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Assessing The Various Fact Checker Platforms in India - A Study

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Abstract :

In the age of technology, the growth of fake news rate are going high. People face problem to find out the real information. There are different tools to detect the fake information. Fact checker also help people to find out the true information with evidence. This study include different fact checking tool available in India with their facilities.

Key words: Fake news, Misinformation, Disinformation, Fact Checker

Introduction:

The rapid change of technology drastically changes the peoples living style. With the phenomenal growth of Information Communication Technology (ICT) most of peoplespend their timeon digital platforms (Patel & Bhatt, 2017). For the advancement of technology and internet accessibility to each individual, one can easily share real time information (Singhal et al. 2021). In digital platform, social media and messaging applications play key role to disseminate information either its real or fake (Ribeiro et al. 2019; Reis et al. 2020).In media misinformation is new. Since the development of earliest writing the misinformation has been generating (Marcus 1993). Nowadays social media platforms are becoming the main source ofinformation (Tandoc et al. 2017).In social media both real and false information could be shared. Nowadays Fake News is the most disturbing trend and spread like wildfire (Borgohain et al. 2022). Most of all major happenings in the world like 2016 US election, Covid-19 and Indian general election 2019 etc. have been affected by the Fake News spread around the social media and other media (Singhal, 2021).

Fake News: An Overview :

Fake news can be defined as false information, which are circulated among the people as authentic and effectful (Talwar et al., 2019). Scholars argue that fake news only mimics the format of actual news not the intent (Flostrand et al., 2020). The term fake news is the combination of both misinformation and disinformation. The misinformation is kind of false or misleading information, which have not any harmful and deceptive intention. On the other hand disinformation referees the verifiably false and fabricated information, which are spread for the purpose of harm the people and communities (Wardle and Derakhshan 2018). According to Allcott and Gentzkow Fake News is a kind of news article which are intentionally and verifiably false and it could mislead readers (Allcott & Gentzkow, 2017).

Fact Check: An Overview :

Fact Checking can be defined as a process to find out the truth behind a viral claim. In media industry, fact checking referred as the act of proof-reading and validating spread information (Patra & Pandey, 2021). The conclusion of the claim always be concluded with evidence and logical reasoning (Vlachos & Riedel, 2014). Fake News is a worldwide issue, but the most of Fact Checking and fake news detection tools have been worked in English language, which are predominantly used in online social networking (Vlachos & Riedel, 2014; Alhindi et al. 2018). According to Mantzarlis, fact checking process consist of three segments, firstly finding the clams for fact checking, secondly discovering the truth of particular claims and lastly Rectifying the claim and present the truth with evidence (Mantzarlis, 2018).

Fact Checking databases:

PIB Fact Check:The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is a nodal agency of Government of India. The PIB is to disseminate information on government policies, programs, initiatives and achievements to the print and electronic media. The PIB uses various modes like press release, press notes, feature article, photograph etc. to disseminate information. The headquarter of PIB is in New Delhi, it also has eight regional offices and 34 branch offices and Information Centres. The PIB uses Twitter, WhatsApp to aware people about fake information.

Alt News: Alt News is a kind of non-profit Fact Checking website which was launched in 2017 by Pratik Shinha and Mohammed Zubair of Pravda Media Foundation. The headquarter of the Alt News is situated in Ahmedabad. This website was formed to smoke out the misinformation, disinformation and mal-information which are spread in different social media platform as well as mainstream media. This Fact Checker includes false information about the political, social, religious, sports etc in different media

No	Name of fact-checker	Website
1	PIB Fact Check	https://pib.gov.in/factcheck.aspx
2	India Today - Fact Check	https://www.indiatoday.in/fact-check
3	Alt News	https://www.altnews.in/
4	BOOM	http://www.boomlive.in/
5	Digit EYE India	https://digiteye.in/
6	Fact Crescendo	https://www.factcrescendo.com/
7	FactChecker	https://www.factchecker.in/about-us
8	News Mobile	https://newsmobile.in/about-us/
9	WebQoof	https://www.thequint.com/news/webqoof
10	Factly	https://factly.in/
11	Newschecker	http://www.newschecker.in/
12	Newsmeter	https://newsmeter.in/
13	The Healthy Indian Project (THIP)	https://www.thip.media/category/health-news-fact-check/
14	Youturn	https://youturn.in/
15	Vishvas News	https://www.vishvasnews.com/

forms like textual, video, photo etc. Alt News fact checking website has account in different social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and WhatsApp and it also has mobile apps.

Boom: Boom is an independent fact checking website which was formed in 2016 with mission to fight against misinformation. Boom is the India's first fact checker which was certified by International Fact Checking Network (IFCN). It was also the first Indian Fact Checker to partner with Facebook on its third-party Fact Checking program. In India, the Boom Fact Checker's headquarter is situated in Mumbai. Boom also expanded to Myanmar and Bangladesh. In India it is presently available in three languages Hindi, English and Bengali. The team of Boom Fact Checking consist of several subject experts. This Fact Checker actively check different subjects like Political, Business, Social, Health etc. and broadcast daily on Facebook and YouTube with actual explanation. It also has Instagram and WhatsApp account.

DigitEye India: DigitEye India is a kind of digital news Fact Checking website. It was formed by a small group of veteran journalists in 2018. It focuses on Fact Checking of false news, rumours in social media, online media and websites. DigitEye India is a part of SoftmediaHub LLP, it is a limited

liability partnership company of India. DigitEye India has a team of six members, who has been carrying out different task like screening claims, vetting images, Fact Checking before publishing. IFCN code of principles verified DigitEye India as a Fact Checking site. DigitEye India has social media accounts in Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp also.

Fact Crescendo: Fact Crescendo is an independent digital Fact Checking website established by Vinod Rathi and Rakhi Rathi. It is a part of Crescendo Transcription Private Limited (CTPL) company. But Fact Crescendo has a separate team for Fact Check, they are committed to find out the fact behind every news, debunking of misinformation spread in social media and mainstream media. This Fact Checking website is working on different languages like English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Assamese, Punjabi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati and Urdu. Fact Crescendo is verified signatory of IFCN (International Fact Checking Network) code of principles. It has also social media accounts in Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.

News Mobile: News Mobile is a news organization established by Saurabh Shukla in 2014. It is under the World Mobile News Network Pvt Ltd. registered in India. Now the News Mobile become a global Fact Checker with operations in India, Asia Pacific and US. Their aim is to solve the problem of misinformation. It is the only Indian Fact Checker, which had owned a global innovative challenge in 2020 organised by IFCN and Facebook. During the period of Covid-19, News Mobile had been consistently giving efforts to combat misinformation related to Covid -19. It is also a signatory of the IFCN code of principles. This website has social media handle in Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter etc. News Mobile's Fact Checking domains are like General, Political, Climate, Nation, world, sports, Covid, Science & Technology, Business etc.

Fact Checker: It is the India's first dedicated initiative of fact check. In 2014 Fact Checker had established to combat against misinformation. Fact Checker includes different subject area like health, law and justice, education, employment, science etc. As a Fact Checking website Fact Checker actively monitor news and social media platforms to find out the false information generated by public figure or government. Different media format like photo, video and text documents are used by Fact Checker. English language is used in this website. This website also used different social media like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Conclusion:

In this rapid changing digital world information are generated rapidly in every moment from different sources, where some information is real and some false. Its quite difficult for general people to find out the truth

one. Therefore, in this era of Fake News everybody has to be aware about how to find out the true information and the authentic source of information. In the era of Fake News, information literacy and critical thinking are the best ways to combat misinformation and disinformation (Abu-Fadil, 2018)

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