FACT CHECK

by:
Fairy Joy L. Dizon
Teacher III, Sumalo Integrated School

News is a report of recent events that are previously unknown information which something having specified influence or affect towards an individual. This information usually reported in a news periodical or on a newscast (Merriam-Webster, 2021).

Today that we are living in a computer and advanced ages of technology, people mostly rely on the fast chain news that can be easily found in social media such as Facebook and Messenger, Twitter, and YouTube, respectively. But how can we be sure that all information that we get from these platforms are legitimate?

Quiñones (2020) explains that fake news, as most people would generically categorize it, is nothing new. It is a good old-fashioned rumor now communicated at a rapid speed.

The question is how can we become responsible social media users to survive this age of information disorder?

Nothing we can see on the internet in these days is reliable – photos, videos, audios – they can all be altered through different software or applications. Since it seems hard to distinguish facts from false information, fact checking is a better way to validate these.

In a study conducted by Jiang and Wilson (2018), they found that linguistic signals in user comments vary significantly with the veracity of posts, usage of extensive emoji and promising word with falser posts. In addition, they also found out that while there are signals indicating positive effects after fact-checking, there are also signals indicating potential "backfire" effects.
On the other hand, Hutchinson (2020) shared the six steps that everybody can take to verify news content from online posts is legitimate:

1. pay attention to the domain or URL;
2. read the “about us” section;
3. look at the quotes in a story;
4. look at who said them;
5. check the comments; and
6. reverse image search.

Moreover, According to Butler (2021), these are steps that may take to avoid spreading fake news:

1. read the story when you see an outrageous headline – you’d be surprised of many contradictions between the headlines and the actual story;
2. if you see something outrageous, do your own research – you should think twice about believing and sharing the post; and
3. check biases – don’t limit your information with one or two sources.

It is important to fact check. Fake news spreads faster and can cause more damage than the real news. Unlike responsible journalists, people who write fake news are often manufacturing scenarios that are meant to elicit an emotional response (Butler, 2021).

Lastly, Quiñones (2020) exclaimed that the challenge today is to find ethical solutions that support positive potential of technology advancements while reducing their negative impact like this false information to the world.
References:


