



COMBATING FAKE NEWS THROUGH LAW: SOCIAL MEDIA REGULATION IN INDIA

Nareshkumar J Dave¹, Dr. Hemangini Arya²

¹ Ph.D. Research Scholar, Gukul Global University, Siddhpur.

² Gokul Global University, Siddhpur, Gujarat.

ABSTRACT

The proliferation of fake news has emerged as a critical issue in the digital age, particularly with the rapid growth of social media platforms. In India, the spread of misinformation through these platforms has raised concerns about public trust, political stability, and societal harmony. This paper examines the legal frameworks and social media regulations in India designed to combat fake news, focusing on the responsibilities of both the government and social media platforms. It explores the role of existing laws, such as the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules of 2021, and the importance of transparency, fact-checking systems, and digital literacy programs. The paper also offers recommendations to strengthen legal frameworks, enhance platform accountability, and promote responsible content creation. By analyzing the evolving nature of misinformation and proposing multi-faceted solutions, this study aims to contribute to the development of a more resilient and informed digital ecosystem in India.

KEYWORDS: Fake News, Social Media Regulation, Legal Framework, Misinformation, Digital Media Ethics, Intermediary Guidelines, Accountability, Digital Literacy

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's interconnected world, the rapid spread of information via digital platforms has transformed how we communicate, share ideas, and access news. However, this digital revolution has also led to a proliferation of misinformation and disinformation, commonly referred to as fake news. The term "fake news" encompasses a wide range of false or misleading content, from completely fabricated stories to distorted facts that are presented in a way that misleads the public. These stories can take the form of misleading headlines, altered images, and videos, or even entirely fabricated reports. The dissemination of fake news has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges in contemporary society, especially in democracies like India, where the impact can be far-reaching, affecting political stability, social harmony, and public health.

India, with its massive population and rapid growth in internet and smartphone usage, has become a prime target for the spread of fake news. The country has seen numerous instances where fake news has led to widespread panic, violence, and even deaths. For example, during elections, misinformation campaigns have been used to manipulate public opinion, with the potential to alter political outcomes. Similarly, during the COVID-19 pandemic, false information about the virus, vaccines, and treatments spread across various social media platforms, leading to confusion, fear, and poor decision-making. The rapid spread of these false narratives is often fueled by social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter (now X), and YouTube, where information can be disseminated quickly and widely, sometimes with little oversight.

This overwhelming presence of fake news has led to a growing

concern among policymakers, media professionals, and the public about the need for effective measures to counter its spread. While freedom of expression remains a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution, the dissemination of false information that harms individuals or society at large must be addressed. Therefore, it is crucial to strike a balance between safeguarding free speech and implementing necessary regulations to prevent the harm caused by fake news. Legal frameworks and regulatory measures are increasingly being seen as essential tools to combat fake news, especially in the context of social media platforms that operate across borders, often beyond the reach of national laws.

This article delves into the legal mechanisms and social media regulations in India aimed at tackling the growing menace of fake news. It explores the existing laws that attempt to control the spread of misinformation, the role of social media platforms in facilitating or curbing its spread, and the challenges involved in regulating digital content without infringing on fundamental rights. In particular, the article examines the role of government initiatives and legal frameworks such as the Information Technology Act, the Indian Penal Code, and more recent regulations like the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules of 2021. These efforts are essential in understanding how India is attempting to curb the influence of fake news while navigating the complexities of digital rights and privacy.

The significance of this issue cannot be overstated. In a democracy as large and diverse as India, the consequences of fake news can be far-reaching, from inciting violence and fostering division to undermining public trust in media and

democratic institutions. Therefore, understanding how laws and regulations can play a pivotal role in mitigating the damage caused by fake news is of utmost importance. This article aims to provide a detailed analysis of the current legal landscape, its effectiveness, and the potential for future reforms to better address the challenges posed by fake news in India's ever-evolving digital environment.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE AND IMPACT OF FAKE NEWS

The phenomenon of fake news has grown exponentially in the digital age, fueled by the rapid rise of social media platforms, user-generated content, and the increasing reliance on the internet as the primary source of news. Understanding the nature of fake news, its forms, and its far-reaching consequences is crucial to addressing the challenges it poses to societies globally, especially in countries like India. Below is a detailed exploration of the nature and impact of fake news.

Types of Fake News

- **Completely Fabricated Stories:** These are entirely false articles or reports created to mislead readers. They often come with sensational headlines designed to generate clicks and engagement.
- **Misleading Headlines:** A common form of fake news involves using misleading or sensationalized headlines to create a false impression of the content. This can include exaggerating or distorting facts to provoke strong emotional responses.
- **Manipulated Images and Videos:** With the advent of digital tools and software, images and videos can be altered or edited to mislead the audience. Deepfakes, where people's faces or voices are digitally altered to make them say or do things they never did, have also gained prominence.
- **Misleading or Out-of-Context Information:** This type of fake news involves presenting real information, but taken out of context, or cherry-picking facts to create a false narrative. This can include selective reporting of statistics or quotes that support a certain agenda.
- **Satirical Content:** Satire, while often humorous and intended as a form of social critique, can sometimes be mistaken for real news, especially if the context is not clear, leading to confusion.

Channels for Spread

- **Social Media Platforms:** Social media is the primary vehicle for the spread of fake news. With millions of users sharing content in real-time, platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (now X) allow fake news to go viral within minutes, reaching a global audience.
- **WhatsApp:** In India, WhatsApp is particularly problematic due to its encrypted messaging feature, which makes it difficult to track the origins of misinformation. Groups and forwarded messages spread fake news rapidly, often without any verification.
- **Twitter and Facebook:** These platforms have become hubs for the rapid dissemination of misinformation. Algorithms tend to prioritize sensational content, which often includes fake news, as it garners more attention and engagement.

- **Websites and Blogs:** Many websites and blogs publish fake or sensationalized news to drive traffic, with little regard for truth or journalistic standards. These sites can appear legitimate, making it harder for users to distinguish between credible and fake sources.

Political Polarization and Manipulation

- **Impact on Elections:** Fake news can be weaponized during elections to sway public opinion, manipulate voter behavior, and promote political ideologies. In India, the spread of fake news during elections has been a recurring issue, often affecting the democratic process. False claims about candidates, political parties, and electoral integrity can mislead voters and influence election outcomes.
- **Polarization of Society:** Fake news plays a significant role in deepening divisions in society by promoting biased or inflammatory content. This can result in heightened political, social, and religious divides, which affect national unity and stability.

Incitement of Violence and Social Unrest

- **Communal Riots and Lynching:** One of the most tragic consequences of fake news is the incitement of violence. Misinformation about individuals or communities has led to real-world violence, including mob lynchings and communal riots in India. For example, fake rumors about child kidnappers spread on WhatsApp led to several mob lynchings in the country.
- **Hate Speech and Misinformation:** Fake news often contains hate speech, targeting specific groups based on religion, caste, or ethnicity. This type of misinformation exacerbates social tensions and contributes to public unrest, making it harder for communities to coexist peacefully.

Public Health Implications

- **Health Misinformation:** The COVID-19 pandemic is a prime example of how fake news can have dire consequences for public health. False claims about the virus, treatments, and vaccines circulated widely on social media, causing confusion, fear, and even deaths. Fake news about cures, vaccines, and preventive measures can encourage individuals to ignore public health guidelines, worsening the impact of health crises.
- **Anti-Vaccine Movements:** Fake news has fueled the rise of anti-vaccine sentiments, which have gained momentum through social media platforms. False claims about vaccine side effects or conspiracies surrounding their development and distribution can cause people to avoid vaccination, potentially leading to outbreaks of preventable diseases.

Erosion of Trust in Media and Institutions

- **Loss of Credibility:** The prevalence of fake news erodes public trust in media organizations and institutions. When people are consistently exposed to false or misleading information, they begin to distrust not only unverified sources but also traditional media outlets. This can create an environment where people are skeptical of all information, undermining the integrity of credible news sources.
- **Manipulation of Public Opinion:** Fake news has the

potential to manipulate public opinion by amplifying divisive narratives, distorting the facts, and undermining factual reporting. This is particularly damaging in a democracy where informed decision-making is crucial.

Economic Consequences

- **Market Manipulation:** Fake news can affect stock markets and the value of companies. False reports about companies, such as fraudulent activities or mismanagement, can lead to stock price fluctuations, influencing investors and causing significant economic loss.
- **Damage to Reputations:** Businesses, individuals, and organizations may suffer from reputational damage due to the spread of fake news. False claims about a product, service, or individual can lead to financial losses and tarnish the public image of brands and public figures.

The nature of fake news is complex, multifaceted, and often difficult to detect. Its spread via social media platforms makes it a challenge to control, especially in a country as diverse and dynamic as India. The consequences of fake news are severe, affecting everything from political stability and social harmony to public health and economic well-being. Combating fake news requires a comprehensive approach that involves legal frameworks, technological innovation, public awareness, and international cooperation. Understanding its nature and impact is the first step in crafting effective policies to address the growing menace of fake news in the digital age.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING FAKE NEWS IN INDIA

The issue of fake news in India has prompted lawmakers and regulators to explore a legal framework that can effectively curb the spread of misinformation while balancing the fundamental right to freedom of expression guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. While India does not have a dedicated law specifically targeting fake news, there are several existing legal provisions and frameworks that can be applied to combat misinformation, depending on the nature and severity of the content being spread.

One of the key legal instruments used to address fake news in India is the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Under various sections of the IPC, individuals who create, spread, or incite violence through fake news can be charged with offenses such as defamation, mischief, criminal conspiracy, and promoting enmity between different groups. For example, Section 153A of the IPC makes it an offense to promote hatred between different communities, and this provision has been invoked in cases where fake news has led to communal violence or social unrest. Additionally, Section 505 of the IPC criminalizes statements or reports that can cause fear or alarm to the public, particularly those that might incite violence or public disorder. These provisions can be utilized when fake news leads to serious consequences such as riots, lynchings, or incitement to violence.

Another significant law that addresses the spread of fake news is the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act). The IT Act,

which governs cybercrimes and electronic commerce, provides a framework for dealing with online misinformation. Section 66A of the IT Act previously allowed the police to arrest individuals for sending offensive messages via communication service, social media platforms, or websites, including those that could be considered fake news. However, this section was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015 in the *Shreya Singhal* case on the grounds that it was overly broad and infringed upon the right to free speech. Despite this, other provisions of the IT Act remain applicable, particularly Section 66F, which criminalizes cyber terrorism, and Section 69A, which allows the government to block access to information or websites deemed to be harmful, including those disseminating fake news that could threaten national security or public order.

In recent years, the government of India has taken additional steps to regulate social media platforms and digital content to combat fake news more effectively. One of the most notable regulations is the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules of 2021, which impose stringent obligations on social media platforms, digital news publishers, and OTT (over-the-top) platforms. These rules require social media intermediaries like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter to take down harmful content swiftly, including fake news, within a set timeframe. They also mandate platforms to appoint compliance officers and create grievance redressal mechanisms to address complaints related to fake news and misinformation. Platforms are required to be more proactive in moderating content, identifying and removing harmful content, and taking appropriate action against users who violate the rules.

Furthermore, the Press Council of India (PCI) and the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) play an important role in regulating media content, although their jurisdiction is mainly limited to traditional media. The PCI has guidelines for ethical reporting, which include the responsibility of news outlets to ensure the accuracy and authenticity of information. Similarly, the NBSA issues directives to television channels to follow ethical practices and refrain from broadcasting sensationalized or false news. However, these bodies face challenges in addressing fake news on digital platforms, where the speed of dissemination far outpaces the ability of traditional media regulators to intervene.

In addition to these legal provisions, the Indian judiciary has also been active in addressing the impact of fake news. The courts have often been called upon to balance the right to free speech with the need to protect public order and prevent harm caused by misinformation. The Supreme Court of India has acknowledged the dangers posed by fake news, particularly in the context of its potential to incite violence, disrupt public order, and undermine democracy. In some cases, the court has directed the government to take stricter measures to curb the spread of false information, including through enhanced regulation of social media platforms.

Despite the existing legal framework, the regulation of fake news in India faces several challenges. The sheer volume of content generated daily on digital platforms makes it difficult

for authorities to monitor and control the spread of fake news effectively. Furthermore, the legal measures in place are often reactive rather than proactive, with limited resources allocated to the enforcement of existing laws. The lack of specific laws targeting fake news also creates confusion and inconsistency in how different types of misinformation are addressed across various legal domains.

Moreover, the challenge of defining what constitutes fake news remains a key issue. While misinformation and disinformation are relatively easy to identify, distinguishing between fake news and legitimate forms of criticism or opinion can be complex. This ambiguity has raised concerns about the potential misuse of laws to stifle free speech, especially in a country like India, where political polarization and the diverse media landscape create a delicate balance between regulation and expression.

In conclusion, while India has a range of legal provisions and regulatory mechanisms to address the spread of fake news, significant gaps remain in ensuring comprehensive and effective control. The legal framework needs to evolve to better address the unique challenges posed by digital media, including the rapid spread of misinformation and the global nature of online platforms. A nuanced approach that balances the need for regulation with the protection of free speech will be essential in combating fake news without undermining democratic freedoms.

4. SOCIAL MEDIA REGULATION AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

In recent years, the rise of social media as a primary source of information and communication has drastically transformed how news and opinions are shared. While social media platforms have provided significant benefits, including democratizing access to information and facilitating free expression, they have also become breeding grounds for the spread of fake news, misinformation, and harmful content. Recognizing the potential dangers of unchecked social media influence, the Indian government has introduced several regulations and initiatives to tackle the challenges posed by the digital age.

One of the most significant steps taken by the Indian government to regulate social media was the introduction of the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules of 2021. These rules, issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), aim to create a more accountable and responsible digital ecosystem. They apply to significant social media intermediaries, which are platforms with over 50 million users in India. The guidelines require social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Instagram to appoint compliance officers, grievance officers, and other staff to address complaints from users related to harmful or illegal content, including fake news. These platforms are mandated to take down such content within a specified time frame—typically 36 hours—after receiving a formal complaint.

Under these rules, social media platforms must also trace the originators of provocative or harmful content, a move intended to deter the spread of fake news and other illegal

material. The traceability requirement has been a subject of debate, particularly concerning concerns about privacy. Critics argue that the government's insistence on traceability could lead to breaches of personal privacy, especially for encrypted messaging platforms like WhatsApp. However, the government defends this provision, asserting that it is necessary to address the significant public harm caused by fake news, misinformation, and hate speech that can spread rapidly on social media.

The government has also introduced measures to curb the spread of fake news in the form of Fact-Checking Units (FCUs). In 2019, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of India established a fact-checking unit that focuses on debunking misinformation related to government policies and actions. This initiative aims to provide the public with verified and accurate information, counteracting the misinformation that circulates on social media platforms. The PIB's fact-checking unit monitors claims made on social media and news websites and provides clarifications, which are often shared through official government channels. This initiative helps raise awareness about the risks of consuming unverified content online and encourages citizens to seek trustworthy sources for information.

In addition to these efforts, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has worked on digital media regulation through self-regulatory mechanisms. The MIB has issued guidelines for news organizations operating in the digital space to maintain ethical reporting standards and ensure transparency. These guidelines cover aspects such as the verification of sources, fact-checking, and the responsible dissemination of information. However, while self-regulation is encouraged, the government has indicated that it may step in with more stringent rules if necessary, especially if fake news poses a significant threat to national security or public order.

Another major initiative is the Digital India Campaign, which seeks to promote digital literacy among citizens, especially in rural and underserved areas. By increasing digital literacy, the government aims to equip the public with the skills necessary to identify fake news and misinformation online. Digital literacy programs often focus on teaching individuals how to differentiate between credible sources and false or misleading content. This initiative has the potential to reduce the susceptibility of vulnerable groups to fake news, making the public more discerning and less likely to share or act on false information.

The government has also made attempts to collaborate with social media companies to enforce stricter regulations. In recent years, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has held meetings with representatives from major social media companies to discuss measures for combating the spread of fake news and harmful content. These meetings have led to various commitments from these companies, such as the establishment of dedicated teams to monitor and address harmful content and the implementation of transparency reports to outline the steps taken by these platforms to remove harmful content.

Furthermore, the Information Technology (Reasonable

Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011, which form part of the larger framework of the IT Act, mandate data protection and security protocols that social media companies must follow. These rules aim to regulate the collection, processing, and storage of personal data, ensuring that individuals' privacy is protected. However, the increasing concerns over data privacy and the potential misuse of personal information by social media platforms have led to calls for more comprehensive privacy laws in India.

Despite these regulatory steps, challenges persist. The rapid pace of digital content creation, the global nature of social media platforms, and the often decentralized nature of misinformation make regulation difficult to enforce consistently. Moreover, the effectiveness of the government's initiatives is sometimes undermined by the reluctance of social media platforms to fully comply with Indian regulations, often citing issues related to privacy, international governance, and platform autonomy.

Critics of the government's approach to social media regulation argue that the regulatory measures could stifle free speech and lead to censorship. There is a fine line between regulating harmful content and restricting the free flow of information. Concerns over potential overreach and the possibility of the government using these regulations to target dissenting opinions or political opponents have led to debates about the balance between regulation and freedom of expression.

5. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Social media platforms have become powerful tools for communication, information dissemination, and public discourse. They provide individuals, organizations, and governments with the ability to reach a global audience instantly. However, the rapid growth and widespread usage of social media have also given rise to numerous challenges, particularly in relation to the spread of fake news, misinformation, and harmful content. In this context, the role and responsibility of social media platforms have become a critical area of concern for policymakers, legal authorities, and civil society.

At the core of the role of social media platforms is their function as intermediaries in the communication process. These platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, and YouTube, serve as conduits for users to share content, express opinions, and connect with others. Their design and algorithms prioritize content that attracts attention and engagement, often promoting sensationalized, controversial, or misleading material. This inherent structure of social media platforms, which rewards viral content regardless of its veracity, is one of the primary reasons behind the widespread dissemination of fake news. The responsibility of social media platforms, therefore, lies not only in offering these spaces for public interaction but also in ensuring that the content shared on their platforms adheres to standards of accuracy, truth, and safety.

Social media platforms have been increasingly held accountable for the content published by users. While they are not traditional

publishers, platforms like Facebook and Twitter are now being regarded as more than just passive intermediaries. This shift in perception places a greater responsibility on them to monitor and regulate the information flowing through their networks. Social media companies have a duty to prevent the spread of harmful content, such as fake news, hate speech, and content that incites violence or promotes discrimination. However, implementing such measures is complex, given the sheer volume of content generated by millions of users each day and the challenges of distinguishing between harmful misinformation and legitimate expression.

In response to growing concerns about misinformation, several social media platforms have taken steps to implement content moderation policies aimed at curbing fake news. These policies include using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning tools to flag misleading content, enhancing user reporting mechanisms, and working with fact-checking organizations to verify disputed information. For example, Facebook has partnered with third-party fact-checking organizations to review and label potentially false content, while Twitter has introduced warning labels for tweets that violate its policies on misinformation. These steps are part of a broader effort to reduce the harmful impact of fake news on public discourse and to maintain the integrity of the information ecosystem.

Despite these efforts, social media platforms continue to face significant challenges in tackling fake news. One of the key issues is the difficulty in distinguishing between different types of misinformation. Fake news can take various forms, ranging from deliberate hoaxes and fabricated stories to unintentional misinformation and manipulated content. The responsibility of social media platforms is to identify and remove content that falls into these categories while ensuring that they do not infringe on users' rights to free speech. The line between censorship and regulation is often blurred, leading to criticism that these platforms overreach in their moderation efforts or fail to do enough to protect users from harmful content.

Another important aspect of social media platforms' responsibility is their role in safeguarding user data and privacy. Given that many fake news campaigns are designed to exploit personal data and target specific individuals or groups, platforms must ensure robust data protection policies are in place. The Cambridge Analytica scandal, which exposed how Facebook data was misused for political manipulation, highlighted the significant risks associated with social media platforms' collection and use of personal data. In light of such incidents, platforms are under increasing pressure to improve their transparency in data handling and take steps to prevent their services from being exploited for malicious purposes.

The responsibility of social media platforms extends beyond simply removing fake news or harmful content. Platforms must also take proactive measures to promote media literacy and help users navigate the vast amount of information available online. Many users, particularly those from vulnerable demographics or rural areas, may not be equipped with the skills needed to critically evaluate the information they encounter on social

media. Platforms can play a crucial role in supporting digital literacy efforts by providing users with the tools and resources to better identify credible sources, fact-check information, and resist the allure of sensationalized or misleading narratives. By doing so, social media platforms can help empower users to make more informed decisions and reduce the overall impact of fake news.

Additionally, social media platforms must be transparent about their content moderation practices and the algorithms that govern content distribution. These platforms often rely on algorithms that prioritize content based on engagement metrics, such as likes, shares, and comments. This can inadvertently amplify sensational or misleading stories that generate high levels of interaction, regardless of their accuracy. As a result, platforms must take responsibility for how their algorithms influence the spread of information and ensure that they are designed to prioritize reliable, factual content over sensationalism. There is also a growing call for greater transparency in how platforms apply their content moderation policies, with demands for clear guidelines on what constitutes fake news and how it is flagged or removed.

In many jurisdictions, including India, governments are increasingly holding social media platforms accountable for the spread of fake news. This has led to regulatory frameworks that require platforms to take more responsibility for the content shared on their sites. In India, the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules of 2021 have made it mandatory for social media platforms to adhere to certain standards of accountability, including the appointment of grievance redressal officers and the removal of harmful content within a specified time frame. These regulations push platforms to take a more active role in content moderation and to cooperate with authorities in addressing the challenges posed by misinformation. However, the role of social media platforms in enforcing these regulations continues to evolve, as the intersection of technology, law, and ethics presents new challenges in the fight against fake news.

6. CONCLUSION

The spread of fake news poses a significant challenge to the fabric of democratic societies, affecting public trust, social cohesion, and national security. In India, where social media plays a central role in the daily lives of millions, combating fake news requires a collective effort from all stakeholders—governments, social media platforms, the media, and individual users. While the legal framework and regulation have made progress, there is still a need for comprehensive and adaptive measures that address the ever-evolving nature of misinformation.

Social media platforms must take greater responsibility for the content they host, ensuring transparency and accountability in their content moderation practices. At the same time, the government must ensure that regulations are not overly restrictive, balancing the need to curb fake news with the protection of free speech. A combination of strict regulatory measures, enhanced fact-checking systems, and user education

through digital literacy programs can help mitigate the impact of fake news.

Ultimately, creating a culture of critical thinking, responsible content creation, and active engagement from the public is key to effectively combating misinformation. Only by fostering a well-informed and vigilant society can we ensure that the fight against fake news remains resilient in the face of new challenges. By taking a comprehensive approach that includes legal reforms, platform accountability, and public awareness, India can pave the way for a more transparent and trustworthy digital information ecosystem.

REFERENCES

1. Bali, Aasita, and Prathik Desai. "Fake news and social media: Indian perspective." *Media Watch* 10.3 (2019): 737-750.
2. Banerjee, Amila, and Mehrazun Neesa Haque. "Is fake news real in India." *Journal of Content, Community and Communication* 4.8 (2018): 46-49.
3. Goswami, Manash Pratim. "Fake News and Cyber Propaganda: A study of manipulation and abuses on Social Media." *Mediascape in 21st century: emerging perspectives* (2018): 535-544.
4. Ibrahim, Yasmin, and Fadi Safieddine, eds. *Fake news in an era of social media: tracking viral contagion*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2020.
5. Kaushik, D. (2024). Policy responses to fake news on social media platforms: a law and economics analysis. *Statute Law Review*, 45(1), hmae013.
6. Ngange, Kingsley Lyonga, and Moki Stephen Mokondo. "Understanding social media's role in propagating falsehood in conflict situations: Case of the Cameroon Anglophone Crisis." *Studies in media and Communication* 7.2 (2019): 55-67.
7. Raj, Adharsh, and Manash Pratim Goswami. "Is fake news spreading more rapidly than COVID-19 in India." *Journal of Content, Community and Communication* 11.10 (2020): 208-220.
8. Shankar, Ravi, and Tabrez Ahmad. "Information technology laws: Mapping the evolution and impact of social media regulation in India." *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology* 41.4 (2021): 295-301.