Title: Attitudes, behaviours and sources of information among social media users towards COVID19: A cross-cultural explanatory study

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Abstract:
Researchers, policymakers and societies alike are increasingly discussing the New Corona Virus situation. The European Commission, national governments and private foundations are investing large amounts of money for research, focusing on finding the potential solution for this global pandemic. At the same time, the media are flooded with information regarding the virus, both from credible sources and of unverified origin. To be able to curb the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated misinformation, we need to understand the basic principles that govern knowledge diffusion.

We leverage the wide usage of social media to collect the knowledge diffusion data sources at the global scale. In particular, we study public awareness, opinions on COVID-19, and the role of various communication channels in the propagation of myths and facts about the virus. The study is based on a large-scale online survey available in more than 26 languages, aiming to gather information from more than 14,000 individuals. Respondents are asked about their general knowledge about COVID-19, measures regarding prevention of the spread of the virus, opinions about myths and facts, and the estimation of the impact the virus will have on the society. Additionally, the survey contains questions relating to working from home, division of responsibilities regarding child care in countries were schools and kindergartens are closed. The questionnaire also investigates attitudes towards volunteering in times of the pandemic.

Data description: Data are gathered through a closed-ended survey using the Likert scale. Surveys are disseminated in two-steps; first by means of convenience sampling with the use of digital media, secondly through a snowball technique in which respondents were asked to share the survey with their personal contacts. At the stage of abstract submission we have collected about 14000 responses from 90 countries.

Country: Global

JEL codes: C8, C9, D1, D8,
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