

Health Misinformation is a Deadly Virus

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Abstract

In an era in which people are immersed in electronic devices, the main source of people's health information tends to be these social media. Among which, some popular social media around the globe are "Facebook" and "Instagram", while the most widely used search engine and online video streaming site is "Google" and "Youtube" respectively. Yet, these social media also tend to serve as hosts of the spread of health misinformation.

Conceivably, the misinformation usually disorients people rather than provide health benefits for them. Moreover, sometimes exaggerated health misinformation could also induce the public's panic, causing unnecessary chaos in the society. For instance, recent news about getting flu vaccine may contribute to neurological disorder, and even death. This widely spread misinformation has led to a panic among Taiwan's society. However, it is in fact an avoidable phenomenon.

With a view to curbing or even eradicating the spread and negative effects caused by health misinformation from the roots, the ultimate measure that could protect us is "Media Literacy" and "Health Education". By propagating the correct concepts of media literacy through education, we consider it a feasible method that can make the society free from these adverse effects and improve health welfare.