



Report
Covid-19 Infodemic and Misinformation in the
Social Media

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Knowledge Mapping
And
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Firstly, I started my study by doing detailed research. I realized that alongside all useful information about Covid-19, there are also a new blending of misinformation because Covid-19 informations began to come from more than one points to fill information gap. I can say that especially at the first time when the pandemic started to spread rapidly and when vaccines were available, the increase in the share of unrealistic informations has reached alarming dimensions. For example, in the early days of the pandemic, we all heard a lot of information and theories about virus protection, treatment or effects. Likewise, when we have spent time online in the past few months, we probably all feel the difficulty of determining what information about the coronavirus vaccine is reliable and what is not. As a result of my research, i found that World Health Organization defined this situation as the over-abundance of information with the term "Infodemic" and Covid-19 was recorded as the first global infodemic. In this case, with the coming together of too much information, it caused the wrong and the right to be mixed with each other and misinformation phenomenon started to spread as a virus through digital channels. Based on this research, I have decided on my problem. The problem is to make general evaluations about misinformation that is also known as Infodemic in the social media during Covid-19. The main purpose of my study is to inform users or clients who use social media to follow Covid-19 news and provide some suggestions to fight Covid-19 infodemic to the users. In this case, the story of the problem is formed around three main topics. These are general situation of Turkey, the world and people attitudes to this problem. Analyzes and visualization of data was done to support the story such as general situation of Covid-19 Infodemic, Covid-19 misinformation types and topics that defined by verification platforms, through which social media channels and people's attitude to this situation on the social media.

I need to collect data sets to inform the users who use social media to get information about this disease. However, I encountered some difficulties in collecting the necessary data because Infodemic has gained a new dimension with Covid-19. In this case, I had a hard time choosing the reliable resources. Thusly, after determining the problem and its story, I first created the time frames that i will examine in the story of this problem. I classified these such as early stage of Covid-19 in 2020, 2021, and May. Then, I created a list of right resources from some websites,

github and articles to collect data sets, examined all of them one by one and selected the appropriate data sets. Firstly, I aimed to inform the users about the infodemic risk in social media both in Turkey and the world, the misinformation issues in the world and Infodemic risk in Turkey is higher than the world, by handling the data sets in 2021 from the Covid-19 Infodemic Observatory website. For this data set, I had difficulty in creating Infodemic risk data set by taking the first 15 days of May for top 10 country of world and Turkey and also saving them in excel. Secondly, I found my other dataset to inform the user about countries with the most fake news in 2020, when the pandemic first spread. Thus, I found the top 10 countries with the highest number of false news in the data set and created the data table. At the same time range, I examined the data set that analyzed by verification platforms in order to show the misinformation types and topics to the users in Turkey. I also found a dataset about which social media platforms this Infodemic and misinformation are spreading in this period of time. Finally, I examined a data set to show the user the attitude of citizens in 2021. Thus, compared to the first period of the epidemic, I reported that social media users follow the news less this year and social media users have difficulty in choosing the right and wrong news. In this case, I studied them and covered the necessary parts of each data set. Also, for each data set I found, I made the necessary edits and cleanups and created the table in excel before visualizing it. Then, I visualized each of data set using the Visme tool because it is free and i can visualize my data easily with using different graphs with it. So, i had 9 graphs in total. Consequently, I informed the audience, who uses social media to get information for Covid-19, about Infodemic and misinformation on social media throughout Covid-19 with these data sets.

I can say that COVID-19 is not only a public health challenge and it's also a public information challenge because, according to my research, Infodemic and misinformation have gained importance with Covid 19 and are constantly increasing. So, I took the step of explaining the reasons and suggestions of this problem to the audience. As a result of my investigations, the main causes of this problem are the social panic, the uncertainty of the disease, people's anxiety and panic triggered by Covid 19 in digital environment. Thusly, I gave some advices for users to fight this problem. My first advice is that fake news spreads faster than real news, so social media users should avoid from publishing Covid-19 related news if they are unsure of its accuracy. Likewise, users must build resistance to misinformation and verify its accuracy using verification platforms. Finally, users should follow the news published by official institutions or by social

media platforms under the name of Covid-19. As a result of this study, to the audience who use social media platforms for Covid19 news, I gave general information about Covid19 Infodemic and misinformation, I supported these by visualized data and also informed about the reasons and the advices to be taken.