



WHO has recently predicted that the Covid19 pandemic is about to be over. US President, Joe Biden said that the world was already out of the pandemic. The local evidence from Pakistan supports these claims.

While we cherish and celebrate the good news, we would also like to share with our partners that it has brought in a shift of

approach to our Open Society Foundation (OSF) supported Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC). For over two years, CCC debunked fake news, misinformation, and myths around covid19. Going forward, the campaign will focus on building healthy information ecosystems where we will lead and support efforts to stop the spread of fake news and misinformation in Pakistan in a broader manner. The focus of our work might not necessarily be around Covid 19, unless, of course, we face a new wave. We plan to tackle fake news around health emergencies (remember, polio is still a challenge in Pakistan and fake news is responsible for creating perennial vaccine hesitation), politics, sociocultural taboos, and other similar phenomena.

WHAT'S INSIDE

COVID-19 &
Vaccination Statistics
in Pakistan

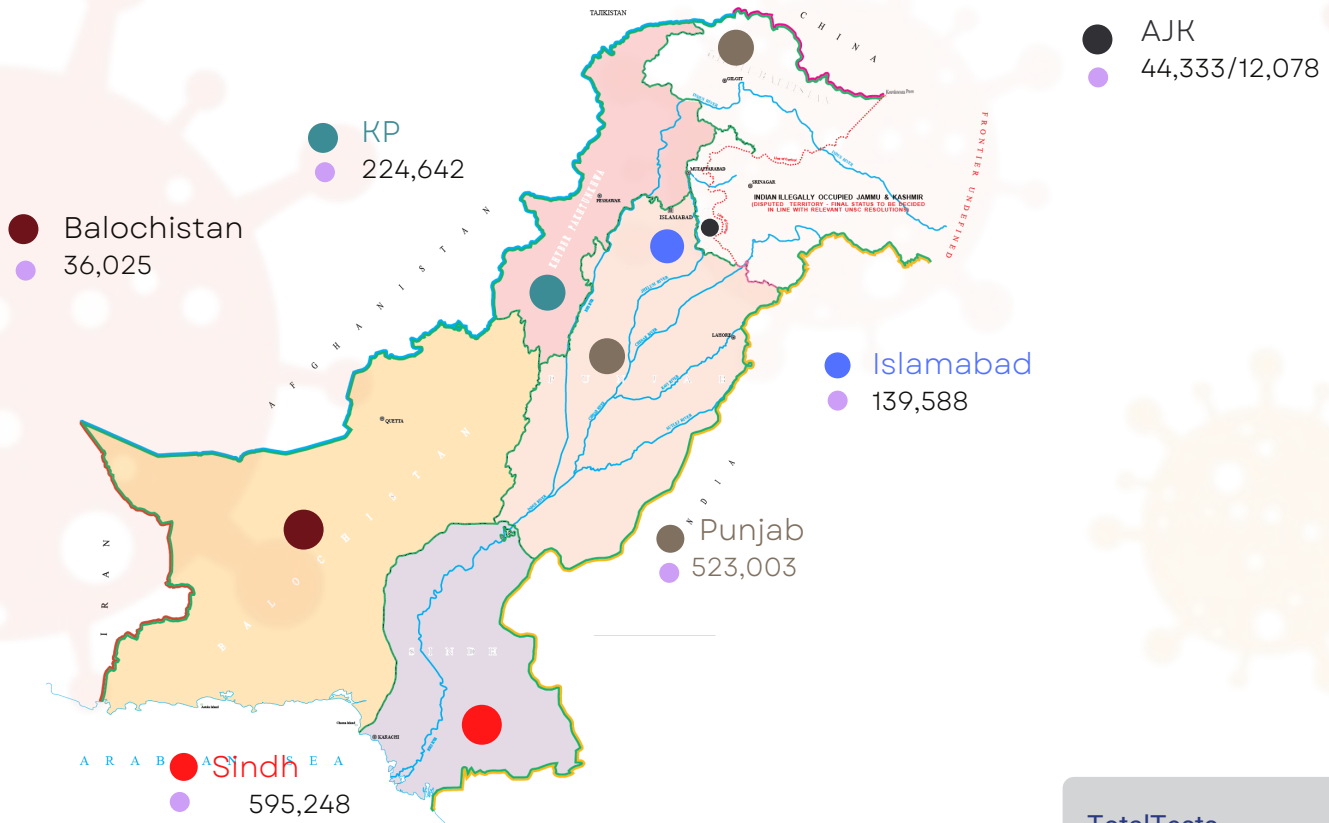
COVID-19 Insights

Misinformation,
Disinformation &
Fake News

Steps involved to
verify
Misinformation

COVID-19 DASHBOARD

(PAKISTAN)



Confirmed Cases critical cases Recoveries Deaths

Total Tests
30,984,061



LAST 24 HOURS: 3478

Confirmed Cases

1,574,938



LAST 24 HOURS: 25

Critical Cases

46



LAST 24 HOURS: 4

Deaths

30,630



LAST 24 HOURS: 0

Recoveries

1,543,564



LAST 24 HOURS: 31

Vaccination Statistics

First Dose
139,599,938



LAST 24 HOURS: 12351

Booster Doses
47,898,137



LAST 24 HOURS: 76041

Fully Vaccinated
132,208,520



LAST 24 HOURS: 31709

Total Doses Administered
301,236,601



LAST 24 HOURS: 120059

YOUR DRY MOUTH COULD BE THE FIRST SIGN OF COVID, SEEN IN 60% OF CASES

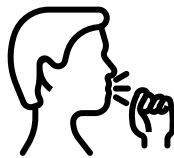
As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to cause unprecedented damage to lives across the world, scientists are still learning about the various symptoms of the viral infection. Of late, there have been cases where patients have experienced newer symptoms after being infected with the coronavirus. The latest report by the National Institute of Health mentions that about half of the patients have these symptoms.

One of them is dry mouth, also known as Xerostomia, which could be the initial presentation of COVID 19. Patients may develop this condition even a few days ahead of fever, sore throat, or other known or associated symptoms.

Finding any early signs and symptoms of the new Coronavirus infection can provide you with a warning to take care of your health, consult your medical doctor and take necessary measures to prevent the infection from spreading to others. However, with more recent versions of the virus, the common, dominant, as well as initial signs, also keep changing. Along with dry mouth, when you have COVID, you can also be experiencing one or more of the following common signs and symptoms:



High temperature



Non-stop cough



Loss or change of smell or taste



Feeling exhausted



Aching body



Headache



Blocked or runny nostril



Diarrhea



Feeling sick



Lack of appetite



Shortness of breath



Sore throat

SOURCE: [ENTERTAINMENT TIMES](#)

IMPACT OF FAKE NEWS ON EDUCATION

As children and young human beings have increased access to social media, they are extra exposed to fake information. This affects children as they usually trust the incorrect information which has no reliable source, and they may share it with their young siblings and friends in school and eventually it spreads across the younger people.

Fake news, reaching to children and young human beings, would possibly cause serious issues as their thinking may be negatively impacted. A number of young people and students normally do not have the capacity to examine actual and fake news and records found online.



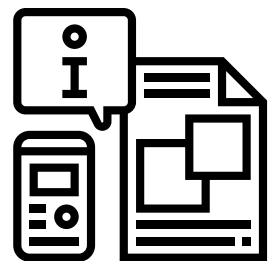
Fake news has a big reach throughout the internet and a number of humans may believe the wrong information because it's unfolded in a way that looks sensible. Students and young people are extra exposed to fake news and viral posts because they're not usually mature enough to have the capability to reveal and recognize fake information and hence they can be easily affected by fake news sources thus affecting their learning culture.

Fake news can affect behavior, too. It encourages students to think excuses to reject and confuse other students' ideas, to exaggerate the truth, and to spread rumors. This can make split, and nervousness at schools where students are sarcastic and unsure of whom to trust.

THE SOURCES OF FAKE NEWS AND HOW IT SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD

Social media like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter are the fastest ways to spread whatever people want to share due to the fact that whereas a person posts something, there could be humans seeing this put up and they might share it with others. But particularly when this publication includes fake information, it spreads faster than real news due to the fact that fake news draws the attention of society for being presented in a sensational way.

Particularly young people in their teens because they don't have sufficient experience and adequate knowledge about individuals who post fake news for some intended purpose.



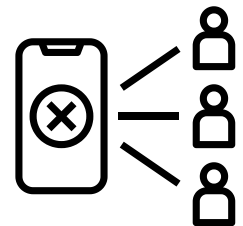
It can be also from the school where a friend stated fake story information and other students believed it. This may spread very easily as a student tells her students who would possibly share it with the class, the class students could share it with their siblings and social friends thus creating a ripple spread.

Google may also be a way for people who want to put up fake information and share it with others, as they could make a fake site online similar to the top and known site/s. At the moment a number of people are reaching the internet and those individuals who don't have access or interest in social media and mostly use Google to search for news or other things, would need to realize that plenty of news on google can be fake.

THE SOLUTION

Students must take a look at the sources of the information they read if they want to spot if it's accurate or fake. In my opinion, colleges can resolve this problem by teaching the students and helping them to spot fake news. Schools must make students aware of fake information and how it's risky to their mindset and to their education. Students should look attentively at the sources and assume carefully, earlier than making their decisions.

Schools can help students to recognise fake news by sensitizing them to observe some cautions after they see any information online. Some of the steps are:



Students should develop their critical mindsets because a lot of people would be trying to make “shock” value, which means, they just want to get attention from these young people just because young people are more active on social media and they may be more likely to further share that information with their siblings and friends.



Students have to take a look at the sources if they come upon a story or information from a source that they've, by no means, heard of before. They should find out a bit more about the writer, reflect on his/her motivation to present this news and take a look if it is an expert and famous news or is it someone's non-public blog. They should also consider if it is as counterfeit site using a legitimate, real and recognized information website with a bit changing in the name or internet URL, e.g., an actual information internet site will be: www.uknews.stay.com and pretend information website may be: www.uknews.com.



Students also need to check the news if it's accurate by consulting different websites for the same information. However, if they have the access to that news on top news sites then they can be sure that the news they have read is correct and trusted, and if not then, he/she must be capable of classifying this as fake information. When people are looking to discern fake news and locate the differentiation between actual and fake news, this is called fact check.



SOURCE: [EDUBIRDIE](https://www.edubirdie.com)

HOW TO STOP FAKE NEWS

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks, What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

DO a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story?



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to the current event.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too oldish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if you have your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

