat for half-truths. Misleading information on Facebook about probable medications, as well as hydroxychloroquine to cure COVID-19, stirred many people to procure such drug without medical approval, resulting in the abnormal health consequence and in sufficient of these drugs for patients who actually need them. The misleading news consists of different facades of the epidemic, which is proficient enough to become threat to public safety, which over again worsen crisis management.

### **1.5 INFODEMOLOGY**

Infodemiology is a new field of research targeted at educating public health agencies and drafting public policies to assess automatically created and consumed health data. The advantage of infodemiology is its capability to gather health-related data instantly from unstructured, written, picture or user-generated content or information which is shared through digital platforms such as websites, blogs, and social network sites. But, authenticity and reliability of user-generated data is doubtful. Sometimes, user-generated content and shared health information relating to the COVID19 will act as an efficient method for public health surveillance. Examines the online interpretation, responses to health problems by the public as seen on social media propose insights into the public's awareness and self-disclosure of symptoms related to the infection. Studies indicate that network analyses are significantly useful for monitoring shared networks between various stakeholders, and also the appropriate distribution of sources during national disasters or emergencies.

### **1.6 CYBERCHONDRIA**

Cyberchondria is a term that explains the situation, where patients can research all symptoms of an atypical disease, ill-health or condition, and anxiety. Cyberchondria and information overload were observed from excessive internet use during COVID-19 pandemic. Cyberchondria is characterized as infatuated online searching for information related to health, typically about specific symptoms. During the panic situation, uncharacteristic and potentially fatal pandemic conditions such as COVID-19 pandemic, a unclear communication may arose confusion and even fear among people. Often, Social media news is more sensitive and lacks the impartial and broad approach like the reports of journalists. Social media networking website and search engine developers

should take steps to allow transparent and clear information so as to avert adverse effects of information overload and cyberchondria, while disseminating the seriousness of the pandemic situation and recommended health measures to citizens. Educating people on the accountability and safe use of social media may help to alleviate the negative influence.

### **1.7 INFLUENCE OF MASS MEDIA RELATING TO COVID-19**

Mass media have been observed as critical sources of public perceptions of risk. The information relating to risk is offered in a manner that persuade people's perception of risk, particularly sensational media coverage of a pandemic crisis. Anxiety and anger mediate the effect of media reporting on the perception of personal-level danger and increase beneficial preventive behaviors. The outbreak of COVID-19 is a negative incidence, consequential in an unpredictably high number of illnesses and mortalities, ascertain negative self-relevant emotions from the public. People frequently convey their concerns about the virus outbreak through social media. In some occasions, though, the mass media are incapable to capture the epidemic on time, and unable to become the prime indicator. Since mass media news reports fall behind to report real-time coronavirus trends, it may not play a helpful pre-warning role in disseminating and sensitizing about public health. As the virus was new and unpredictable. There was no sufficient research on it, misinformation transmitted by the mass media leading to adverse psychological effects among people. BBC India website has witnessed massive increase in traffic. WhatsApp itself is reportedly build a team in India to help deal with the spread of fake news on its platform. Just before the announcement of the nationwide lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked print and electronic media owners and editors of the country to present "positive news" related to COVID-19. Mass media especially electronic tried to disseminated information through Doctors and Scientist and allotted separate columns in newspapers. Due to misinformation about COVID-19, many people stopped subscription to newspapers. The advertisements revenue falls down. As a result, many newspapers reduced pages.

### **1.8 IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY SEVERAL GOVERNMENT BODIES**

Globally, government organizations have used social media for creating awareness and encouraging citizen during the crisis. In the United Kingdom, Local government officials used Twitter features, such as hashtags and mentions, to converse with the general public to elucidate rumors and recognize perpetrators during the 2011 riots. Indonesian government agencies used Twitter to convey early alerting communications with people during the 2012 Tsunami. Government officials in the United States used Twitter during the 2012 Sandy Hurricane crisis. However, they mainly engaged individuals, important government agencies, and media outlets. The Chinese government had opened many services across various platforms, including hotline, online counseling, and outpatient counseling, but unable to provide more attention to depression and anxiety. To reach public concerns, the Chinese government started disseminating a series of updates on the official 'Weibo' accounts about the disease, on how to handle probable cases, (Li *et al.*, 2020). Whenever false news was circulated, the Chinese authorities took swift corrective action. In Egypt, the Ministry of Health (MOH) started using different forms of communication to inform the public about the epidemic, including television and street advertising, as well as text messages and even used supported ads on Facebook. In India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provided continuous update on COVID-19 and launch the Arogyasethu app to track patients.

### **1.9 MEDIA SHOULD BE USED AS A SHIELD**

Social media should be used to strengthen the public health response (Depoux *et al.*, 2020). Public media, newspapers, and radio, Television stations must take necessary steps and put stop to false news by addressing theories of conspiracy circulating at the time. Well-timed monitoring of risk networks and public social media communications will promote awareness and assist in developing the policies needed. Social media analytics help government authorities to react on real-time information about current infectious disease threats. People exchanged information using different news sources and social media. A critical/immediate remedial measure against false information should take place on the platform itself, where it occurs because people don't visit a website to crosscheck report. To prevent the collapse of the health system, a successful health interventions are needed, the media can play a vital role in disseminating updated policies and convention from authorities to the people. Effective communication link between the citizens and the public health authorities/or governments through the media and social media platforms will make easy to handle the pandemic situation successfully.

(Depoux *et al.*, 2020). Effective risk communication is need of the hour program will enable to preparedness for health emergencies. Strengthening the capacity of risk communication is an essential component of global efforts to enhance global health security

### 1.10 CONCLUSIONS

Since the announcement of COVID-19 as a pandemic, the mass media and social media have been flooded with information. Some information is directed to educate people about the new virus, whose management is yet to be known. Several governments across the world have taken timely actions against misinformation of pandemic. The Government bodies and public health care authorities should utilize the media in teaching awareness among the people and narrowing panic. The several countries' government has used social media in informing the people about the imminent danger, thus making the best use of the resource. The media should also be obliged to ensure the reports 'accuracy'.

### References

1. Pan X, Ojcius DM, Gao T, Li Z, Pan C, Pan C. Lessons learned from the 2019-nCoV epidemic on prevention of future infectious diseases *Microbes Infect.* 2020;22:86–91
2. World Health Organization, Commission on Social Determinants of Health. . Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health Last accessed on 2020 Apr 19 Available from: [http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/en](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en).
3. Zhai Y, Du X. Mental health care for international Chinese students affected by the COVID-19 outbreak *Lancet Psychiatry.* 2020;7:e22  
View full references list
4. Anxiety; COVID-19; fear; mass media; misinformation; social media 2021 *Journal of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences* | Published by Wolters Kluwer – Medknow.
5. Abbas, J. *et al.* 2021. The Role of Social Media in the Advent of COVID-19 Pandemic: Crisis Management, Mental Health Challenges and Implications. *Risk Management Healthcare Policy.* Doi: 10.2147/RMHP.S284313
6. Tang, Q. 2020. The Important Role of Social Media During the COVID-19 Epidemic. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.* Doi: 10.1017/dmp.2020.330
7. WHO. 2021. Social media & COVID-19: A global study of digital crisis interaction among Gen Z and Millennials. Online: <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/social-media-covid-19-a-global-study-of-digital-crisis-interaction-among-gen-z-and-millennials>
8. India Today. Coronavirus in India: Tracking Country's First 50 COVID-19 Cases; What Numbers Tell. Available from: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/coronavirus-in-india-tracking-country-s-first-50-covid-19-cases-what-numbers-tell-1654468-2020-03-12> [Last accessed on 2020 Mar 12]
9. Businessline, Masks, Sanitisers put under Essential Commodities Act. Available from: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/masks-sanitisers-put-under-essential-commodities-act/article31062832.ece> [Last accessed on 2020 Mar 13]
10. The Indian Express. Watch: From Clapping to Beating Thalís. *How People Responded to PM Modi's Call on 'Janata Curfew'*. Available from: <https://www.indianexpress.com/article/coronavirus/watch-janata-curfew-claps-ringing-bells-pmmodi-6326761> [Last accessed on 2020 Mar 22]