# Public turnout on social media during the quarantine period of the Corona pandemic from the point of view of website users in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia

## Prepared by

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**Abstract:**

This study aimed to identify the nature of the role played by various social media towards the topic of the Corona pandemic (Covid 19) since its appearance, especially in the Arab countries, where the two researchers started this research during the period of the spread of this epidemi**c** and during of the quarantine period in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, and this After noting the increasing reliance of the audience on social networks during this period to obtain news and information about the pandemic.

The study was interested in identifying functional aspects that link social networking sites and the audience dependence on these sites during the spread of this epidemic, in addition to searching for the roles played by these networks during that exceptional period, leading to an attempt to reveal the effects of them, whether cognitive, emotional or even behavioral. With an attempt to deduce the extent of differences between the answers of the users of the three Arab countries.

**Keywords:** social media sites, the Corona pandemic, the public, turnout, dependence.


**An introduction**

With the emergence of the Corona virus in the Chinese city of Wuhan, social media platforms have emerged as important digital communication channels that individuals rely on to access information related to the truth of the virus. Quarantine imposed in most countries of the world.

In that exceptional period of human life, everyone noticed the increasing demand for traditional and new media, as the research of the Global Web Index Center for Research on the Use of Websites found that nearly 50% of the public in Western countries increased the use of websites, including social media, for research. About the news, especially with regard to the risks of the Covid-19 epidemic and how to avoid them, as estimates indicated at the time that the use of social networking sites will increase by 45% by 2021, to rise from 2.65 billion users to 3.96% billion users (2020, (Statista), where social networking sites have become It forms the link between users to satisfy the social needs that social distancing has imposed denial of.

Of course, the same was true at the level of Arab countries, especially with quarantine and social distancing in most of these countries, as these networks accompanied the Arab user strongly, especially with his increasing reliance on them in the field of health awareness and education.

Accordingly, this study came to examine the degree of public turnout and dependence in Arab countries on social media during the quarantine period of the Corona

pandemic in obtaining information and news related to the virus, and the resulting effects in light of the two theories of dependence and the knowledge gap.

## 1/ Search problem

With the spread of the Corona virus (Covid 19), and its penetration of all borders and countries, countries rushed to implement home quarantine procedures as one of the effective mechanisms to limit its spread among individuals, this situation was common to most countries of the world. Since the beginning of the epidemic on their lands, the Arab countries have announced a quarantine for their citizens, as it was initially uneven between these countries in form and time; But the common thing at that time is the urgent need for direct and immediate health awareness for all segments of society in order to contain the disease and limit the spread of the pandemic.

This was done by employing all media and communication means, whether traditional or new, to deliver media and persuasive messages to all target audiences, in order to raise their awareness of individual and societal responsibility in the preventive aspect and to encourage citizens to abide by the precautionary measures taken.

The issue of Corona and its developments has received wide media coverage from various social networks, whether Facebook, Twitter, Instagram ... etc., especially with the increasing exposure of individuals to these sites; According to a lot of research and studies, people's use of social networking sites has increased during quarantine periods in most countries of the world and not only at the level of Arab countries, and what is certain is that this turnout was for multiple justifications and motives that we are trying to identify and on other important aspects in this study whose research problem revolved around Knowing the intensity of users' turnout in: Algeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia on social networking sites during the quarantine, the degree of their dependence on these sites for information about the emerging corona virus, and the effects of that use, especially in terms of behaviour.

## 2/ Study questions

**The study attempted to answer the following questions:**

- What is the average turnout of the study sample in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia on social media during the quarantine imposed due to the Corona pandemic?

-What are the communication sites that the study sample relies on to investigate the news of the Corona virus?

-What is the interest of the study sample vocabulary in following the developments of the Corona virus in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia?

- To what extent does the sample rely on social media to obtain information about the emergence of the Corona virus in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia?

- What is the nature of the accounts - spreading the topics of the virus - that users of social networking sites prefer to follow in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia?

-Is there a knowledge gap between the respondents about the reality of the Corona virus in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia?

- How does the study sample evaluate the role of social networking sites in public awareness of the Corona virus (Covid 19)?

-What are the effects of the respondents' turnout - the study sample - on social media during the imposed quarantine period due to the Corona pandemic?

## 3 / Objectives of the study

Through this study, the two researchers sought to achieve the following objectives:

- Standing on the intensity of users' turnout for social media during the Corona pandemic in Egypt, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

- Knowing the most important communication sites that the study sample relies on to investigate the news of the Corona virus.

- Knowing the extent of the study sample's interest in following up on the developments of the Corona virus in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

Knowing the fact that the sample relied on social networking sites to obtain information about the emergence of the Corona virus in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Determining the nature of the accounts - spreading the topics of the virus - that users of social networking sites prefer to follow in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

- Exposing a knowledge gap between the respondents about the reality of the Corona virus in Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

- Knowing the evaluation of the study sample for the role of social networking sites in educating the public against the Corona virus (Covid 19).

- Knowing the effects resulting from the turnout of the respondents - the study sample - on social networking sites during the imposed quarantine period due to the Corona pandemic.

- Presenting a comparative study between the three countries under study on the subject being studied.

## 4/ The importance of studying

Since every scientific research highlights its implementation and establishes its conduct based on the nature and importance of its topic, the research in this topic came out of its great importance, according to the following points:

This study coincides with a global health pandemic that has affected the entire world, and social distancing has become the best prevention and treatment in the absence of a vaccine for the virus, as well as in light of many countries imposing home quarantine on their citizens with some limited exceptions, and therefore we are in light of this given In this study, we search for the extent of the increasing demand of users on social networking sites during this pandemic, in order to reveal the most important effects of this demand in terms of cognitive, emotional and behavioral aspects.

- The importance of the research topic, which allows us to provide data and statistics about the role of social networking sites during the spread of epidemics and the occurrence of disasters.

- This study examines the role of social networking sites in the awareness aspect of the Corona virus, as the bet of many countries during the pandemic was to focus on citizen awareness, especially with the increasing negative effects of the pandemic on local and global economies and the presence of increasing demands to lift and suspend the stone.

- This research delves into the topic studied from various angles and research problems, with a comparison between those dimensions and angles at the level of three Arab countries.

The importance of the study comes in light of the lack of academic studies that dealt with the dialectic of social networking sites and the Corona pandemic at the level of the Arab world at the beginning of the pandemic (while conducting the study).

## 5/ study assignments

Based on the questions posed, we offer the following hypotheses:

- First hypothesis: There is a correlation between the study sample's demand for using social networking sites and interest in Corona topics.

The second hypothesis: There is a relationship between the study sample's interest in Corona topics through social networking sites and the evaluation of the role of sites in educating the public against the Corona virus (Covid 19).

The third hypothesis: There is a correlation between the study sample's dependence on social media to obtain information about the emergence of the Corona virus and the resulting effects.

**Study concepts**

· The audience:

The public is a group of people exposed to the media (Emmanuel Fraisse, 2003, p37))

And the public in the communicative process, according to d. Muhammad Karat is the element that receives the communicative or informational message, interacts with it and is influenced by it. It is the party to which the message is directed and its symbols are resolved. There is no doubt that understanding the audience, its characteristics and circumstances plays an important role in understanding the meaning of the message, and the degree of its impact on the mentality of that audience. The success of the communicative process should not be measured by what the sender provides, but rather by what the receiver does behaviorally. We cannot expect the audience to automatically believe and comply with the media message, as it may reject it, or respond to it, if it is consistent with its tendencies, trends and desires, and some audience may take a position of indifference towards the message and not interact with it.

. https://al-sharq.com/opinion/24/05/2014 /

**Turnout:**

**Language:**

The turnout is a more accepting source, the turnout for the lesson means interest in it and diligence https://www.almaany.com/

- Procedurally: The demand in this research is intended to increase the public's exposure and use of social networking sites during the period of home quarantine that was imposed due to the Corona pandemic.

Corona virus is a large strain of viruses that may cause disease in animals and humans, and it is known that a number of corona viruses cause respiratory diseases in humans ranging in severity from the common cold to more deadly diseases, especially such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The recently discovered coronavirus causes COVID-19 (bug, 2020, pg: 496).

● COVID-19

According to the World Health Organization, the Corona virus, Covid 19, is one of the types of coronavirus strain known scientifically as Corona that targets the respiratory system, and the term 19COVID consists of several parts, and each part carries a meaning; "CO" is an abbreviation for corona, "VI" is an abbreviation for virus, "D" is an abbreviation for disease, and the number "19" is relative to the year in which the disease was announced (https://popsciarabia.com/)

**Quarantine**

It is isolation and staying in one place and not leaving it to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among individuals, and quarantine is one of the health strategies that many countries resorted to during the spread of the Corona virus (Covid 19) in order to reduce the chances of infection, especially in the absence of a vaccine at the time.
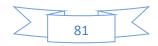
**7/ Previous studies**

At the beginning of conducting this research, there were not yet studies directly related to the topic in question, but as a result of the delay of the two researchers in publishing the topic due to special circumstances, a sample of studies published later on the topic were included, which are:

**\* Study of Muhammad Lutfi Zakaria Al-Shimi (2020)**

The study sought to determine the impact of the Egyptian public's reliance on the official pages of the Egyptian Ministry of Health site Facebook in the framework of the theory of reliance on the media, and the disclosure of the communication strategies used by the Ministry of Health of these platforms to communicate with the masses and provide them with information and counter rumors in the context of a form of crisis communication emergency CERC risk, The study relied on the survey method, and used two questionnaire tools for a sample of 376 individuals, and content analysis of 263 publications on the sample pages of the study, and the study reached the following results:

- High rates of dependence on Facebook as a source for information, and the emergence of positive evaluation to the Ministry of Health pages, in addition to the rise of interest reports and data daily updated (Reduction Strategy uncertainty), and the procedures and measures personal protection, and promoting effective behaviors (effective strategy), as opposed to Weak attention and lack of focus on information about the virus, its symptoms and modes of transmission (risk message strategy), and the groups most vulnerable to infection or infection (risk warning strategy, Muhammad Lutfi, 2020) (El-Shimy, 2020).

\* Hamza Belbay study (2020): On the role of preventive media through social media in preventing the Corona virus (Covid 19) in Algeria:

The study focused on highlighting the extent of the interest of the official page of the Directorate of Civil Protection in health and preventive issues, and on the Facebook site, in order to reveal its media treatment in the time period from 03/06/2020 to 06/20/2020 and by analyzing 130 publications from the official page. For the Directorate of Civil Protection as a model for communication pages, its vocabulary was chosen intentionally and through the analysis it became clear that social media sites, especially the official page of the Directorate of Civil Protection of the State of M'sila, gave great attention to preventive and health issues, as the percentage was estimated at 56.92% (Bilbay, Hamza, 2020)
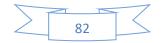
**\* Study of Ali Mohamed Fouda (2020)**

The importance of this study comes in knowing the extent to which this new medium (social networking sites) with all its different platforms are able to provide young people with information, especially about this pandemic that has occupied the whole world, and has led to a significant increase in the rate of media use, especially social networking sites, given that The Corona crisis is a global crisis that has made the whole world united by one fate, and everyone is searching for a lifeline from this pandemic.

Where the problem of the study crystallized in examining the level of youth's dependence on social networking sites in obtaining information about the Corona pandemic, which has attracted the attention of the whole world, in light of what is confirmed by the evidence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's global leadership in the use of "Twitter", so that the research problem crystallizes in: What is the level of The reliance of Saudi youth on social media to obtain information about the Corona pandemic? It aimed to identify the impact of the new media (social networking sites) in spreading health culture, to identify the disadvantages of the new media and its damage to society, and how to avoid such problems from the point of view of young people, and the most important topics that young people were exposed to as a result of their reliance on social networking sites as a source of information About Corona, as well as identifying the most important sources that young people rely on in following up on the Corona pandemic. In obtaining information about Corona, it is Twitter, and 40.3% of them see it as "Instagram", 36% of them see it as "Snapchat", and 34% of them see it as "Facebook" (Fouda, 2020). .

**\* Study of Abdul-Malik Abdul-Aziz Al-Shalhoub (2020)**

This study aimed to identify the role played by the Saudi Ministry of Health in educating members of the Saudi society about the Corona pandemic, the effectiveness of the media and communication methods and technological patterns used by the Ministry of Health in raising awareness of the Corona virus, and to what extent the Ministry of Health's media messages contributed to building health awareness. Members of Saudi society have this virus, and the impact of the media

performance of the Ministry of Health on the extent to which members of Saudi society benefit from the information provided by the Ministry of Health in raising awareness of the Corona virus.

The results of the study confirmed that the communication and media practices of the Saudi Ministry of Health in managing the Corona pandemic crisis and building health awareness among members of Saudi society were very successful and were at the level of the event and played a large and important role in building the Saudi individual and his knowledge, emotional and behavioral formation about the Corona virus in a great way, and messages and means worked And the media methods and technological patterns used to increase the balance of Saudi society members of information and experiences that weave its healthy attitudes, opinions and behaviors about the Corona virus. This success also confirms the tremendous ability of the Saudi Ministry of Health to plan effectively to manage this crisis and follow the principles of effective organization based on the scientific method, which resulted in effective communication practices in educating members of the Saudi community with the Corona virus. Efficiency and effectiveness, as it is a strong pillar of its success (Al-Shalhoub, 2020).
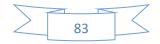
**Ramadan Araz and others study (2020)**

The study focused on the impact of social media on inducing panic during the Covid 19 pandemic in Iraqi Kurdistan by determining how social media influence mental health through a survey of 516 individuals online in the Kurdistan Region, and the results confirmed that social media have a role in spreading panic. And fear because of Corona, and it also has a potential negative impact on the mental and psychological health of the public, and Facebook was the most used social network in spreading panic (Araz, Ramazan Ahmad&others, 2020).

**\*Kaila& Krishna Prasad study(2020)**

The researchers were interested in the flow of information about the virus through Twitter during its spread, by analyzing the content of tweets related to the virus and the various solicitations and feelings that they carry. Chief among them is fear and panic, and the most visible positive emotion through Twitter was confidence in reaching the vaccine. The government, health authorities and institutions have also succeeded in using Twitter effectively to disseminate accurate and reliable information about the virus (Kaila, Krishna, 2020).

\* Aspects of benefiting from previous studies: The two researchers benefited from previous studies in several aspects, including:

Good understanding of the subject being studied.

- Knowing the research aspects that were focused on in previous studies. Thus, other research aspects that were not addressed were selected.

Choosing the appropriate tools for data collection, especially the design of the questionnaire.

- Forming a perception about the selection of appropriate theories for research.

- Comparing the results of the current study with the results of previous studies that were presented.

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## 8/ Theoretical background of the study

This study relied on the following theories:

## A- Theory of media dependence

The theory of media dependence aims to reveal the reasons why the media sometimes have strong and direct effects, and at other times they have indirect and somewhat weak effects. Social small and large relate to each other, and then try to explain the behavior of the parts in relation to these relationships.

As the name of the theory suggests, the main relationship that governs it is the dependence relationship between the media, the social system and the public, and these relationships may be with all media systems, or one of its parts, such as: newspapers, magazines, radio, television, cinema (Makawi, 2009, p. 314) .

**This theory is based on the following assumptions:**

● The greater the unrest in society, the higher the public's demand for the media.

● The more the media system in society is able to satisfy the needs of the masses, the more the public will turn to the media.

● The levels of audience turnout to the media vary according to the audience's goal and trends.

The theory of media dependence has been linked to a set of studies carried out by researcher Sandra Paul Rokich, in which she explained that the media is classified as a source of power that influences individuals, and that contributes to providing them with a set of information on various topics. Rokich, researcher Melvin DeFleur, participated in developing a model for the theory of media dependence, which was based on the study of the main components of the media, which are the media, society and the public (Mazahra, 2018, pp. 217-219).

According to this theory, the effects of the media on the recipients are manifested in three levels:

Cognitive effects: they appear through the increasing cognitive aspect of the recipient, through the following: ambiguity, formation of direction, order of priorities, breadth of beliefs....etc.

Emotional effects: They are embodied in several emotional effects, including emotional apathy, fear and anxiety, moral support and alienation.

- Behavioral effects: They are the final product of cognitive and affective influences, which are reflected in the behavior of the recipient through activation and inactivity.

The two researchers relied on this theory to monitor the extent to which the study sample relied on social networking sites to know the developments of the Corona virus and ways to prevent it, and to monitor the resulting cognitive and affective behavioral effects.

## B- The cognitive gap theory

This theory assumes that the flow of information from the media within the social system causes groups of the public with a high economic and social level to acquire this information at faster rates than groups with a low economic and social level. Thus, the knowledge gap between the different groups of the public tends to increase

rather than decrease, and this assumption confirms that groups with a low social and economic level do not remain poor in this information in general, but rather acquire relatively less information from higher levels. (Ismail, 2013, p. 84)

Many studies and research have supported the ideas of this theory, especially in the United States of America, Europe, America and the Middle East, where it was found that economic and social factors have an important role in acquiring knowledge. We mention (Mazahra, 2018, p. 221): social and economic level, educational level, degree of interest in topics, volume of exposure to the media, extent of exposure, degree of motivation, balance of information and personal experience, nature of the topic or issue raised, intensity of media coverage and demographic variables.

This theory was relied on to measure the cognitive differences that exist among the respondents on the subject of Corona, as this theory is based on the idea of the disparity that exists between individuals and groups in knowledge, and the impact of exposure to mass media in the presence or increase of this disparity (Ismail, 2013, p. 84).

## 9/ Fields of study

The limits of the study were in the following areas:

A/ spatial domain: The study covered three Arab countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Algeria. The two researchers chose these countries intentionally because of the ease of encouraging respondents to respond to the electronic questionnaire form.

B/ Time range: Since the emergence of the epidemic and almost simultaneously in the Arab countries, the first signs of the researcher's idea appeared on this subject, especially with the increase in the subject's ability to search in practice, as a result of the increasing periods of individuals' use of social networking sites, and the increasing reliance on them to obtain knowledge information about the virus and after controlling The methodological aspect of the topic, the two researchers started designing the questionnaire, and after completing all its requirements, its link was distributed on March 25 to April 25, 2020, after which the stage of communicative processing and drawing conclusions came at the end of May 2020.

A/ The human domain: the research sample was represented in the available sample, which is estimated to number 583 items, distributed as follows: 208 items from Saudi Arabia, 191 items from Algeria, 184 items from Egypt.

## 10/ Type and method of study

There are many methods that researchers rely on to find solutions to the various problems of their research, according to their different topics and different goals. Based on this, the two researchers considered that the most appropriate approach that

can contribute to answering the questions raised and achieving the desired goals is both the descriptive approach and the comparative approach. As the descriptive approach is one of the most widely used approaches in media and communication research because of the clarity of its steps and its availability to use various statistical methods in analyzing the collected data. It is a method that seeks to determine the current status of a particular phenomenon, then works to describe it, and then it depends on the study of the reality or the phenomenon as it exists in reality and is concerned with describing it accurately, and this means that the descriptive method tells us what is currently present. :50)

As for the comparative approach, it is the method used by researchers to interpret and analyze similar phenomena in terms of defining each of them and identifying similarities and differentiation between them in order to reach scientific results (Bakr, 2003, :37).

So, this study is a descriptive study that seeks to describe and diagnose the respondents' dependence on social media during the Corona pandemic and the degree of their turnout to the sites, especially during periods of home quarantine imposed by countries, in addition to researching the effects of this exposure. Through the two approaches, we will be able to know the extent to which there is a knowledge gap between the respondents on the topic being studied, especially since the research was at the beginning of the emergence of the virus in the Arab countries, the field of study.

## 11/ Research community and study sample

The research community in this study is represented in all users of social networking sites in the following Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, and because it was not possible to access all the vocabulary of this community, it was relied on the sampling method from this community by choosing an appropriate type of non-probability samples, which are The available sample, which is the sample that the two researchers were able to access, and accordingly this type of survey allowed us to access 584 items in the three Arab countries, distributed as follows: Algeria 192 items, Egypt 184 items, and Saudi Arabia 208 items.

**Data collection tools**:

The study relied on a questionnaire tool that included the following topics:

The demand for social networking sites increased during the home quarantine due to the Corona pandemic.

Interest in following up on Corona topics on social media.

- Adopting the sample on the communication sites to obtain information about the emergence of the Corona virus and the nature of the preferred accounts.

- Evaluation of the study sample for the role of social networking sites in public awareness of the Corona virus (Covid 19).

The effects of social networking sites on the sample with regard to following up on Corona virus topics.

There is a knowledge gap in the sample about the Corona virus.

The validity and reliability of the questionnaire

**First: Stability**: To ensure the stability of the axes, the researcher used the Alpha Cronbach correlation coefficient for each axis, and the result was as follows:

The degree of stability of the study scales ranged from 51 to 77, and the statements that were confirmed to be the reason for the weakness of each axis were omitted, which indicates the homogeneity of the vocabulary of each axis independently, and also the study sample's understanding of the vocabulary of each axis in the same way, which confirms the validity of the results that will be reached to her.

**Second:** The validity of the questionnaire: The study used two methods to measure the validity of the questionnaire:

## A- Apparent honesty (arbitrators)

The questionnaire form was presented in its initial form to a group of arbitrators from fellow researchers, in order to modify the questionnaire items as they saw fit, either by deleting, adding or modifying, and the approval rate of the arbitrators on the questionnaire's paragraphs was not less than 93%. This means that the questionnaire axes are valid for application to the study sample.

## B - The sincerity of internal consistency

To calculate the extent of the structural consistency of the study measures, the relationship of each axis element to the degree was measured
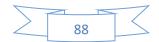
College of the axis the following is a presentation of the degrees of internal consistency of the study scales.

13- Study results:

We present the results obtained as follows:

First: The results of the study according to the questions:

The answer to the first question: What is the rate of turnout of the study sample on social networking sites?

This question was answered through two dimensions: the first is related to the rate of browsing the social networking sites weekly, and the second is related to the daily browsing rate as follows:

Table No. (07) shows the rate of turnout of the sample on social networking sites

Extrapolating the data from Table No. (7), it becomes clear to us that 89.9% of the sample browse social networking sites daily, which means that they constitute an essential part of their lives, and the daily browsing rate has increased in the three countries in close proportions, although the Egyptians are at the forefront by 93.5%, then The Saudis are 89.9% and finally the Algerians are 86.5%, but if we analyze these numbers in the light of the study sample, we will discover that the sample was from the youth group (between 18-45 years) and it was higher in the Egyptian sample than in the Saudi sample and vice versa in the category (45-60). It is known that young people use social media the most, and therefore it is not possible to be certain that Egyptians use more than Saudis.

In general, the arithmetic average of the weekly browsing rate increased to reach the relative weight of the arithmetic average 75.6%, and this explains the result of the sample's evaluation of the role of communication sites in raising awareness of the Corona pandemic with a positive role.

Table No. (08) Shows the duration of the sample browsing social networking sites

جادوال هونا

The results of Table No. (08) show that 39.4% of the respondents browse social networking sites at a medium intensity (1-3 hours per day), followed by 32% surfers (3-7 hours), while the percentage of users at a low level (less than Hours) did not exceed 7.2%, which indicates a high rate of browsing the sample for communication sites, and the relative weight of the arithmetic average reached 66.91%. Although the study sample is not only young people, but the percentage of young people (from the age of 18-30) did not exceed 37.3%, and it is known that this category is the highest use of communication sites.

It also became clear that the Saudis are more likely to browse the communication sites than the Algerians and the Egyptians, and this may be due to the higher level of income in Saudi Arabia than in Egypt and Algeria, which allows its members to permanently subscribe to the Internet service, while the Algerians and Egyptians depend on its use at specific times.

**The second question:** What are the sample sources for following up on Corona news?

This question was answered through tables (10, 09, 11), where Table (09) was concerned with the sources of the sample to follow up on Corona news, Table (10) was interested in knowing the social networking sites that the sample followed, and Table (11) was concerned with the nature of the social networking accounts used From the researchers on the Corona pandemic.
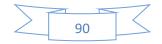
Data indicate that social networking sites come at the forefront of the sources on which the sample relies in knowing the developments of the Covid 19 virus, with a large difference from other sources; Where the relative weight of the arithmetic mean of this source reached 89.04%, and Saudi Arabia was the most used of this source, then Algeria and then Egypt.

The Ministry of Health website option came in second place and the Friends option came in third place, with a slight difference in the arithmetic mean between them, where the arithmetic mean for them reached 72.47% and 70.67%, respectively.

What is striking is the decline of traditional media as a source of news, especially the press, especially in Egypt, where only 7.6% of Egyptians reported using newspapers as a source of news about this pandemic. The research sample

Egyptian students) followed the Corona pandemic through the new media, and social networking sites came at the forefront of the means from which they drew their information about it, and also a study (Saleh 2021, p. The results of (Al-Shalhoub, 2020) also confirmed that the Internet is the first source of information on the Corona virus for the Saudi public.

The results show that Facebook topped the list of use among the study sample with a relative weight of the arithmetic average of 73.67%, which indicates a high percentage of use, followed by WhatsApp and YouTube with a relative weight of the arithmetic averages 63.87%, 63.01%, respectively, and Tik Tok came in the last rank with a relative weight of the arithmetic average of 32.15 % .

Twitter also ranked first in Saudi Arabia, while Facebook ranked first in Algeria and Egypt, and this result differs with the study of Wadd Mohammed, which revealed that WhatsApp occupies the first place in Saudi Arabia by 15%, although it agrees with the studies of Al-Shahlob and Ali Fouda that Twitter is the first site To elicit information about Covid 19 among the Saudi public, and it agrees with the study of Ben Aichouch, which confirmed the dependence of Algerians on Facebook as a main source for tracking news of the Corona virus, and the study of Al-Matbouli and the study of Al-Shimy, which confirmed that the Egyptians depend on Facebook in the first place to follow Corona news.

By extrapolating the data, it becomes clear to us the sample's preference for following the pages of the local authorities first, with a relative weight of the arithmetic average of 79.24%, which indicates that there is interest in the news of Covid 19 in the geographical environment closest to the respondents, and the Saudis were the most interested in these pages, then the Algerians, and finally the Egyptians, and this result is a positive indicator of public awareness Al-Araby stressed the importance of relying on reliable and specialized government sources, as this development reflects in the form of the relationship between the citizen and his government and his trust in government institutions and agencies.
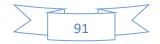
What supports this result is what El-Shimy's study indicated that since mid-February 2020, and with the daily developments of the crisis and the spread of the virus, the number of Egyptian followers and interactors on the pages has doubled.

The official page of the Egyptian Ministry of Health, where the official page of the Ministry of Health got more than 04 million likes, and the number of its followers reached about 7 million followers, an increase of one million followers with the spread of the virus, and the Al-Shalhoub study, which found that the Saudi Ministry of Health website comes at the forefront of the sites followed by the public. Saudi.

The option to follow the pages of international bodies and the option to follow the doctors' pages came in the second and third place, respectively, with a relative weight of the arithmetic averages of 71.70% and 70.97%, respectively, and it became clear that the Algerians' interest in these pages exceeded the interest of the Egyptians and the Saudis, whose interest in them was close.

The third question: What topics do the public prefer to follow on social media sites related to the Corona virus?

By extrapolating the data, it becomes clear to us that following up on the news of the spread of the Corona virus in the country of the respondents received the largest percentage of interest, as the relative weight of the arithmetic average for this phrase reached 95.75%, and Algeria came in the forefront of the three countries that are interested in this aspect, followed by Saudi Arabia and then Egypt with a large

difference from these two countries, The two researchers explain this due to the bank's delay in announcing the presence of HIV infections (the study data was collected in April 2020 and also its delay in taking precautionary measures), and therefore it was not sufficiently available or widespread for the audience of the communication sites to follow. After that, we find the option to prefer official news about the developments of the virus with a relative weight of the arithmetic average of 91.78%, and Saudi Arabia was at the forefront of the three countries whose children are interested in this news. From the dissemination of news through social networking sites, as the study (Al-Shimy 2020) indicated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was interested in distributing the numbers of HIV infections according to each governorate and the places of infection in each governorate, which gave an indication to the public of the accuracy of the statistics.

The option to pay attention to sarcastic comments came in last place with a relative weight of 60.57%, and this result is logical given the state of panic that dominated the world and did not leave much space in front of the audience for sarcastic comments.

Fourth question: What is the degree of reliance of the study sample on social networking sites to investigate Corona news?
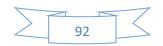
The data shows that 43.7% of the respondents rely on social media to learn about Corona news, compared to 22.3% who rejected this idea, so the relative weight of the average dependence reached 70.8%, which indicates that the sample relies to a degree close to large on social networking sites, and these agree The result is with the study (Al-Shalhoub 2020), which found that the Saudi public depends to a large extent on the Saudi media to know Corona news by 79.2%, and the table below shows the reasons for this dependence.

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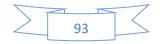
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The data shows that the sample maximizes the role of social networking sites in raising awareness of the Corona virus to limit its spread, as the relative weight of the arithmetic average for evaluating the role of communication sites reached 81.98%, and it became clear that the Saudis rated the highest for this role at 83.7%, followed by a large difference of Egyptians 68% and Algerians 63 % in close proportions, and this means that social networking sites have succeeded in creating a space for themselves in the life of the Arab citizen, and have also been able to have a greater role than just communication and entertainment between people and that they can play an important role in crises and that the public appreciates this role.

Second: The results of the study according to the hypotheses

The first hypothesis: There is a correlation between the density of the sample's turnout on social networking sites and interest in the topics of the Corona virus.

The data indicate that there is a statistically significant correlation between the intensity of the sample browsing for communication sites and the sample's interest in Corona virus topics, where the significance level reached 0.000 and the correlation strength reached 0.300, which indicates that it is less than the average, and thus the validity of the first hypothesis was proven.

The second hypothesis: There is a relationship between the sample's interest in Corona topics through social networking sites and the assessment of the role of communication sites in educating the public against the Corona virus (Covid 19).

The data indicate that there is a statistically significant correlation between the sample's interest in Corona topics and the assessment of the role of communication sites in educating the public against the Corona virus (Covid 19), where the significance level was 0.100 and the correlation strength was 0.4, which means that social networking sites have a role in raising the level of awareness of their followers about the importance of Precautionary measures and thus it became clear the validity of the second hypothesis.

The third hypothesis: There is a correlation between the sample's dependence on social media to obtain information about the emergence of the Corona virus and the resulting effects.

The data indicate that there is no statistically significant correlation between the sample's dependence on communication sites to obtain information about the emergence of the Corona virus and the resulting cognitive effects, as the significance level reached 0.850, which is a non-significant value. The validity of the third hypothesis.
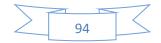
Third, the general results

The field study resulted in several important results, the most important of which are:

The increasing turnout of respondents during various social networking sites periods of home quarantine due to the spread of the Corona virus (Covid 19).

- Social networking sites ranked first in terms of the sources that respondents relied on in Egypt, Algeria and Saudi Arabia to know the developments of the Corona virus, with differences recorded between the three countries in terms of the sites used.

- Users of social networking sites prefer to follow the accounts of local health authorities to know the latest developments in the spread of the Corona virus (Covid 19), and in terms of the respondents' preferences to follow up on topics related to the

Corona virus Through social networking sites, they preferred to follow the spread of a virus in their countries in the first place.

The effects of the respondents' follow-up to the topics of Corona Covid 19 through social networking sites were varied, and they come at the forefront of these cognitive effects.

- A knowledge gap appeared between the respondents about the Corona virus, Covid 19, as the most correct information was recorded among the Algerians.

The respondents acknowledged the great role played by social networking sites in preventing the Corona virus, and this is through the intensity of publication about the virus during this period.

- There is a statistically significant relationship between the interest in the density of the sample's turnout on social networking sites and the interest in the topics of the Corona virus.

- There is a relationship between the sample's interest in Corona topics through social networking sites and the evaluation of the role of communication sites in educating the public against the Corona virus (Covid 19).

- There is a correlation between the sample's dependence on communication sites to obtain information about the emergence of the Corona virus and the resulting effects.

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