**Fake News Questionnaire Survey**

The study intends to investigate the motives behind the spread of fake news and its impact on Malaysians during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kindly ensure the success of this study by helping us to fill up this questionnaire. Be assured that your responses will be treated with ***extreme confidentiality.*** Thank you

**Note:** Respondents to be more than 18 years old and of a Malaysian citizenship

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**Part A:** Demographic

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_\_ **Gender:**  Male  Female

**Status:**  Tertiary students (college/university etc.)  Working  Others:

1. How often do you check online news portals in a day (hours)?

< 1  1 – 5  More than 5

1. How often do you use your mobile phone in a day (hours)?

< 1  1 – 5  More than 5

1. How often do you use social media applications in day (hours)?

< 1  1 – 5  More than 5

1. Where do you usually get information from? Please choose ONE MAIN source.

Social media  Digital news (Internet)  Traditional news (printed newspaper)

Traditional news (radio and television)  Family/friends

1. How often do you share news headlines/stories with your family/friends via social media/phone?

Never  Seldom  Occasionally  Frequently

1. Do you know what fake news is?

Yes  No  Not sure

1. Are you able to identify or recognize that news is fake while reading it?

Yes  No  Not sure

1. Does it matter to you whether or not the news you are reading is real or fake?

Yes  No  Don’t care

1. What do you do when you receive a suspicious news?

Ignore it  Share it with others  Verify on fact checking websites

Verify on Google  Verify on with family/friends

1. Do you know the existence of fact checking website in Malaysia? (i.e. sebenarnya.my)

Yes  No

**Part B**

You are given the following definition for fake news:

*Fake news are misleading or incorrect information in any forms, disseminated intentionally or unintentionally. Therefore, they can be in the form of texts, images, videos, links etc.*

Please answer all the questions below based on **YOUR personal experience since January 2020 – that is the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

1. Given the definition above, please indicate your agreement/disagreement level for the statements below using the scale provided:

Strongly disagree = 1 disagree = 2 Agree =3 Strongly agree = 4

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Items | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| a | I have received fake news before |  |  |  |  |
| b | I have shared/spread fake news before knowingly (i.e., at the time of sharing) |  |  |  |  |
| c | I have shared/spread fake news before unknowingly (i.e., without realizing it as fake news at the time of sharing) |  |  |  |  |
| d | I shared/spread fake news through social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.) |  |  |  |  |
| e | I shared/spread fake news through chats (IM, Skype etc.) |  |  |  |  |
| f | I shared/spread fake news through messaging services (WhatsApp, SMS etc.) |  |  |  |  |

**Part C**

You are to refer to the same definition for fake news in Part B above.

The items in this section refer to the possible motives in fake news sharing, either done unknowingly (at the time of sharing) or knowingly (at the time of sharing). In cases if you’re unsure if you have shared a piece of news that is deemed fake, then please assume that you have shared a fake news unknowingly.

Please answer all the questions below based on **YOUR personal experience since January 2020 – that is the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

1. State your agreement/disagreement level for each of the statement below using the scale provided.

Strongly disagree = 1 disagree = 2 Agree =3 Strongly agree = 4

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Fake news statements** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  | **Technology** |  |  |  |  |
|  | The spread of fake news takes/took place because: |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | The tools/medium are available easily (e.g. social media, mobile phone) |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | The tools/medium are easy to use |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | There are various tools/medium available (e.g. social media, chat, phone, website) |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | The tools/medium allow users to be anonymous |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Fake news can be broadcast to a large audience |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Psychological/Entertainment** |  |  |  |  |
|  | The spread of fake news takes/took place because: |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | It is a satisfying experience to spread fake news |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | It is funny to see others believing the fake news |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | It is exciting/thrilling to spread fake news |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Spreading fake news makes me popular |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Ignorance** |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | I am lazy to verify news they receive |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | I tend to trust source of fake news (e.g. from a superior, lecturer, someone I look up to) |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | I am not aware of the consequences of sharing fake news |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Pass Time** |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | I shared fake news out of boredom (i.e. just to pass time) |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | I shared fake news out of habit (tendency to forward/share information) |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | I shared fake news as I had nothing much to do |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Altruism** |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | I shared fake news as I thought I was helping others |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | I shared fake news as I thought I was motivating/inspiring others |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | I shared fake news as I thought I was offering information to others |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)** |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | I fear my friends/peers will have more rewarding experience than me by sharing fake news |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | I fear I will be excluded from my social circle if I do not share fake news |  |  |  |  |

-THE END-