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**The Impact on Hoax News among Societies: What Islamic Expert Say?**

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**Abstract**

This study aimed to get an agreement and expert views the impact on hoax news among societies. This study employs Fuzzy Delphi method using a 7 Likert scale to collect responses of 7 experts in various fields of education at public universities in Malaysia. A total of 13 item questionnaire was given to experts for evaluation. Fuzzy Delphi method was used for data analysis. Data were analyzed using triangular fuzzy numbering (triangular fuzzy number) and position (ranking) of each variable is determined using the’ defuzzification' process. The findings show that, response and expert consensus on the impact of Hoax news among societies in current world. The overall findings of the expert consensus agreement exceed 75%, the overall value of the threshold (d)< 0.2 and a α-cut exceeds 0.5. The priority guidelines elements were sorted by priority and were refined by adding and dropping item as recommended by experts.

**Keywords:** Hoax News, Expert Consensus, Fuzzy Delphi Method, Islamic Expert

**Introduction**

With the advent of various media of information technology, including online media, it has evolved into a distinct forum for the dissemination of information that has a significant impact on society. Unfortunately, much of the news or information that is disseminated individually or in groups through online media, which is growing in popularity, cannot be accounted for, or is labelled as a hoax news. Fake news is information that is no longer valid and does not correspond to what occurred (Choirunniam & Zafi, 2021).

According to the Oxford Dictionary, a hoax is a type of deceit that seeks to make people laugh or be hazardous. At the same time, the English dictionary defines hoax as "mocking, lying, cheating, or cheating." The term "hoax" refers to bogus news or an attempt to fool or manipulate a reader into believing anything. Fake news is not based on reality or truth (it is not based on facts) and is not intended to serve a specific objective. According to the Qur'an, false news (hoax) refers to news or news falsehoods that occur throughout human social life. However, the term "hoax" has been used since the 18th century. Hoaxing has happened previously, and it is mentioned in the Qur'an in a narrative about the Prophet Yusuf's siblings who spread fake news or misinformation to people (Surah Yusuf 12:17)

Our perception of the truth is influenced by the information we consume, which changes our perspectives on politics, economics, relationships, needs, and desires. The impact of misinformation, disinformation, and artificially generated content has grown to the point where we wonder if our opinions or views are truly ours or the result of the influence of deceptive content viewed on the internet. As a result, strategies for combating deceptive artefacts are now required.

The impact of fake news has been felt all over the world. Five people were killed by a mob in India in 2018, sparking a wave of violence after false messages about child abductions were forwarded as WhatsApp messages (Zubair et al., 2019; Gowen, 2018). After reading a false news report, Pakistan's defence minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, threatened the Israeli defence minister with Pakistan's nuclear weapons in 2016 (Russel, 2016). Furthermore, prior to the 2019 Spanish elections, WhatsApp messages were distributed among Spaniards, spreading fake news and hateful comments about Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, with more than one in every four Spaniards reportedly receiving false and misleading posts (Avaaz, 2019). Following the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, fake videos and posts claiming Muslim involvement went viral, sparking Islamophobic reactions. According to an MIT study published in 2018, false news stories spread more quickly on social media networks than authentic ones, with 70% more likely to be shared on Twitter and authentic stories taking six times longer to reach 1,500 people than fake news (Vosoughi et al., 2018).

In other side, the spread of fake news on social media has a massive impact. It can cause a drop in stock prices, a drop in potential investments, and so on [6]. For example, fake news had a significant impact on the 2016 US presidential election (Kaliyar et al., 2021). The stock market lost USD 130 billion in a matter of minutes because of fake news about President Obama's death. Fake news can be used to malign someone for political or personal reasons, or it can be used to mislead people (Kaliyar et al., 2021).

Based on the scenario mentioned above, this clearly shows that the issue of Hoax news is not a trivial issue. It requires detailed observation and review and needs to be studied in more depth so that this matter does not continue to have an impact on society. In today’s model world, things like this can affect the credibility and harmony of society at large. Do we as a civilized society want to live in bad conditions and the extent of our dissatisfaction? or a corrupt society? So, we specifically need to, address this problem and in more detail know the possible consequences that may arise as a result of this situation.

**Islam and Hoax news**

The Islamic ethics of information dissemination necessitates information literacy, which is the set of skills required to discover, evaluate, interpret, and use information properly and truthfully (Parrot, 2018). Using these skills, information dissemination can be divided into three steps: acquiring, evaluating, and sharing. The first step in gathering information is for a Muslim to verify the credibility of their sources. Reporters and newscasters must thoroughly investigate the credibility of their sources before accepting or rejecting what they are told (Ahmad, 2018). With the proliferation of media sources, determining the credibility of each source can be difficult; thus, if authentication is not possible, it is best to suspend judgement (Mintz, 2012). According to the Qur'an (17:36), "*do not follow that of which you have no knowledge*." Surely, the hearing, the sight, and the heart will all be called to account." Muslims should be inspired by hadith scholars, who were very cautious about accepting narrations from unknown people or people whose identity and character were questionable. Muslims should be inspired by hadith scholars, who were wary of accepting narrations from unknown people or people whose identity and character were questionable. In addition, the Prophet (PBUH) stated, "*Indeed, one of the excellences of a person's Islam is that he leaves what does not concern him*." Following these teachings, Muslims are advised to disregard news that does not affect them, whether in this world or the Hereafter. This includes celebrity gossip, scandals, and other news that may appear interesting but serves no purpose (Jami’ Tarmidzhi, Hadith 2317).

The second stage is evaluating the information—or, more specifically, where Islam directs Muslims to seek clarification. When given information, an individual should investigate it before acting on it. This order is mentioned in the Qur'an in the following verse: "*O you who have believed, if a disobedient one comes to you with information, investigate, lest you hurt a people out of ignorance and grow remorseful about what you have done*." (Qur’an 49:6). When assessing news, it is best to do it objectively. Following the first two rounds of gathering and evaluating information, the third phase requires that news be delivered in accordance with Islamic norms. Human intelligence, wisdom, understanding, and reason are considered a trust (Amanah) from Allah and should not be used to hurt another human soul, according to Islamic theology. As a result, before disseminating any material, Muslims must assess the influence it may have on an individual. A Muslim is the one from whose speech and hand the people are secure, and the believer is the one from whom the people's lives and money are safe, the Prophet (pbuh) is claimed to have stated, and "*He who believes in Allah and the Last Day must either talk good or keep silent*." (Sahih Muslim, Book 18, Hadith 1511).

**Why Islam Fight the Hoax news?**

Because it might cause harm, hoax is a critical issue in the ethics of communicating or utilising internet media. Hoax news not only affects and ruins the ethical order in society; it may also be used to assassinate someone's character, particularly students or the present millennial generation**.** Producing falsehoods and distributing lies are equally immoral in Islam (Jasmi, 2005). According to the study by Hakimin et al (2018), Islam encourages us to examine and verify any information that we acquire before sharing it to promote harmony and peace among Muslim cultures (Othman et al., 2020).

Fake news depicts a person's or party's hubris in sensationalising anything to gain people's attention. According to the Maqasid Al-Sharia, two important themes urged throughout Islamic traditions are the 'preservation of religion' and 'protection of life' as the first two living aims of Islamic law (Othman, et al, 2020). According to Ibn Abbas, the Prophet of Allah (pbuh) stated, "*There is no human person save that the wisdom of his intellect is in the hands of an angel.*" When he demonstrates humility, the angel is instructed to increase his wisdom; when he demonstrates arrogance, the angel is instructed to lower his wisdom. This demonstrates how arrogance may lead to the fallacious belief that no one else can teach them and that rejecting the truth will only harm their pride and ego. Referring to all the aspects that may be classified as fake news, Islam's doctrine also promotes '*wasatiyyah*,' or *moderation*. This notion supports Muslims bringing people together while respecting their differences, as it consists of a self-respectable, excellent, beloved, helpful, dependable, trustworthy, and friendly Ummah to mankind, as the good ancestors were during their eras of self-sufficiency and cultural stability (El-Houdaiby, 2018). The notion is diametrically opposed to the criteria that define false news that were previously described.

Knowing the unpredictability of the consequences, Islam encourages not to engage in any inappropriate practises that may cause harm to others because of the irresponsible behaviour, such fake news. According to Asma (2018), to prevent against such harm, policymakers should aid to enhance understanding of (1) Muslim engagement in the circulation of international human rights standards, and (2) credible Islamic academic arguments that support a robust conception of human rights. To summarise, fake news is most comparable to falsehoods that alter one's impression of certain things or individuals or, from a legal standpoint, may be claimed as a form of violation. From an Islamic standpoint, ranging from full acceptance of the existing quo to subordinating Islam with its Sharia, will result in a negotiation in weighing accurate or false information that a person receives.

**The Research Aims**

This study is to obtain expert agreement on the impact of hoax news by using Fuzzy Delphi method

 **Methodology**

This study employ Multi Research Method approach founded by Richie & Klein (2007). Design and Development Research is widely recognised as one of the research methodologies utilised by many researchers in development studies, concentrating on the production of designs, models, structures, and many other things that may be fitted to the research's aims and reasons.

This analysis is divided into two parts. The first stage is for the researcher to highlight relevant literature to compile the major impact of hoax news on society. The researcher then proceeded to step 2, which involved the use of the Fuzzy Delphi Method, which is based on expert consensus. The Fuzzy Delphi method is a method for achieving an agreement on what to build. The researcher provides an expert consent assessment tool to the developed structure. Until the data is analysed, the list of major hoax news effect is built with expert consensus.

**Sampling Procedure**

In this analysis, purposeful sampling is employed. Since the researcher aim to obtain an expert agreement on something pre-determined, this technique is suitable. According to Hasson et al (2000), the most acceptable strategy in Fuzzy Delphi Method is purposeful sampling. Meanwhile, 7 experts took part in this study. The experts that have agreed to participate are listed in Table 1. These specialists were picked based on their expertise and credentials. If all the specialists involved in this analysis are the same, the number of professionals needed is between 5 and 10. When there is some degree of consistency, the minimum number of Delphi experts varies from 10 to 15 people (Adler & Ziglio, 1996).

Table 1: list of experts

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Expert**  | **Field of expertise** | **Institution** |
| 1 Professor | Islamic studies | Public university |
| 4 Senior Lecturer | 4 Public University |
| 2 Religion teacher | 2 Public School |

**Expert Criteria**

Booker and Mc Namara (2004) describe experts as those who have earned their qualifications, training, experience, professional membership, and peer recognition via hard work and devotion (Nikolopoulos, 2004; Perera et al., 2012). According to (Cantrill et al., 1996; Mullen, 2003), an expert is anybody who has knowledge and skill in a certain subject or sector. Expert selection is an important issue to consider in the Fuzzy Delphi research. When expert selection is done poorly and based on criteria, concerns such as the legitimacy, validity, and reliability of the study's results may be called into question (Mustapha & Darusalam, 2017). According to Kaynak and Macauley (1984), the specialists involved in the research must represent or have knowledge in the topic or issue under inquiry. The researcher selects experts with at least seven years of experience and experts who are right in their field of expertise and in connection to the study based on a set of highly demanding criteria.

**Fuzzy Delphi Step**

Table 2: Fuzzy delphi step

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Step**  | **Formulation** |
| 1. Expert selection
 | * A total of 11 experts were included in this report. A panel of experts was assembled to assess the significance of the assessment parameters on the factors to be evaluated using linguistic variables. and definitions of potential problems with the piece, and so on.
 |
| 1. Determining linguistic scale
 | * This procedure entails translating all linguistic variables into the counting of fuzzy triangles (triangular fuzzy numbers). This move also includes the addition of fuzzy numbers to the translation of linguistic variables (Hsieh, Lu and Tzeng, 2004). The Triangular Fuzzy Number represents the values m1, m2, and m3 and is written as follows (m1, m2, m3). The value of m1 represents the smallest possible value, the value of m2 represents a rational value, and the value of m3 represents the highest possible value. While Triangular Fuzzy Number is used to generate Fuzzy Scale for the purpose of converting linguistic variables into fuzzy numbers.

A FUZZY DELPHI METHOD - DEVELOPING HIGH-PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP ...Figure 1: Triangular fuzzy number |
| 1. The Determination of Linguistic Variables and Average Responses
 | * Once the researcher gain input from the specified expert, the researcher must convert all measurement findings to Fuzzy scales. This is often recognized as the acknowledgment of each answer (Benitez et al., 2007).
 |
| 1. The determination of threshold value "d"
 | * The threshold value is crucial in determining the degree of agreement among experts (Thomaidis et al., 2006). The distances for each fuzzy integer m = (m1, m2, m3) and n = (m1, m2, m3) are determined using the formula:

A picture containing text  Description automatically generated |
| 1. Identify the alpha cut aggregate level of fuzzy assessment
 | * If an expert consensus is reached, a fuzzy number is assigned to each piece (Mustapha & Darussalam, 2017). The below is the approach for calculating and measuring fuzzy values: (1) 4 (m1 + 2m2 + m3) Amax
 |
| 1. Defuzzification process
 | * This process uses the formula Amax = (1) ⁄4 (a1 + 2am + a3). If the researcher uses Average Fuzzy Numbers or average response, the resulting score number is a number that is in the range 0 to 1 (Ridhuan et al.2014). In this process, there are three formulas namely: i. A = 1/3 \* (m1 + m2 + m3), or; ii. A = 1/4 \* (m1 + 2m2 + m3), or; iii. A = 1/6 \* (m1 + 4m2 + m3). Α-cut value = median value for ‘0’ and ‘1’, where α-cut = (0 + 1) / 2 = 0.5. If the resulting A value is less than the α-cut value = 0.5, the item will be rejected because it does not indicate an expert agreement. According to Bojdanova (2006) the alpha cut value should exceed 0.5. It is supported by Tang & Wu (2010) who stated that the α-cut value should be more than 0.5.
 |
| 1. Ranking process
 | * The positioning process is carried out by means of defining elements based upon values of defuzzification based on expert agreement that the element with highest importance is the most important place for decision (Fortemps & Roubens, 1996)
 |

**Instrumentation**

The Fuzzy Delphi research instrument was created by the researcher using existing related literature material. Researchers can create questionnaire items based on literature, pilot studies, and experience, (Skulmowski et al., 2007). As a result, when developing questions for the Fuzzy Delphi method, they used research literature, expert interviews, and focus group approaches (Mustapha & Darussalam, 2017). Furthermore, Okoli and Pawlowski (2004) argue that developing items and content pieces for research should begin with a survey of relevant literature.

Therefore, researchers compiled the major impact of hoax news on society using published work/literature. Following that, a list of expert questions is created using a 7-point scale. The 7-point scale was adopted because the more scales that were employed, the more accurate and perfect the results were (Chen et al., 2011). To make it simpler for professionals to reply to the questionnaire, the researcher changed the Fuzzy value in Table 4 with a 1–7 scale value, as shown:

Table 3: Fuzzy scale

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Fuzzy number** |
| Strongly disagree | (0.0, 0.0, 0.1) |
| Disagree | (0.0, 0.1, 0.3) |
| Somewhat Disagree | (0.1, 0.3, 0.5) |
| Neutral | (0,3, 0.5, 0.7) |
| Somewhat agree | (0.5, 0.7, 0.9) |
| Agree | (0.7, 0.9, 1.0 |
| Strongly agree | (0.9, 1.0, 1.0) |

**The List Of the impact of Hoax News on society**

Table 4: The List Of the impact of Hoax News on society

Researchers highlighted the critical features impact of Hoax News on society based on a literature review. The researchers will next use the Fuzzy Delphi approach to determine the validity and consensus of the experts on whether this aspect is appropriate for inclusion in this model.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Early item rank | Hoax news impact |
| The impact of hoax news | IHN1 | Kill someone character |
| IHN2 | harms and destroys the ethical order in society, |
| IHN3 | malign someone for political or personal intent or to misleadpeople |
| IHN4 | Harm to society because hoax news contains big lies and slander |
| IHN5 | Divide society or cause divisions, either using political interests or certain organizations |
| IHN6 | Influencing public opinion. Fake news (Hoax) becomes a proponent to set back society |
| IHN7 | Fake news (hoax) is made for the purpose of attacking or cornering one party, so that it can lead to fighting against fellow human beings |
| IHN8 | Deliberately made to stir up the community, thus creating an atmosphere of fear towards the community |
| IHN9 | exploiting social connections |
| IHN10 | manipulate readers into believing spurious news items |
| IHN11 | frequently generates misunderstandings |
| IHN12 | doubt and delay the ability to differentiate between what is rightand what is not effective. |
| IHN13 | lead to a misconception of the viewers and listeners |

**Finding**

This section will give an expert agreement on aspects of the man impact of hoax news. Fuzzy Delphi questions were presented to 7 experts in the relevant areas, and the findings were collected based on the responses they supplied. The following are the study's findings:

 Table 5: The analysis result

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Results** | **Item1** | **Item2** | **Item3** | **Item4** | **Item5** | **Item6** | **Item7** | **Item8** | **Item9** | **Item****10** | **Item****11** | **Item****12** | **Item****13** |
| Expert1 | 0.03299 | 0.04312 | 0.00825 | 0.00825 | 0.08248 | 0.11547 | 0.02474 | 0.04949 | 0.08248 | 0.02474 | 0.03299 | 0.00825 | 0.03299 |
| Expert2 | 0.03299 | 0.11547 | 0.06598 | 0.00825 | 0.02474 | 0.05774 | 0.09073 | 0.06598 | 0.08248 | 0.03299 | 0.03299 | 0.00825 | 0.08248 |
| Expert3 | 0.02474 | 0.01245 | 0.06598 | 0.00825 | 0.2062 | 0.06500 | 0.09073 | 0.04949 | 0.2062 | 0.02474 | 0.14846 | 0.00825 | 0.03299 |
| Expert4 | 0.02474 | 0.01650 | 0.10722 | 0.00825 | 0.02474 | 0.05774 | 0.08248 | 0.06598 | 0.09073 | 0.03299 | 0.03299 | 0.12372 | 0.09073 |
| Expert5 | 0.02474 | 0.05774 | 0.00825 | 0.04949 | 0.02474 | 0.05774 | 0.08248 | 0.06598 | 0.08248 | 0.02474 | 0.08248 | 0.04949 | 0.09073 |
| Expert6 | 0.03299 | 0 | 0.10722 | 0.00825 | 0.02474 | 0.11547 | 0.09073 | 0.04949 | 0.02474 | 0.02474 | 0.08248 | 0.04949 | 0.08248 |
| Expert7 | 0.02474 | 0.05774 | 0.06598 | 0.00825 | 0.02474 | 0.05774 | 0.08248 | 0.04949 | 0.02474 | 0.03299 | 0.08248 | 0.04949 | 0.08248 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statistics** | **Item1** | **Item2** | **Item3** | **Item4** | **Item5** | **Item6** | **Item7** | **Item8** | **Item9** | **Item10** | **Item11** | **Item12** | **Item13** |
| Value of the item | 0.02828 | 0.03299 | 0.06127 | 0.01414 | 0.05891 | 0.06599 | 0.07777 | 0.05656 | 0.08484 | 0.02828 | 0.0707 | 0.04242 | 0.0707 |
| Value of the construct |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0.05329 |
| Item < 0.2 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| % of item < 0.2 | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 85% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 85% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Average of % consensus |   97% |
| Defuzzification | 0.94286 | 0.9 | 0.88571 | 0.91429 | 0.85714 | 0.9 | 0.85714 | 0.78571 | 0.85714 | 0.94286 | 0.75714 | 0.91429 | 0.84286 |
| Ranking | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| Status | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept | Accept |

After data processing, the bold threshold value surpasses the threshold value of 0.2 (> 0.2), according to the analysis results (see table 5). To put it another way, there are experts whose points of view do not coincide or even agree on some matters. The average threshold value (d) 0.2, or 0.05329, for all Hoax news impact, on the other hand, is below <0.2. If the average (d) value is less than 0.2, the item exhibits a high level of expert agreement (Cheng & Lin, 2002; Chang, Hsu & Chang, 2011). Meanwhile, the total percentage of expert agreement is at a value of 97 percent, which is greater than (> 75 percent) 97 percent, indicating that the expert agreement requirements on this item have been met.

Table 6: The list based on expert consensus

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Early item rank** | **New item rank** | **Hoax news impact** |
| **The impact of hoax news** | IHN1 | IHN10 | Kill someone character |
| IHN2 | IHN3 | Harms and destroys the ethical order in society, |
| IHN3 | 1HN4 | Malign someone for political or personal intent or to misleadpeople |
| IHN4 | IHN2 | Harm to society because hoax news contains big lies and slander |
| IHN5 | IHN5 | Divide society or cause divisions, either using political interests or certain organizations |
| IHN6 | IHN3 | Influencing public opinion. Fake news (Hoax) becomes a proponent to set back society |
| IHN7 | IHN5 | Fake news (hoax) is made for the purpose of attacking or cornering one party, so that it can lead to fighting against fellow human beings |
| IHN8 | IHN7 | Deliberately made to stir up the community, thus creating an atmosphere of fear towards the community |
| IHN9 | IHN5 | Exploiting social connections |
| IHN10 | IHN1 | Manipulate readers into believing spurious news items |
| IHN11 | IHN8 | Frequently generates misunderstandings |
| IHN12 | IHN2 | Doubt and delay the ability to differentiate between what is rightand what is not effective. |
| IHN13 | IHN6 | Lead to a misconception of the viewers and listeners |

**Conclusion and Suggestion**

Technological advances are occurring at an exponential rate in the modern period, with fancy gadgets and applications being developed at a quick pace. These developments, however, have created severe ethical concerns. The proliferation of social media platforms and the World Wide Web has resulted in the spread of misinformation and disinformation via false news, as well as deep fake films that generate incredibly realistic synthetic material. Through the preceding debate, it is possible to infer that in the age of globalisation, it cannot be disputed that growth is extremely quick, resulting in the formation of hoax news occurrences. Hoax news should be a common concern, rather than only leaving problems to the government or institutions that have prohibited the spread of hoaxes, but beginning from a very broad scope and instilling honest values that are realised in the process structured learning, namely the school, in this relationship, which has the authority to instil honesty, namely educators. Why should educators assist in hoax prevention? Because instructors, in addition to other sources, are the centre of knowledge or information gained by pupils.

Based on the findings of the study above, we can see that there are various impacts resulting from Hoax news that can affect the harmony of society. Things like this should be curbed more aggressively and systematically so that modern society is more vigilant and has more integrity. On the basis of creating a good and integrity society, the author feels that every individual needs to understand the consequences that may arise as a result of the spread of this Hoax news. If there is a deep understanding in this matter, the public will be more sensitive and responsible so that the spread of Hoax news should not happen. Case data have been displayed above, it is clear that Hoax news is very dangerous and affects the community. Therefore, we as a civilized and developed society need to be more sensitive to the increasing sensitivity and impact that results from these activities.

Given the dangers that fake news and synthetic material pose to mankind, we examined Islamic counsel on falsehood gleaned from the Qur'an, sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH), and practises of early Islamic scholars and gave suggestions based on it. The recommendations that the researcher is able to suggest are as follows:

1. The application of positive values ​​in the minds and hearts of society to be more sensitive to the sensitivity of society
2. Muslims must recognize the detrimental social, communal, and political consequences of Hoax news and disinformation, as well as appreciate the Islamic prohibition on disseminating untruth.
3. Individuals should practice analyzing the authenticity of sources, whether on social media or the internet, while getting information to avoid consuming incorrect information.
4. Individuals may use similar tactics to counteract false news by seeking advice from the process of authenticating hadith using probability theory.
5. Refrain from disseminating news whose veracity is called into question, and make certain that it is distributed with appropriate information about its producer and publisher.
6. Understand the consequences and sins that may be incurred by doing this, as has been clearly explained in the Quran and Hadith

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