



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

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Role of Social Media Sites in Promoting Rumors and Presenting the Facts about the New Corona Virus (Covid-19)

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Abstract

The study aims at monitoring role of social networking sites in promoting rumors and presenting the facts about the new Corona virus Covid-19. The study used the method of media survey in the sample, as the study is applied to a sample of 400 individual young people of Alexandria university, representing urban universities and Kafr Al-Sheikh University, representing regional universities. The study used the survey tool to collect the questionnaire data, and the study was applied during the period 28/3/2020 until 28/4/2020, and the study reached a set of results, the most important of which was:

- 1- Social media sites came in the first place among the sources of information about the emerging of Corona virus, and Facebook was the most used site, followed by WhatsApp.
2. It was found that 64.4% of the sample of the study believe that the social networking sites sometimes contribute to the promotion of some rumors about the new Corona virus and at the same time it was found that 53.9% of the respondents believe that social networking sites contribute to the presentation of the facts about the new Corona virus.
3. It has been shown that there are statistically significant differences between average female and male grades in the degree of dependence on social media sites as one of their most important sources of information about the emerging Corona virus.
4. There is a statistically significant relationship between the degree of the dependence of the study sample on social media sites as one of the sources of information about the new Corona virus Covid-19 and the degree to which social networking sites contribute to increasing their anxiety and tension with the Corona virus.
- 5- It turns out that 53.9% of the respondents believe that social networking sites contribute to the presentation of the facts about the new Corona virus, and 42.9% believe that they sometimes contribute.

Keywords: Social media, Coronavirus Covid-19 , Rumors , Facts.