



KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
PROGRAM OF NEW MEDIA

**THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 NEWS FATIGUE AND NEWS
AVOIDANCE ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
TAKEN BY PEOPLE IN SAUDI ARABIA**

KHALED ALZUBAIRI

MASTER'S THESIS

ISTANBUL, JULY, 2021

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MASTER'S THESIS

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Kadir Has University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master's in the Program of New Media

ISTANBUL, JULY, 2021

DECLARATION OF RESEARCH ETHICS /
METHODS OF DISSEMINATION

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This thesis entitled **THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 NEWS FATIGUE AND NEWS AVOIDANCE ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN BY PEOPLE IN SAUDI ARABIA** prepared by KHALED ALZUBAIRI has been judged to be successful at the defense exam held on **JULY 29, 2021** and accepted by our jury as **THESIS**.

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THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 NEWS FATIGUE AND NEWS AVOIDANCE ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN BY PEOPLE IN SAUDI ARABIA

ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic was not only a health crisis but a communication crisis at the same time in almost every part of the world that happens after the first infection was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Covid-19 pandemic's media coverage throughout the world played a fundamental role in expanding this situation through the intensity of ill-studied media treatments of the pandemic and its effects, which leads news consumers to feel news fatigue. This fatigue happened due to the psychological impact of exposure to negative Covid-19 News among the news consumers, thus avoiding Covid-19 News as a protective procedure entirely. The study investigated the relationship between Covid-19 news fatigue and Covid-19 news avoidance of people in Saudi Arabia and the effects of each on the level of precaution taken towards Covid-19, during the curfew imposed by the government of Saudi Arabia, which began on 23 March until 21 June 2020, and during the vaccination stage, which started on 16 December 2020 until the end of April 2021. A survey on 362 residents of Saudi Arabia was conducted. No relationship was found between news fatigue and news avoidance during the vaccine stage. However, there was a significant relationship between them during the curfew stage. News fatigue had a positive effect on the level of precaution towards Covid-19 during the curfew. However, the effect was more substantial in the vaccine stage when the vaccine was available, representing a potential solution to this pandemic. News avoidance has a negative effect on the level of precaution towards Covid-19, during the curfew and the vaccine stages. However, the effect was more pronounced in the vaccine stage. This study shows that news avoidance and news fatigue are two distinct constructs, and they differently affect the precautionary behavior of individuals during times of crisis.

Keywords: Covid-19, News fatigue, News avoidance, News overload, Saudi Arabia, precaution towards Covid-19.

SUUDİ ARABİSTAN'DAKİ İNSANLAR TARAFINDAN ALINAN ÖNLEMLERDE KOVİD-19 HABER YORGUNLUK VE HABERLERDEN KAÇINMA ETKİSİ

ÖZET

Kovid-19 pandemisi sadece bir sağlık krizi değil, aynı zamanda dünyanın hemen her yerinde, Aralık 2019'da Çin'in Vuhan kentinde ilk vakanın tespit edilmesinden sonra ortaya çıkan bir iletişim kriziydi. Kovid-19 pandemisinin dünya genelinde medyada yer alması, pandemiye ve etkilerine yönelik çalışılmamış medya tavırlarıyla birlikte bu durumun yaygınlaşmasında temel bir rol oynamış ve bu da Kovid-19 haber yorgunluğuna sebep olmuştur. Bu yorgunluk, haber tüketicileri arasında, olumsuz Kovid-19 haberlerine maruz kalmanın psikolojik etkisinden dolayı meydana gelmiş ve böylece Kovid-19 haberlerinden koruyucu bir yöntem olarak tamamen kaçınılmıştır.

Çalışmada, Suudi Arabistan hükümetinin 23 Mart'tan 21 Haziran 2020'ye kadar uyguladığı sokağa çıkma yasağı ve 16 Aralık 2020'de başlayan ve bu sağlık krizi geçene kadar sürecek olan aşılama aşaması süresince, Suudi Arabistan'da Kovid-19 haber yorgunluğu ile Kovid-19 haberlerinden kaçınma olgusu arasındaki ilişki ve her bir olgunun Suudi Arabistan'daki nüfusun Kovid-19'a karşı önlem düzeyine etkisi araştırılmıştır. Bu çalışma, 362 kişiden alınan yanıtlara dayalı olarak oluşturulmuş ve aşağıdaki sonuçlara ulaşılmıştır: Aşı aşamasında haber yorgunluğu ile haberden kaçınma arasında bir ilişki bulunamamış ancak sokağa çıkma yasağı döneminde aralarında anlamlı bir ilişki bulunmuştur. Haber yorgunluğunun sokağa çıkma yasağı süresince Kovid-19'a karşı önlem düzeyini olumlu etkilediği gözlemlenmiştir. Bununla birlikte, bu durumun pandeminin çözümünü temsil eden aşının bulunabilirliği sırasında daha etkili olduğu anlaşılmıştır. Haberden kaçınma, sokağa çıkma yasağı ve aşı aşamalarında Kovid-19'a karşı önlem düzeyini olumsuz etkilemiş fakat bu etkinin aşı aşamasında daha fazla olduğu gözlemlenmiştir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Kovid-19, Haber yorgunluğu, Haberden kaçınma, Aşırı haber yükü, Suudi Arabistan, Kovid-19 tedbirleri

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic was not only a health crisis but a communication crisis at the same time in almost every part of the world that happens after the first infection was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Tons of misleading news sweeping across the Internet, conflicting information, conflicting recommendations. Scenes of virus victims invade screens, both small and large. According to the World Health Organization, the world is witnessing an infodemic (WHO 2020). After the government-imposed isolations, the news has become an exhausting activity to follow for a significant part of the societies almost everywhere globally.

Covid-19 pandemic's media coverage throughout the world played a fundamental role in expanding this situation, through the intensity of ill-studied media treatments of the pandemic and its effects, in a way that has revived a term defined by scientific approaches to the psychological impact of exposure to negative news. The term is news fatigue (Abdulaziz 2020).

News fatigued consumers may avoid news and ignore the intensive supply of the information (Savolainen 2007). Avoiding news undermines communication efforts to raise awareness of the crisis, slow down its spread, and encourage individuals to comply with precautionary measures. As a result of this phenomenon, and after sustained news coverage of Covid-19, those involved in news fatigue become desensitized. This desensitization may suggest problematic changes in their attitude towards the pandemic (Will Bedingfield 2021).

News avoidance and news fatigue are significant diseases of the new digital era that are indicators of broader issues with the mass media and democracies' health (Toff 2018). In the longer time, avoiding news can threaten the duty of the journalist to inform citizens. Against this backdrop, people cannot take informed actions in participating in the public debate, therefore undermining democracy (Baekdal 2020).

To be more precise in terms of terminology, we refer to published material on current public interest issues or importance given by journalists when we say news (Schudson

2018). News fatigue is related to the concept of news overload, which happens when some audiences feel overwhelmed by the quantity of news displayed to them (Andersen 2020). In this situation, news looks like a fuss when they create an overload (Reijo 2007). This phenomenon tends to bring about anxiety, boredom, severe repetition, and interruption (Savolainen 2007). An outcome of the news fatigue phenomenon is news avoidance (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017). People who are stressed by the news are more likely to avoid consuming it completely (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017).

News media used to carry on an essential function in improving the pandemic's perception and developing the public response to public health communications (Anwar, Malik, Raees, and Anwar 2020). However, desensitization and news fatigue may result from extensive media attention, which may impede communication efforts aimed at slowing the expansion of the Covid-19 pandemic (Collinson S 2015). Thus, these negatively affect the induced behavior response promoted by World Health Organization through the media outlets (Kinnick, Krugman and Cameron, 1996). This previously mentioned situation subject to happen in the Covid-19 context as well.

Andersen argues that news avoidance can happen in two forms, intentional or unintentional (2020). Intentional news avoidance results from people deliberately avoiding the news because they do not like the news and this specific avoidance that the thesis will investigate. One of the most notable causes is either thought that the news coverage gives more space for the dark side of the issue, therefore influences their feeling negatively, and doubting toward or insufficiency of trust in the news, or a sense of news overload (Andersen 2020).

Unintentional news avoidance, on the other hand, is the consequence of changing news content characteristics in the media environment. As the availability of media material has grown, audiences that value entertainment have gravitated toward more amusing content at the cost of news consumption, while having no obvious hate for the news or making an intentional decision to limit their news reading (Andersen 2020). This thesis examines the relationship between both news fatigue and news avoidance and their impact on the precautionary behavior by the individuals in Saudi Arabia.

Scholars and research centers conducted many scientific studies on news fatigue and news avoidance in Europe and the USA (Lee, Son, and Kim 2016 ; Norderson 2008 ; Klingberg 2009 ; Eppler and Mengis 2003 ; Schultz and Vandenbosch 1998 ; Park 2019 ; Kuhlmann, Schumann & Wolling, 2014 ; Nielsen and Selva 2019 ; H. Lee and Yang 2014 ; Trilling and Schoenbach 2013 ; Strömbäck, Djerf-Pierre, and Shehata 2013 ; Kim and Webster 2012).

However, to the best of my knowledge, these studies rarely investigate the Arabic public in the Arab media environment context. To fill this gap, the study reported here focuses on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, which arrived in Saudi Arabia on 2 March 2020. Saudi Arabia is a country in Southwest Asia, with roughly 34 million people, 58% of them are males, and 42% are females. The average age is 31.8. Its official language is Arabic. Saudi Arabia has approximately 32.23 million internet users and 43.8 phone users, the high numbers due to owning more than one phone by some people (Alkarawi 2020). Social media has 25 million users, 70% of them are male, and the remaining are female, compose 75% of the total population, and spend three hours and two minutes (Alkarawi 2020). YouTube and Snapchat are the most popular social media sites, followed by Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok (Alkarawi 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic was causing rigid restraints and controls on citizens' lives and movement throughout the country; since the first case detected virus Covid-19 infection on 2 March 2020, a Saudi citizen came from Iran through Bahrain without disclosing the country which he came from.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused governments to freeze airline traffic, converting hundreds of hotels into quarantines and imposing social distancing by law authority. It is also important to note that all educational institutions and public services were closed, and there were even restrictions on the hours of prayer for Mosques during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. People were also advised to remain at home and avoid gatherings. There was also a three-month nationwide curfew in place from March 23 until June 21, 2020. (Deutsche Welle 2021).

On 16 December 2020, Saudi Arabia announced the arrival of the first shipment of Corona vaccine to the Kingdom (Anadolu Agency 2020), and it was stated that the vaccination will be free of charge for all residents, and the Minister of Health was the first to receive the vaccine (Alhurra News 2020). Later, the Saudi media reported a video of the king and his crown prince receiving the vaccine. Taking this data into account, a survey will investigate both stages.

In 2017, Northwestern University in Qatar conducted a survey investigating the news consumption of Arabic-speaking countries to determine if the numbers are high and rising. Additionally, audiences receive news through a variety of internet devices (e.g., laptops, tablets), but none of these devices are utilized as cellphones. Almost every citizen has a smartphone, with 84 percent having one overall and more than nine in ten in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates. Furthermore, cellphones have become the main means of obtaining news and breaking news headlines. Over three-quarters of people receive news on their phones at least once a day, and two-thirds do so several times a day (77 percent overall, 67 percent daily). Furthermore, almost one-half of people view news videos on their phones at least once a day (67 percent at all, 48 percent daily). Only 78 percent of people use their cellphones to check the news on a daily basis (Northwestern University in Qatar 2107).

While the global average for browsing the Internet on mobile is three hours and 22 minutes every day, it increases in Saudi Arabia to four hours and 14 minutes (Hootsuite 2020), which indicate that Saudi Arabian's internet data consumption which includes the news, is bigger than the average of the world. This indicates that the news environment in Saudi Arabia is more active and dependent on the Internet, whether in terms of media organizations that publish news or their consumption by individuals, which intensifies the study results' importance. Its impact is clearly present in the results.

Saudi Arabian's CITC reports that, prior to the Corona crisis, the average mobile data Internet use per person in the country was at 600 MB per day, almost double the worldwide average. Compared with the worldwide standard, in Covid-19 pandemic times, the Saudi individual average consumption went up to triple times the global average when the per-person consumption reached 920 MB (CITC 2020).

All the previous studies on news overload and fatigue have been conducted in a media ecosystem that leans on a democratic political system. To fill this gap, this study investigated if there is a significant relationship between news fatigue and news avoidance phenomenon during the curfew imposed by the government in Saudi Arabia, which began on 23 March until 21 June 2020, as well as during the vaccination stage, which started on 16 December 2020 and will last until this health crisis passed by.

Additionally, the study examined the effect of news fatigue on the level of precaution towards Covid-19, and the effect of news avoidance on the level of precaution towards Covid-19 during the curfew and vaccination stages that have been mentioned previously. Furthermore, this study investigated if there is a difference in the level of news fatigue, level of news avoidance, and level of precaution towards Covid-19 according to the following variables: gender, level of educations, and frequency of getting news during the two stages curfew and vaccine period.

This thesis stands out because it has been conducted in a media ecosystem that is based on a political system which is an absolute monarchy (Alsultan 2013). The political system has importance in terms of the regulation of the pandemic since the decisions taken can be issued by a single signature. Therefore, by this thesis, science could discover news overload and news fatigue in a political and media system context which is entirely different than the well-studies context such as, North America, the United Kingdom, and South Korea.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 is a global infectious illness that first appeared in Wuhan, China's Hubei province, in December 2019. It has now been extended to 222 nations through April 29, 2021. The World Health Organization (WHO) designated it a pandemic on January 30, 2020, highlighting worldwide public health concerns (WHO 2021). As of April 29, 2021, this illness has infected over 150 million individuals.

The Covid-19 pandemic has triggered an international crisis on many fronts, including human psychology and economics. Countries have used extreme prevention tactics such as self-isolation, quarantining the whole country, prohibiting public gatherings, closing schools and colleges, closing boundaries, and, in some cases, entire city lockdown.

In several countries, community preventive and control groups were established with the aim of identifying people with fever and reporting them as Covid-19 victims in order to halt the virus from spreading. Moreover, various government and non-governmental organizations were eager to raise awareness about prevention and control through hand washing and the use of masks and gloves. As a result, SARS-CoV-2 is regarded as a constant threat to humans.

2.2 The Covid-19 Infodemic And Infodemiology

People are now exposed to a large amount of news, which has become a part of our everyday lives. Nonetheless, the new pandemic, Covid-19, has accelerated and exacerbated this exposure to the extreme.

When the pandemic first broke, internet news outlets dedicated themselves to providing extensive coverage of the new Covid-19 pandemic. Following that, they began developing a coronavirus department while continuing to cover other local and worldwide news stories. As people searched for information on the Covid-19 across various news outlets, it was apparent that the virus's arrival coincided with a substantial spike in news consumption (Nielsen et al. 2020).

Even though there have been previous pandemics, the contemporary universal crisis is unprecedented due to none has been as expanded and unmediated as Covid-19. Furthermore, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) indicated that we are not only challenging a pandemic, but we are also encountering an infodemic ("Munich Security Conference" 2021). In order to fight the infodemic, the WHO originated the WHO Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN).

An infodemic is a new term that showed up accompanies the Coronavirus. It refers to the information epidemic that could be determined as an overload of misinformation about a crisis that makes getting clarification about the problem more challenging (Ahmed 2020).

One of the main results out of infodemic is that individuals may become confused and less willing to protect themselves as a result of imprecise crisis information, exacerbating pandemic expansion (van der Meer and Jin 2019).

Infodemic operates hand in hand with infodemiology, which is a novel science concerning the transmission and determinant of data upon the Internet with the final purpose to notify public health administration. It uses to classify and measure differences in health data availability and recognize and observe public health-related statements on the Internet (Park, Park and Chong 2020).

Moreover, studying how individuals seek and use the web seeking medical information and how they interact and exchange it may offer important insights about population health behaviours (Park, Park and Chong 2020).

During the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the major issues was the creation and dissemination of false or misleading information, misinformation, disinformation, or misinformation (Pulido et al. 2020). There is usually confusion about what any previous terms indicate, and there is also overlapping among them. Nevertheless, on a practical level, individuals understand the meaning of all the previously mentioned terms as inaccurate information or false spread either maliciously or by accident.

Scientists differentiate between misinformation and disinformation. Misinformation is any inaccurate information transmitted but without intent to deceive (Wardle 2017). Experts disagreed throughout the early weeks of the pandemic owing to the absence of information plus real facts.

However, disinformation is intentionally false or misleading information with the intent of harming society (Freelon and Wells 2020). Views of 'honest errors' may be less harmful to trust in (expert) information channels than impressions of intentional deception. Trust in the media is associated with increased adherence to preventive disease outbreaks (Ferretti et al. 2011).

A recent survey data was gathered from 1,312 participants in Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States during the initial weeks of the pandemic.

The previous mention survey showed that people may be less likely to accept professional guidance owing to inaccurate information, as was when residents rejected evacuating during Hurricane Florence since the effects were perceived to be less serious than it was (Sandman and Lanard 2005). Therefore, persons with higher disinformation scenes of Covid-19 may be less likely to adhere to official recommendations than those with misinformation sense. (Hameleers, van der Meer, and Brosius 2020).

Furthermore, people' impressions of misinformation and disinformation could influence their attitude to or avoiding news about the novel Covid-19 in a lot of formats (Hameleers, van der Meer, and Brosius 2020).

The applications of the previous study's findings are significant. Misinformation perceptions could be linked to pandemic-fighting actions such as increased information seeking and compliance with anti-coronavirus treatments. In contradiction, disinformation beliefs could lead to anti-social conduct, non-compliance, and avoiding critical information in moments of emergency. In periods of high uncertainty, it is essential to educate news viewers in distinguishing between unintentional errors and deceit. Researchers gave two suggestions in light of these consequences: Official sources

need to re-establish public confidence and promote media literacy (van der Meer and Jin 2019).

Another study followed the infodemiology approach in investigating the discussions and health news on Twitter in Korea (Park, Park and Chong 2020). The study found that most trending news on Twitter was non-medical. Nonetheless, news stories including medical information on Covid-19 had a larger spillover impact than nonmedical news.

There is an expected peak in news consumption at times of crisis, but transitory, over various media (Ahmed 2020). At times like these, the concept of overload can vary because people are executing a combined strive to get more extra news and information. Extensive and prevalent coverage of the same incident or circumstance, on the other hand, may result in news weariness (Austin, Fisher Liu, and Jin 2012).

2.2.1 Consuming news during crises

Austin et al. (2012) explored media consumption patterns, at crisis time, through a set of empirical crisis scenarios such as riots, bomb threats, and disease outbreaks. They found that people concerning about both the origin source of news and its format.

The developing crisis communication theory elucidates individuals used both social media and conventional media, but for different reasons. They learned mainly via traditional media, such as newspapers and television news channels, and one of the most important characteristics used to characterize it was believability (Austin, et al. 2012).

Austin et al.'s work elucidated that social media has been used primarily to obtain inside information and check the safety of family and friends (Austin, et al. 2012). In times of crisis, people go to the source that is readily available or accessible in the first place to find out what is happening, which also applied on Covid-19 pandemic, that first time in the world it happened with this degree of spread and intensity.

Social media supported discussions and communications about crises. However, the participants in Nielsen et al's work indicated that as soon as they saw various stories of

events posted by users on social media platforms, they became further inclined to explore regular media coverage (2020).

The previous result is consistent with Nielsen's survey data, which shows that not only do people consume news in a variety of ways, but they also seek information and news from non-news organizations like authorities, local and international health organizations, as well as doctors, health specialists, and scientists (Nielsen et al. 2020).

According to a survey conducted in Canada, 60 percent of Canadians prefer to receive their Covid-19 News from television, while just 22 percent prefer to get it through social media. According to data, people seek confirmation in conventional media, notably television and newspapers, when news is disseminated via social media accounts as well as largely through messaging apps (Baines and Elliott 2020).

2.2.2 Inaccurate news and its impact

Accurate information is critical during times of health crisis, and there have been severe consequences of misleading information (Forrest 2021). Indeed, one of the most egregious examples of false news's harmful effect may be seen in the area of medicine (Chen et al. 2020). Covid-19 is not the first time the globe has faced a media crisis in addition to a health crisis; the world has seen Ebola, H1N1, and SARS. However, many factors distinguish Covid-19 from previous crises, such as its size and intensity.

Moreover, the medical publication (The Lancet) conducted a study about information lies that gained kind of acceptance (Zarocostas 2020). One of the lies that met with remarkable spread was the transmission of infection from mother to fetus during pregnancy, with reference to Chinese sources. It is false news that many believed because of their ignorance of the Chinese language, which was reported.

The previous mentioned publication revealed that the research conducted in Wuhan's Chinese city, the source of the epidemic, revealed that the infection was not transmitted from the mother (Brennen et al. 2020) to the fetus (Chen et al. 2020). However, the

Chinese study included a small sample of nine women, which indicates that what was published about the spread of infection from mother to fetus is basically false news.

Another example that proves that false information may represent a danger to the life of the recipient is the rumor that appeared in Iran that drinking alcohol would cure "Covid-19" infection, and as an outcome of the spread of the rumor, 700 people died of alcohol poisoning (Shirish, Srivastava and Chandra 2021). Underestimating the disease and not following proper health measures to prevent it, such as medical isolation, washing hands, and wearing masks, resulted in the spread of the infection in an epidemic manner.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, many types of disinformation about the dissemination, the effect of weather, preventive, and treatment have spread (Depoux et al. 2020).

Brennen et al. conducted a thorough analysis of the content of 225 fact-checked statements in social media information and evaluated the types, sources, and claims about Covid-19 misinformation (2020). Brennen et al. discovered that altered data is much more prevalent on social media than completely fabricated data (87 percent vs 12 percent) (2020).

Additionally, many false stories and conspiracy theories about the disease's origins spread (Zarocostas 2020); recent research demonstrated that political orientation and right-leaning outlet may influence perceptions and smoothing Covid-19's disinformation (Ahmed 2020).

2.2.3 Tsunami of information

WHO warned of a 'tsunami' of information that arrives with each epidemic, which includes rumors and disinformation. Besides that, the prevalent of social media more magnified this phenomenon, which gives power to the misinformation and rumors to spread faster, same the virus itself, and that is what forms a different challenge (Ahmed 2020).

Researchers consider counter-information, myth-busting, and fact-checking as effective strategies for preventing the spread of misinformation (Ahmed 2020). Nevertheless, if information is not disseminated quickly, the vacuum it creates will almost certainly be easily replaced with rumors and unverified allegations.

WHO has taken the lead in fighting the infodemic via a variety of measures. Additionally, they have partnered with media organizations, primarily social media platforms, to increase awareness, encourage people to utilize credible sources, as well as provide evidence-based explanations. Although some would argue that it is (Wong 2021), social media companies have also made efforts to reduce the dissemination of misleading information on their sites (Ahmed 2020).

Investigating the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic's news overload may result in two conflicting findings. To begin, the percentage of the world's population linked to online media is exposed to enormous news in all its forms, including audiovisual, multimedia, data journalism, and infographics. Some of these media watchers have switched off their TV in order to halt the overflow. On the other side, an increase in news consumers is growing the quantity of news and information available to them. Being educated and current may be the difference between life and death in certain situations. Each of these circumstances may result in feelings of information overload (Ahmed 2020).

People are deciding to opt out of the news world in the first case, possibly just for a brief time, and almost definitely just temporarily. They may be opting to concentrate on a small number of outlets in order to avoid news saturation, particularly given the volume and focus on Covid-19 News during the first few weeks of the pandemic (Ahmed 2020).

It's been irritating; some have described receiving daily texts, emails, and stories about the virus through the beginning time of the pandemic; for a while, the news just repeated itself. As a consequence of this repetition, some individuals get tired by hearing the same thing again and over (Ahmed 2020).

In the second scenario, when there is uncertainty regarding the illness, individuals search for solutions in order to fill the gap in their knowledge. This is referred to as

cyberchondria, since it occurs when people are particularly challenged. It is known as "cyberchondria" if one has an anxious search for health information coupled with a perceived need for health information (Laato et al. 2020).

Awareness of the infection, its effects, and how to respond must be balanced with being overwhelmed by contradictory information. The infodemic has become a constant that emerges with every catastrophe, like the Covid-19 epidemic, and it is a fertile environment for the development of perceived news overload among news consumers.

2.3 Perceived News Overload

2.3.1 From information overload to news overload

People consume news to know what is going on globally, particularly their political environments and current affairs (Andolina et al. 2003). More news exposure correlates with increased knowledge about politics and current issues and risen civic participation and effectiveness (Kenski and Stroud 2006). People cannot be present at every event that happens around the globe, or even in their hometown, so they rely on news media to be updated with current social and political or affairs relevant to them (York 2013). However, gathering relevant and accurate news is becoming more complicated while more and more media outlets and content are being available for the masses (Kovach and Rosenstiel 2011).

As the quantity of news sources and content grows, individuals are more likely to be exposed to complicated news, leading to a sense of information overload. Because understanding news needs intellectual capacity (Geiger and Newhagen 1993), greater exposure to news may cause individuals to feel overwhelmed by information.

According to Alvin Toffler (1970) in his book *Future Shock*, information overload is a mental crisis produced by too many stimuli that surpass our mental capabilities (Pearse 2012; Park 2019). Overload happens when individuals are faced with a massive volume of information (Eppler and Mengis 2003). A flood of data may impair decision-making (Bawden and Robinson 2009).

While news overload and information overload are similar, they are not the same. While advertising, ads, and announcements create information overload (Murray 1998), too much news causes news overload (Thomas 1998). Moreover, unlike information overload, news overload is related to a subject like informed citizenship, which is vital in democracy (Buckingham 2000).

The intentional and purposeful processing of complicated and contradictory information, facts, figures, and visual information required to comprehend news material is frequently tiring. With the explosion of news sources and media material, it is possible that individuals may feel overwhelmed (York 2013).

People have never been bombarded with so many demands, messages, and remarks everyday (Thomas 1998), urging scientists and researchers to focus on the issue of information overload and its effects such as news fatigue and news avoidance (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017).

The case of the enormous abundance of information that the public is supposed to consume, defined as too much information received by people more than they can process or assimilate (Edmunds and Morris 2000). This large amount of information seems similar to noise when they reach overload (Klapp 1986).

Overloaded news often leads people to experience news fatigue (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017), this fatigue is reflected by numerous symptoms: impaired attention, an overwhelming feeling of temporal urgency, strained nerves, and tired brains (Thomas 1998).

In a study conducted by British psychologist David Lewis (as cited by Evaristo, Adams, and Curley (1995) and Song, Jung, and Kim (2017), Lewis noted that participants in his research made more errors, misinterpreted communication, and criticized their peers when overloaded with data, leading him to coin the term information fatigue syndrome. With the growth of information communication technology, these adverse effects have risen dramatically (Sternadori and Wise 2010).

2.3.2 Social Media and news overload

Too much information, unintentional social networking extensions, and fast technical developments are all examples of new overloads created by the growth of social networking (Holton and Chyi 2012).

Overwhelmed by the news is a common sentiment on social media, particularly following notable occurrences. While it is impossible to ignore the news, it is also tough to resist the urge to check for any breaking news. This is undeniably one of the major reasons of news weariness. Curiosity, fear of missing out, and instant access to information make monitoring the news addicting.

In their comprehensive interview research, Pentina and Tarafdar (2014) showed that social media had a complex role in consumers' news overload experiences. This deluge made avoiding news difficult, let alone its impartiality and trustworthiness, which ultimately collapsed when they proved out to be incorrect rumors.

2.3.3 Previous studies of news overload

In PEW Research's Biennial Media Consumption Surveys ("News Attitudes and Habits" 2021), from 1998 to 2008, poll data shows an increase in public perception of information overload, with 38% of American people feeling overwhelmed by the amount of news material accessible.

According to PEW statistics, females and older individuals were more likely to report feeling overwhelmed (York 2013). Women generally have greater trouble with news material (Holton and Chyi 2012). As individuals age, their cognitive processing speed slows, making them more susceptible to news overload.

A web-based survey of 767 adults in 2010 (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017) came to the opposite conclusion for older people, indicating that age has a negative relationship to perception of news overload (York 2013). Intriguingly, South Korean research found no difference in outcomes across genders when it came to feeling overwhelmed by news (Holton and Chyi 2012).

South Korean research found that younger people experience more news overload. The greatest significant degree of perceived news overload is reported by those aged 19 to 29, followed by those aged 30 to 39. This study will look at gender and age (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017).

In addition to gender, the Song, Jung, and Kim study (2017) found that news interest is negatively related to perceived news overload in all three previous studies (Kenski and Stroud 2006; Holton and Chyi 2012). Despite the press abundance, curiosity and pleasure in following news may help reduce news overload since they are better able to absorb and filter it (Poindexter and McCombs 2001).

In a recent PEW Research conducted in 2020, they state the same result regarding an interest in news that suggested that those who follow the news less closely suffer from news overload more than those who do not follow it closely (Gottfried 2020).

As previously indicated, those that consume news material are seen as more informed, participative, and persuasive than those who do not (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017). So they are less likely to have trouble digesting news cognitively. Those are not into news, are subjected to it through accident, boredom, or a sense of social responsibility will struggle to mentally process it (York 2013).

South Korean research found that university students experienced more significant news overload than high school alumni (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017). In general, more educated individuals were less prone to feeling overwhelmed than those with less education (Holton and Chyi 2012).

Additionally, about income, the most significant income group reports a greater level of perceived news overload (Holton and Chyi 2012). However, Holton's study found the opposite result regarding income (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017).

(Lee, Lindsey, and Kim 2017) and (Pentina and Tarafdar 2014) agreed that accessing news through digital platforms and sources such computers and phones lowers the chances of news overload. Meanwhile, conventional news sources including newspapers,

TV, and magazines did not cause news overload. York's study ignored this variable owing of its age.

2.4 News Fatigue

People being overwhelmed by a large amount of news on digital and traditional news outlets raised energy demands, thus causing fatigue, driving physical and psychological stress (Lee, Son, and Kim 2016). Social media use proliferation adds another layer to news fatigue, exemplified by how people supposedly react to other posts (Hind 1998).

It is acceptable to examine news fatigue from a psychological stress perspective since acknowledgment of weariness is subjective, based on the individual's sense of being exhausted (Lee, Son, and Kim 2016).

The present research increasingly views stress as a transaction between a person and her environment (Lazarus 1990; Edwards 1991; Lee, Son, and Kim 2016). Scholars claim that stress is caused by a mismatch between environmental demands and human ability to meet them (Lee, Son, and Kim 2016; Ayyagari, Grover, and Purvis 2011).

Fatigue research has been performed in a variety of areas, including psychology, medicine, health science, and occupational domains (Lee, Son, and Kim 2016). Fatigue is a complex notion that has been defined in a variety of ways by scientists (Lee, Son, and Kim 2016). Therefore, fatigue individuals' strength in a likewise circumstance would differ from a soft perception of tiredness to a condition of exhaustion (Ravindran, Yeow Kuan, and Hoe Lian 2014).

For instance, a person suffering from news fatigue might seem debilitated by news information overload and are not satisfied with their news experiences (Norderson 2008). Simultaneously, another news consumer may effectively deal with the same level of information loads (Lee, Son, and Kim 2016).

The abundance of news supply by digital communications technology has illustrated a remarkable ability to divide our attention into poorer and smaller additions; more, it looks

as if the day's work becomes "a matter of interrupting the interruptions" (Norderson 2008).

Human attention is limited (Norderson 2008). Therefore, obtaining new messages demands especially focused attention, which combines the ability to ignore interruptions. If our attention is not concentrated on something, we are not going to remember it. In another way, attention is a significant element of learning (Klingberg 2009; Norderson 2008). The news environment contributes to keeping public attention; consequently, processing news becomes cognitively and psychologically exhausted (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017), as there is not enough time to digest the news. This consequence will be supported by the experiences and studies that we will present in the following.

In a documentary film shown on the Al-Jazeera channel (2014), which clarifies the silent majority that prefers not to participate in political affairs in Egyptian society, interviewers stated that the conflict of the broad spectrum of news and dialogues in the media caused paralysis in the analysis. They indicated that they could no longer distinguish facts from others. As a result, they preferred to avoid them. Avoiding was the most straightforward behavior they could practice towards that news coverage on that topic. Nordson indicated that news fatigue eventually brought many news consumers to a learned helplessness response (2008).

This behavior is closely tied to what has been indicated by earlier research works illustrate that people become unmotivated to process the news, therefore, becomes unable to determine the facts, which is the direct reflection of exposure to too much information (Eppler and Mengis 2003; Schultz and Vandenbosch 1998; Park 2019).

The issue worsens when we consider the presence of social media and the daily headlines invading individuals. a survey of 1,000 British people has shown that keeping track of huge amounts of data is a major source of stress for 65 percent of individuals, and for 35 percent it is exhausting (ESRI 2015). This deluge of news is useless (Norderson 2008; Park 2019).

This abundance of news is confusing and uninformative. In a time of unprecedented power and choice, news weariness makes individuals feel powerless to alter their news habits. Participants in the research seemed to receive rather than actively seek news when they were tired (Norderson 2008). To put it another way, the more overwhelmed or irritated they are, the less effort they want to put forward.

2.4.2 From news fatigue to topic fatigue

This thesis focuses on one news topic's fatigue which is the Covid-19 News topic. Topic fatigue is about specific issues that remain intensively on the news coverage agenda for an extended period of time, which evokes irritation among receivers; therefore, they usually do not want to know anything regarding this issue any longer (Kuhlmann, Schumann & Wolling, 2014; Metag & Arlt, 2016; Arlt & Wolling, 2017), in other words, people become overwhelmed by one topic for a long time.

In agenda-setting research, scholars attribute the extended intensive media coverage on one topic to many reasons. Give rise to receivers to perceive a particular topic to be further mattering (e.g., McCombs, 2005), push them to invest more time and consideration to such a topic (Scheufele & Tewksbury, 2007), more fully absorb the material provided (Ciuk & Yost, 2016) and engage in topic-related political action (Weaver, 1991).

Similar to news fatigue in terms of consequences, in general, the long-lasting intensive media coverage on one topic might evoke emotions of anxiety among receivers, frequently cause them not to desire to know anything about such issue any longer (Kuhlmann, Schumann & Wolling, 2014; Metag & Arlt, 2016; Arlt & Wolling, 2017).

Topic fatigued consumers attempt to avoid it in future news consumption. Furthermore, they pull out of any conversation about it, thus highlighting the importance of studying the topic fatigue phenomenon (Kuhlmann, Schumann, & Wolling, 2014). This thesis examined the phenomenon spread in Covid-19 news fatigue among the Saudi Arabian population in two periods of time, first of them during the curfew stage, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020, second of them during the vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

The widespread consumption of Covid-19 news, which contains conflicting information regarding the virus's dangers, is likely to affect mental health (Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020).

The news media is civilly powerful and operates as a news source; however, it shapes public perceptions (Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020), including thoughts about coming changes and warnings.

Furthermore, news media may also play a support role, mitigating uncertainty about the pandemic itself and its impact on every appearance of our life. The more individuals understand what is going on around them, the safer they may feel. When the future is unclear, such as the absence of a cure, job losses, increasing illness and mortality rates, or worry for one's own or a loved one's wellness, more news intake may worsen pain (Lachlan, Spence, and Seeger 2009).

At the time of the initial Covid-19 wave of dissemination in Europe and America, the popular press had also written articles about the Covid-19 news subject weariness, concentrating mainly on news exposure impact (Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020). More people perceive fatigue in uncertain situations as Covid-19 in the first period when there was no vaccine yet, more percentage of people prone to feeling fatigued (Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020).

For instance, one interviewee reported that his mind has been very overwhelming, and it all seems like the same news repeatedly reproduced (Savage 2020; Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020). This interviewee's statement has been supported by scientific work conducted in America on Covid-19 News consumption and its effect on psychic wellness (Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020).

According to news story about Covid-19, an interviewee shared related opinions; his biggest concern was the uncertainty surrounding all things and the to what length of Covid-19 will last (Fowler 2020; Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020).

According to Saudi Arabian study, in the country where the present study is conducted, 55.8% of respondents agreed that the widespread news coverage of Covid-19 brought them about more emotional distress. Women individuals had more low mental health frequency than male ones (Mohamed-Azzam Zakout et al. 2020).

This Saudi Arabian study did not name the stress caused by exposure to a torrent of news as news fatigue. However, for sure the stress that was investigated can be indicated as news fatigue.

Scientists have explained that higher news media intake to shocking occurrence, such as terrorist bombings and epidemics that claim thousands of lives, cause a adverse influence on mental wellness.

Many studies show that a person does not need to be personally affected by a crisis to feel distressed (Ahern et al. 2002; Lachlan, Spence, and Seeger 2009; Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020). So, news media may be one method the incident gets worrisome, especially when it is repeated for a long period (Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020).

A recent US research on the effect of Covid-19 News exposure upon mental health recommended taking a break from viewing, reading, or listening to news media (Stainback, Hearne, and Trieu 2020). It may be annoying to hear about the crisis constantly.

2.5 From News Fatigue To News Avoidance

Consumers are seeing news creation more than ever before as news becomes more publicly accessible. People, on the other hand, feel overwhelmed by it and prefer to avoid it (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017).

For a good cause, the news avoidance tendency has recently attracted academic and media attention. While some studies have shown that ignoring the news has beneficial effects, Woodstock have discovered that it has negative consequences (2014), this may be a

democratic issue since Delli Carpini and Keeter indicate that press consumption is strongly correlated to political perceptions and attitudes (1996).

Secondly, when press services marketing strategy loses consumers, the economic model of news media, which is still under strain due to declining advertising sales, will be put under even more strain. As a result, responsible media and its crucial political position will be weakened (Nielsen and Selva 2019).

A review of current data suggests that avoiding news could happen in two ways: deliberate or accidental. Deliberate news avoidance is defined as shutting off the news for personal reasons. Zerba attributed its reason to the lack of trust in and skepticism about the press industry (2011), or a sense of news overload are one of the utmost frequent causes (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017).

Accidental news avoidance, on the other hand, is a consequence of changing media characteristics. Due to the abundance of media material, those with a greater entertainment preference have moved away from news exposure (Prior 2007).

To explain the phenomenon of news avoidance, researchers distinguished between news fatigue and effective news avoidance. Individuals who are experiencing news fatigue may not be involved in looking up current topics. Although, they may confront news while attending the radio or TV and being exposed to a current news topic. News avoidance is another novel. A person who is avoiding the news will not accept being faced with any news information. For some, this avoidance just regards specific issues; for others, it is general.

Understanding the fundamental reasons of news avoidance is important to understanding the solutions required. On one side, deliberate news avoidance requires journalistic and content changes to reduce negativity, enhance news credibility and trust, and reduce news fatigue among active attendees. To overcome accidental news avoidance, media firms must change their content mix (e.g., entertainment and news) or media operations in general. Skovsgaard and Andersen argue that journalists, legislators, and citizens all have a responsibility to play in pushing for such solutions (2019).

South Korean research (H. Lee and Yang 2014) showed almost 73 percent of respondents to be news avoiders, whereas a Dutch study (Trilling and Schoenbach 2013) found just 11 percent, and a Swedish study of Strömbäck, Djerf-Pierre, and Shehata found 15 percent (2013).

Thus, the two kinds of news avoidance are good examples for conceptual and systematic thinking. A clear difference is made between deliberate news avoidance, which is caused by news overload, and accidental news avoidance, which is caused by an excess of entertainment material, leading to a preference for amusement over news. In this instance, determining whether the avoidance is intentional or inadvertent requires knowing the preferences. This may be challenging since people don't always properly express their preferences, and favorites aren't always solid structures (Swart, Peters, and Broersma 2017).

This thesis concerns avoiding Covid-19 News. Before the epidemic, news avoidance was common. According to a 2019 Reuters study, 32% of global citizens deliberately ignore the news. The rate was 35% higher than the UK average. In the USA, it's shockingly high at 41%. When asked about the reasons, most respondents said it affects their mood adversely. 39 percent of respondents think the news is awful (Hölig and Hasebrink 2018).

Reuters previously reported in 2017 on people who often or sometimes avoid the news. The findings showed that whereas over half of the Turkish and Greece participants ignored news content (57%), just 6% did so in Japan. Turbulence in countries like Turkey and Greece may have fueled high levels of avoidance. But it's not easy to see a trend. Conversely, wealthy and stable nations have a lower rate of news avoidance, ranging from 14% in Denmark to 20% in Norway (Yanatma 2017).

Concerning the reasons, 48% of respondents said they avoided news because it made them feel bad. 37 percent said they did so because they didn't believe the news. The opposing political tone was a major element in the increased news avoidance in both the US and UK (57% and 60%). The article linked the bad mood to sadness over Trump's election and Brexit. (Yanatma 2017)

In terms of demographics, the previously mentioned report found that women were much more prone to avoid news than men in approximately all countries, while age does not appear to be a vital factor (Yanatma 2017).

Researchers from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism conducted a survey of UK citizens throughout July 16 to 22, 2020, to assess the frequency of news avoidance during the Covid-19 epidemic. The findings indicate a significant rise in April and May. It peaked at 22% during the start of total lockdown and has been stable thereafter. Then came a steady increase in the proportion of Britons who ignored the news, from 20% to 25%. Despite the fact that the percentage of individuals who think Covid-19 is the UK's most serious issue falling from 72% in late April to 51% in mid-July (Fletcher, Kalogeropoulos, and Nielsen 2020).

A third of those who ignore Covid-19 news believe the news is too much for them. Most Covid-19 News avoiders avoid TV news. 33 percent of respondents said they disregard any Covid-19 News sent through email or messaging apps (Fletcher, Kalogeropoulos, and Nielsen 2020).

In the USA, a study of over 10,000 people by the PEW Research Center (2020) showed that 70% of Americans would prefer a break from Covid-19 news, and that 43% felt worse emotionally after reading it. Moreover, half of Americans said it was difficult to distinguish between what is right and not about the outbreak.

It's understandable why individuals avoided Covid-19 News or comparable circumstances. Afraid of seeming furious, irritated, dissatisfied, and helpless. During the Covid-19 outbreak, people looked for methods to relax and boost their mood, particularly when curfews are imposed. Netflix gained 10 million new members in the second quarter of 2020 (Alexande 2021), this growth, reflecting the desire for relaxing.

Social media worsened the situation. Algorithms are designed to promote the most engaging material but remove any news that has not been engaged with. These algorithms understand which things are unlikely to be clicked on or liked, such as a news story on

the Covid-19, and avoid advertising them in people's feeds (Thorson 2020). In other words, these news avoiders aren't receiving updates on the present situation.

This thesis investigates the connection between Covid-19 News weariness and avoidance among Saudi Arabians in two time periods: (a) the curfew phase (March 23–June 21, 2020) and (b) the vaccination phase (December 26–April 30, 2021). The variations and correlations between the levels of news weariness and news avoidance are also examined using individual-level factors such as gender, education, and news consumption frequency across the same two time periods.

2.6 From Self-Efficacy Theory To News Efficacy

The effect of news-related self-efficacy, which is seen to be a major motivator of information seeking, is causing a lot of worries (Savolainen 2012; Yan et al. 2016). Individuals' trust in their capacity to control their behaviors and circumstances that may impact them is called self-efficacy (Park 2019).

The concept of self-efficacy can be defined as a person's belief in their capability of succeeding based on their current ability level. Self-efficacy affects almost every part of our life, shaping our desires, the state of being at ease, and success (Park 2019). Using Bandura's (2001, 1997) work as a foundation, Park's study defines news effectiveness as the degree to which a user has positive trust in their capacity to get and absorb desired news (2019). If individuals feel that regular usage of a particular medium fulfills their news acquisition requirements, they are more prone to trust in their own ability to do things well (Pinkleton et al. 2012 ; Hocevar, Flanagin and Metzger 2014).

In addition to external variables such as distractions and the ambiguity and complexity of a tough circumstance, self-efficacy is also affected by the sequential or coordinated processes needed to make sense of a challenging task (Gist and Mitchell 1992). A person's self-efficacy may be negatively affected by those previously mentioned uncontrollable conditions (Lazarus and Folkman 1984). The self-efficacy of those who see a difficult

circumstance as more complicated than it actually will be lowered (Lazarus and Launier 1978).

According to Hofstetter, Zuniga, and Dozier (2001), individuals show a high degree of media self-efficacy when they believe they are qualified at collecting political news from media sources to meet their own requirements.

The impression that news consumers can absorb the given news material increases their task-related efficacy and enthusiasm (Park 2019). For this reason, news efficacy ought to be a key consideration when acquiring and interpreting information from news media sources.

Every day, social media bombards us with information. A survey of 1,000 UK people (ESRI 2015) found that 66% find keeping track of a lot of information stressful, and 35% find it overwhelming. News overload may seem like an impediment or a barrier (Livni 2017). They are implying that news overload may negatively impact users' self-efficacy, furthermore, Karia discovered that knowledge reduces it (2015).

In summary, perceived news overload reduces consumers' trust in getting and understanding the news they need. So, when the self-efficacy is lower, the preparedness to follow the precautionary might be more inadequate too.

2.7 News Consumption And Covid-19 Precautionary Measures

Pandemics create widespread worry and compel individuals to seek help openly. Most individuals use the internet or media. During an outbreak, stopping disease transmission is essential. It requires early diagnosis, efficient home and hospice care, and accessible preventive efforts. The media play a crucial role in media in educating people in dealing with the novel virus.

Because it needed the public to learn at record speed about an outbreak, absorb knowledge, and establish attitudes about the virus, the sudden appearance and rapid spread of the Covid-19 pandemic posed unique difficulties for effective public health

initiatives. This has given the media a crucial role in influencing people's understanding, attitudes, and reactions to the pandemic.

According to the WHO, a proper health information system and the management of contact risks is essential to slow the spread of an outbreak.

During the first wave of the pandemic, the media addressed Covid-19 in a variety of ways to the American people. While some news sources have concentrated on presenting accurate information about Covid-19, others have taken a different approach, downplaying the virus's seriousness, citing conspiracy stories and several other myths, and blaming China for the disease's spread (Dhanani and Franz 2020).

News impact people's behavior and views. An H1N1 epidemic in Shaanxi province, China, was examined in 2009. In 2016, Yan et al. showed how people's responses to media coverage might change, affecting emerging disease management (Maciel-Lima et al. 2015).

The media's coverage of the 2009 H1N1 epidemic increased public concern and knowledge. However, some patients started denigrating sick individuals owing to inaccurate reporting in certain media (Wang et al 2015). This is an example of how media awareness and illness prevention work together.

Social media has a big impact on public opinion. The spread of false information on social media is a significant societal issue, according to the WEF. The Covid-19 epidemic was extensively covered on social media. Social media is either a friend or adversary in the Covid-19 epidemic (Lima, de Medeiros Lopes and Brito 2020). Social networking platforms like Facebook route users to the WHO website (Merchant and Lurie 2021).

Furthermore, correctly utilized social media may effectively change people's behavior and promote community quality of life (Merchant and Lurie 2021). Conversely, improper usage of social media may cause damage (Merchant and Lurie 2021; Bastani and Bahrami 2020).

Canadian researchers looked at how media exposure affects people's views of the pandemic. A direct positive connection was found between misunderstandings and news intake through Twitter, resulting in reduced social distancing compliance. Consumption of traditional media has the opposite effect. Higher degrees of social separation (Bridgman et al. 2020).

2.7.2 News consumption and Covid-19 precautionary measures in Saudi Arabia

The previous research concluded that traditional news sources provide greater room for public education, while disinformation often occurs on Twitter. The research found an inverse relationship between pandemic beliefs, risk perceptions, and social distance (Bridgman et al. 2020). In fact, a recent Saudi study revealed that social media users were more aware of the pandemic (Almaghaslah et al. 2021).

The Saudi study found that 75.4% of 3,204 individuals were aware of the pandemic. This is because, as the researchers state in their study, 83 percent of participants get their Covid-19 news and information from official government accounts on social media. So they got correct facts. That implies improved pandemic severity perceptions and therefore better social distancing compliance.

According to a SARS report, people who believed the outbreak was more serious were more inclined to take precautions to prevent infection (Leung et al. 2004).

Early Covid-19 studies had mixed outcomes. People worried about Covid-19 are more likely to follow those preventive health practices like handwashing and social distance (Harper et al. 2020). The past result contradicts the findings of research performed in Wuhan, China (the epicenter of the Covid-19 epidemic) (Qian et al. 2020).

The Reuters Institute's study shows that people's desire to adopt preventive measures to limit Covid-19 transmission may hold up by increasing news avoidance. Uninterested in the news may be less inclined to follow public health recommendations (Kalogeropoulos, Fletcher and Nielsen 2020). The research showed that people's propensity to take precautions is linked to how much news they get about Covid-19. Among those who said they didn't follow the news, half said they'd be ready to take any preventive measures.

Two Saudi studies are examining the level of awareness, attitudes, and compliance with precautionary measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Alahdal, Basingab and Alotaibi 2020; Al-Hanawi et al. 2020).

First, a survey of 1767 people was conducted in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Alahdal, Basingab and Alotaibi 2020). The results were as follows, 58% showed a moderate level of awareness, and for attitudes towards the pandemic, 95% of participants showed an elevated attitude, and 81% complied with the recommended preventive practices against Covid-19.

Alahdal, Basingab and Alotaibi's work discovered a link between attitude awareness and posture practice (2020). It was found that girls are somewhat less knowledgeable than men, at 57% vs 60%. However, females exhibited somewhat greater practice (82%) than men towards Covid-19 (80 percent). Also, it was found that WHO and the Ministry of Health in Saudi were the main sources of information (MOH).

The second research, released in May, polled 3388 people from all across Saudi Arabia (2020 Al-Hanawi et al. 2020). The majority of study participants demonstrated knowledge of Covid-19. The average knowledge score was high. Their positions were optimistic about the pandemic. While practices are average.

However, males reported less awareness, positivity, and compliance against Covid-19 than women. The research also found that elderly individuals had more awareness and compliance than younger ones. Furthermore, wealthy individuals are more aware of Covid-19. The research authors suggested utilizing media to raise awareness about the Covid-19 pandemic among low-income, low-educated, adolescents, and males (2020 Al-Hanawi et al. 2020).

Overall, previous researches have shown that media coverage can accurately educate people about the health problem and the efficacy of preventive measures.

This thesis referenced numerous studies that evaluated Saudi society's knowledge of the pandemic, its severity, individual compliance with measures, and the social media effect

on the findings. There is no study on the impact of news fatigue and news avoidance on Saudi citizens' compliance with suggested preventive measures.

2.8 Why Saudi Arabia?

A growing body of evidence suggests that public perceptions of the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States have been shaped by political polarization, which has influenced media coverage and therefore public acceptance of the precautionary approach (Kerr, Panagopoulos, and van der Linden 2021). Saudi Arabia's political structure prevents such polarization.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a country that does not have a constitution like the rest of the world that clearly defines the form of the political system, the mechanisms of governance, and the transfer of power, given that the Qur'an, the holy book of Muslims, is the constitution of the state. However, in practice, the basic system of government-issued in the nineties of the last century performs the same function of the constitution, though not owning its name (Mason 2018).

The Saudi King is the hierarchy of power, the dominant person, and the real ruler, according to the Basic Law of Governance (Mason 2018). His hand has all powers, authority, and functions. As such, there is no power other than the King's. King's influence is broad, and his authority extends to all sectors of the state (Mason 2018).

The state has a Council of Ministers and a Shura Council that takes the place of Parliament as a legislative body, both of which are directly appointed by the King. So legislation is actually practiced by the King, then the Council of Ministers, and then the Shura Council, and Shura decisions are not binding on the King (Mason 2018).

Unlike democracies like the US and the UK, Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy where the authority determines all media policies to deal with crises, which chose to deal with the Covid-19 crisis early and harnessed its media, economic and medical energies. Meanwhile, the Saudi Ministry of Health conducted regular news briefings to educate the media and the public about the virus's transmission routes and preventative measures.

Intending to curb rumors in Saudi Arabia, in February 2021, the Saudi Public Prosecution announced penalties for anyone who spreads rumors and disseminates false information and news, which threatens his health and social security or provokes the reassurance and tranquility of its members. For up to five years and a fine of up to three million riyals, in addition to publishing the ruling in newspapers at the expense of the person involved, these legislations coincided with restrictions imposed by the Saudi government to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (Alhurra 2020).

The reasons as mentioned above make the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia a suitable location for the implementation of this research, as it is located within a completely different political, media, and cultural context, as the subject of the study has not previously explicitly been studied under a non-democratic political system, hence the uniqueness of this scientific work.

This thesis investigated the following research questions:

RQ2. Is there an effect of news fatigue on level of precaution towards Covid-19, during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.?
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.?

RQ3. Is there an effect of news avoidance on level of precaution towards Covid-19, during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.?
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.?

RQ4. Do different gender groups differ on their levels of news fatigue, levels of news avoidance, and levels of precaution towards Covid-19 during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.?
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.?

RQ5. Do different education groups differ on their levels of news fatigue, levels of news avoidance, and levels of precaution towards Covid-19 during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.?
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.?

RQ6. Is there a relationship between the frequency of getting news of individuals and their levels of news fatigue, levels of news avoidance, and levels of precaution towards Covid-19 during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020?
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021?

3. METHODOLOGY

In any research, the research question, purpose, and context are the main factors that lead to select the research methodology, and an appropriate methodology should be selected and developed to achieve the targeted results

This chapter discusses the research methodology and procedures. It contains the design of the related population, sampling method, data collecting techniques, and statistical analyses used.

The survey data was collected by a nonprobability sampling method in Saudi Arabia from where the population consists of only Internet users. It should be known that due to using a nonprobability sample of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Internet users, the findings are not statistically generalizable to the entire Saudi Arabia population.

3.1 Population And The Sampling Technique

As this study is conducted in Saudi Arabia, the population of this study is people who are living in Saudi Arabia, both Saudi citizens and residents in Saudi Arabia. In this study, a voluntary-based sampling method was used to select the target respondents. Such a method is implemented at the discretion of the researcher without using any probabilistic techniques, it targets respondents with certain criteria, these respondents are considered as a convenient data source (Etikan and Bala 2017).

According to Reyes and Ghosh (2013) and as it is shown in Figure 3.1 having a sample size between 300 and 500 observations will lead to a margin of 7% errors)). The margin of error formula is: suggested by Surendran (2019) is used, and the graph (Reyes & Ghosh, 2013) shows the relation between the sample size and the margin of error and will lead to concluding that the more sample size the less error. According to the formula, the samples size was determined at 372 responses for this research.

A hard drive holds all of the data that were gathered from the participants of this research and has not been shared with any other organization.

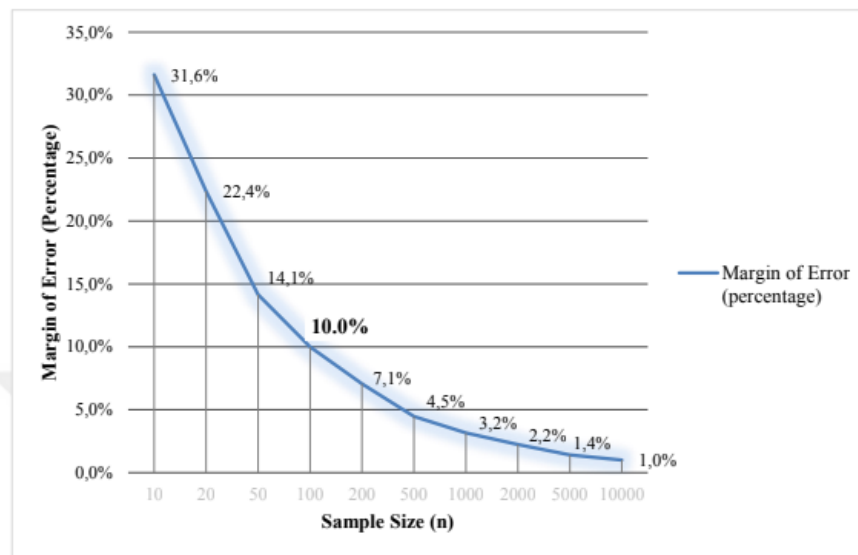


Figure 3.2: Sample size & Margin of Error

Source: Reyes & Ghosh 2013

3.2 Data Collection

3.2.1 Covid-19 news fatigue measures

News fatigue indicates the personal, self-evaluated perception of being tired of news consumption. To measure news fatigue, four validated questions previously used to measure the level of news fatigue in a study conducted in South Korea was used (Song, Jung and Kim 2016). The wording of the questions are as the following: "I faced difficulty realizing the news about Covid-19", "I felt pessimistic due to news about Covid-19", "I was tired due too much news about Covid-19" and "I was stressed by reading and watching the news about Covid-19's numbers of infections and deaths."

3.2.2 Covid-19 news avoidance measures

To measure news avoidance, this thesis used a measure consisting of two items taken from a study conducted in South Korea on the coping strategy of ignoring or avoiding news (Song, Jung and Kim 2016). The wording of the two items used are as the following: "I felt it is useless to read or watch the news about Covid-19" and "I didn't want to read or watch the news about Covid-19."

3.2.3 Level of precaution towards Covid-19 measures

To measure the level of precautions taken by individuals, seven standards of precautions based on two recent research (Lee et al 2020; Noor 2020) were adopted and asked with five answers options: “always”, “usually”, "sometimes", "rarely", and "never".

Questions investigated how often the following precautions measures are applied, "practicing social distancing in this current pandemic", "staying home for social distancing", "wearing a mask, sanitizing your hands using hand-rub or hand-wash", "avoiding shaking hands with others", "cleaning and disinfect frequently touched objects, and surfaces and avoiding crowded areas".

Previous three measurements: Covid-19 news fatigue, Covid-19 news avoidance, and level of precaution towards Covid-19 were posed two times on the survey, in two separate sections to measure the Covid-19 News fatigue during both stages' curfew and vaccine.

3.2.4 Need for news measures

Measuring the need for news can help understand how much the participants wanted access to the news and feel it is a vital element of their days. Two items related to the level of the need for news from a study conducted in South Korea were used (Song, Jung and Kim 2016). The items are as the following: "I enjoy keeping up with the news," and "I think the news is necessary to my life".

Overall, the survey's questions are grouped under nine sections:

1. News consumption habits in general
2. News avoidance during the curfew stage - started on 23 March until 21 June 2020
3. Fatigue news during the curfew stage - started on 23 March until 21 June 2020
4. Precaution level during the curfew stage - started on 23 March until 21 June 2020
5. News avoidance during the vaccine stage - started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021
6. Fatigue news during the vaccine stage - started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021

7. Precaution level during the vaccine stage - started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021
8. Need for news in general
9. Demographic information

The surveys were distributed online using Google Forms. The participants were contacted by the WhatsApp application and were asked to respond to the survey and pass it to their friends, co-workers, family members, and their luck for filling out the questionnaire. They were told that they were expected to finish answering the questionnaire questions within no more than 10 minutes.

Participants who decided not to participate in this research or did not answer the study's questions were removed from the study. Participants were also granted the option of ending the survey at any stage. Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional Review Boards Committee of Kadir Has University.

It should be noted that the information was collected at one time point, in April 2021. As a consequence, respondents in the survey were asked to describe how they felt throughout the ban period, which is approximately a year ago, potentially skewing the findings during the curfew time.

It should be emphasized that this scientific study is based on the participants' self-evaluation via self-report, rather than on researchers' observations. As a consequence, the study's conclusions are dependent on data gathered based on participants' self-perceptions.

3.3 Statistical Analysis Approach

The study used three statistical techniques which are: Simple Percentage Analysis, Regression Analysis, and T-test. Simple Percentage Analysis is used on the analysis of the demographic part of the research survey for a better understanding of the targeted respondents. This analysis depends on the frequency distribution of the data collected and doesn't have a role in answering the research questions. Regression analysis is a kind of

statistical analysis that assesses the connections between one or more independent variables and a dependent variable. It investigates the influence of one or more independent factors on a dependent variable (Hirst 1970). T-test compares the means for two groups. It helps you to compare the means of two sets of data.

The software for analysis which was used for this study is IBM SPSS version 23. IBM SPSS is a common software that is used for the social sciences analysis surveys analyzing it works on primary data to process it and get results (Landau and Everitt 2004).



4. RESULTS

This chapter reports the analyses conducted based on the original data collected. It includes simple percentage analyses of the variables, the regression analyses to uncover the associations between variables of interest accompanied with interpretation of the results.

Before starting the simple percentage analysis, an initial data screening was done for the total 372 survey responses. The responses which were the same for all the survey question as well as the responses which have more than half of the questions unanswered were discarded from the analyses. 10 responses were removed in total, and the remaining 362 were included in the analyses.

4.1 Demographic And Descriptive Questions Analysis

To understand the targeted respondents and their answers, a simple percentage analysis was done. Such analysis gives an accumulated summary of the respondent's answers according to the frequency distribution of the data collected; it is calculated by the following formula: $\text{Percentage} = (\text{Number of Respondents} * 100) / \text{Total Number of Respondents}$.

The first part of this analysis represents the demographic data which provides an idea about the respondents' characteristics it includes four questions as below:

Age: The age group of 40-49 years old represents 27% of the total responses. The second group is the 30-39 years old as it represents 25% of the total responses, then the 50-59 years old as it represents 22%. The remaining age groups have a little representation from the total responses, as the 19-25 years old represents 12%, the 26-29 years old represents 9%, and the over 60 years old group represents 6% of the total responses.

Gender: The distribution of responses is almost equal between males and females, males represent 55%, and females represent 45% of the total responses.

Marital status: The majority of the respondents are married as they represent 70% of the respondents, then the never married as they represent 24% of the total respondents. The divorced represents 5%, and the widowed represents 1% of the total respondents.

Level of education: Half of the respondents (52%) have an associate/bachelor's degree. In the second place, the high school degree or equivalent represents 23% of the total respondents, then the graduate degree represents 19%. Finally, the respondents with less than a high school level of education represent 6% of the total respondents.

Employment status: Half of the respondents (49%) are not employed and not looking for work. Respondents who are employed and working 1-39 hours per week represents 27% of the total respondents, on the other hand, respondents who are looking for work represent 17% of the total respondents. Retired respondents represent 7% and disabled, not able to work respondents represent 0.3% of the total respondents (only one respondent).

Monthly income status (Saudi Riyal): Half of the respondents (56%) has a monthly income from 0 to 36,000 Saudi Riyals. In the second place, respondents with a monthly income from 36,001 to 72,000 Saudi Riyals, they represent 24% of the respondents, then the respondents with a monthly income from 72,001 to 144,000 Saudi Riyals, they represent 12% of the respondents. Respondents that have more than 144,000 monthly income represents 8% of the total respondents.

The legal situation in Saudi Arabia: Half of the respondents (50%) are Saudi citizens, and the other half are residents in Saudi Arabia.

The second part of this analysis represents the descriptive questions data which provides additional descriptive information about the respondents it includes for questions as below:

“Where do you go to consume Covid-19 news?”

Half of the respondents (54%) get the news of Covid-19 from Social media platforms such as Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Snapshot. News websites come in the second place as people who consume their news from websites represent 19% of the total respondents. People who consume their news from TV channels represent 18% of the total respondents. People who consume their news from WhatsApp communication

represents 8% of the total respondents. Finally, only four people consume their news about Covid-19 from newspapers they represent 1% of the total respondents.

“How often do you get news about Covid-19?”

Less than half (40%) of the respondents get news about Covid-19 once a day. 33% of the total respondents get news about Covid-19 several times a day. 12% of the total respondents get news about Covid-19 once a week, 9% of the total respondents get news about Covid-19 less than once a week, 6% of the total respondents get news about Covid-19 more than once an hour, and 1% of the total respondents get news about Covid-19 once an hour.

“I usually find out the recent news about Covid-19 through:”

Half of the respondents (50%) find out the recent news about Covid-19 through social media. 17% of the respondents find out the recent news about Covid-19 through television, 11% of the respondents find out the recent news about Covid-19 through internet websites, 12% of the respondents find out the recent news about Covid-19 through word of mouth (WOT), 7% of the respondents find out the recent news about Covid-19 through WhatsApp, and 2% of the respondents find out the recent news about Covid-19 through from newspapers, magazines, and radio.

“Thinking about what is said in the news about Covid-19, in your view, how much exaggeration is there in terms of the seriousness of the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic?”

More than half of the respondents (58%) think that the news about Covid-19 is generally correct. 31% of the respondents think that the news about Covid-19 is generally exaggerated, 7% of the respondents think that the news about Covid-19 is generally underestimated, and 5% of the respondents do not have an opinion about this issue.

“I verify news about Covid-19 that I receive from any news sources:”

Almost half of the respondents (41%) strongly agree that they verify news about Covid-19 that they receive. 28% of the respondents agree that they verify news about Covid-19 that they receive, 20% are neutral toward Covid-19 News verification. 6% of the

respondents disagree that they verify news about Covid-19 that they receive, 4% and of the respondents strongly disagree that they verify news about Covid-19 that they receive.

“I enjoy keeping up with the news:”

Less than half of the respondents (30%) agree that they enjoy keeping up with the news. 35% of the respondents are neutral toward enjoying keeping up with the news. 14% of the respondents strongly agree that they enjoy keeping up with the news, 11% of the respondents disagree that they enjoy keeping up with the news, and 10% of the respondents strongly disagree that they enjoy keeping up with the news.

“I think the news is important in my life:”

Less than half of the respondents (37%) agree that they think the news is important in their life. 28% of the respondents are neutral toward the importance of news in their life. 16% of the respondents strongly agree that they think the news is important in their life, 11% of the respondents disagree that they think the news is important in their life, and 8% of the respondents strongly disagree that they think the news is important in their life.

4.2 Reliability Assessment Of The Measures (Cronbach Alpha Test)

Reliability is the method that is done to evaluate the quality of the measurement tools (respondents' answers to the questioner), when doing research using a quantitative study that should be measured indirectly, a measurement instrument is common to be used.

According to Muijs (2004, 71), reliability is defined as to what level the test scores are free from measurement error that occur when testing something. If there is an unreliable measurement, the relationship between variables will be insignificant. One way of testing reliability is the Cronbach Alpha test which is an internal consistency measure that shows how closely related a set of items are as a group. It explains If the scale is reliable or not. According to Muijs (2004), when the test results are more than 0.70 then the measurement is reliable. The reliability test results of each variable of this study are shown in Table 4.1:

Table 3.1: Reliability Assessment (Cronbach Alpha test):

Variable name	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
News fatigue - during curfew	.776	.769	5
News avoidance - during curfew	.811	.811	2
Level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during curfew	.860	.862	4
News fatigue - during vaccine stage	.833	.832	5
News avoidance - during vaccine stage	.847	.847	2
Level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during vaccine stage	.869	.871	4

According to the results above it can be concluded that the study measurement of news fatigue, news avoidance, and level of precaution towards Covid-19 during curfew and during vaccine stage are reliable and hence can be used for answering the research questions.

4.3. The Relationship Between News Fatigue And News Avoidance

RQ1. Is there a significant relationship between news fatigue and news avoidance? during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

Correlation is used answering this research question. It helps to find if there is a relationship between the two variables. Correlation is a parametric test that has two assumptions, which are normality distribution and no outliers. Each data set related to news fatigue and level of news avoidance was tested separately, and no one of them is normally distributed and each one of them has more than five outliers observations, so the non-parametric correlation test which is Spearman Correlation Test is used (see Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Spearman Correlation – Curfew stage

			News fatigue - during curfew	News avoidance - during curfew
Spearman's rho	News fatigue - during curfew	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.132*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.012
		N	362	362
	News avoidance - during curfew	Correlation Coefficient	.132*	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.012	.
		N	362	362

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The P-value is .012, shows that there is a significant positive relationship between news fatigue and news avoidance during curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020 (see Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Spearman Correlation – Vaccine stage

			News fatigue - during curfew	News avoidance - during curfew
Spearman's rho	News fatigue - during vaccine stage	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.047
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.371
		N	362	362
	News avoidance - during vaccine stage	Correlation Coefficient	.047	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.371	.
		N	362	362

The P-value is .371, shows that there is no relationship between news fatigue and news avoidance, during vaccine stage which started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

This lead to concluding that the behavior of people toward Covid-19 News was changed during the vaccine stage as no relationships were found between news fatigue and news avoidance, but before that during the curfew stage, there was a significant relationship between news fatigue and news avoidance.

4.4. The Effect Of News Fatigue On Level Of Precaution Towards Covid-19

RQ2. Is there an effect of news fatigue on level of precaution towards Covid-19 during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

Regression analysis is used to test the effect of news fatigue, it is defined as a predictive analysis tool that examines the relationship between independent and dependent variables, with a goal of fitting a mathematical function describing how the value of the response changes when the values of the predictors vary (Gkioulekas & Papageorgiou, 2019).

The Durbin-Watson value was calculated and according to its results, it is concluded that there is no autocorrelation problem as the results is 1.817 which is between 1.5 and 2.5.

There is 6.8 % of variance explained in the level of precaution towards Covid-19 by the news fatigue during curfew is the logic of regression.

Table 4.4: The Regression table for RQ2 results – Curfew stage:

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Coefficients		
1	(Constant)	3.676	.162		22.625	.000
	News fatigue - during curfew	.221	.043	.261	5.138	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during curfew

The unstandardized coefficient Beta value is 0.221, and the standardized coefficient Beta value is 0.261, which shows that there is a positive relation between news fatigue and level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during curfew (see Table 4.4).

The P-value shows that there is an effect of news fatigue on the level of precaution towards Covid-19 during curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

A regression analysis was run to predict level of precaution towards Covid-19 during curfew from news fatigue. It is concluded that news fatigue statistically significantly predicted level of precaution towards Covid-19, $F(1,360) = 26.396$, $p < .000$, $R^2 = .068$. It added statistically significantly to the prediction, as P-value is less than .05.

There is 10.7 % of variance explained in the level of precaution towards Covid-19 by the news fatigue during vaccine stage is the logic of regression.

Table 4.5: The Regression table for RQ2 testing results – Vaccine stage:

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Coefficients		
1	(Constant)	1.496	.228		6.562	.000
	News fatigue - during vaccine	.355	.054	.327	6.557	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during vaccine stage

The unstandardized coefficient Beta value is 0.355, and the standardized coefficient Beta value is 0.327, shows that there is a positive relation between news fatigue and level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during vaccine stage (see Table 4.5).

The P-value shows that there is an effect of news fatigue on the level of precaution towards Covid-19 during the vaccine stage, which started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

A regression analysis was run to predict level of precaution towards Covid-19 during vaccine stage from news fatigue. It is concluded that news fatigue statistically significantly predicted level of precaution towards Covid-19, $F(1,360) = 42.998$, $p < .000$, $R^2 = .107$. It added statistically significantly to the prediction of the model, as P-value is less than .05.

This will lead to concluding that news fatigue has a positive effect on level of precaution towards Covid-19, during curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020 and vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021, the effect is stronger in the vaccine stage as the people are more exhausted from the Covid-19 news during the availability of the vaccine which represent the solution of this pandemic.

4.5 The Effect Of News Avoidance On The Level Of Precaution Towards Covid-19

RQ3. Is there an effect of news avoidance on level of precaution towards Covid-19? during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

Regression analysis is used to answer RQ3, so the test was conducted. The regression testing results and related interpretation are explained below:

The Durbin-Watson value was calculated and according to its results, it is concluded that there is no autocorrelation problem as the results is 1.867 which is between 1.5 and 2.5.

There is 5.7 % of variance explained in the level of precaution towards Covid-19 by the news avoidance during curfew is the logic of regression.

Table 4.6: The Regression table for RQ3 testing results – Curfew stage:

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	4.891	.092		53.140	.000
	News avoidance - during curfew	-.145	.031	-.239	-4.667	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during curfew

The unstandardized coefficient Beta value is - 0.145, and the standardized coefficient Beta value is -0.239, which shows that there is a negative relation between news avoidance and level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during curfew (see Table 4.6).

The P-value shows that there is an effect of news avoidance on the level of precaution towards Covid-19, during curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

A regression analysis was run to predict level of precaution towards Covid-19 during curfew from news avoidance. It is concluded that news avoidance statistically significantly predicted level of precaution towards Covid-19, $F(1,360) = 21.782$, $p < .000$, $R^2 = .057$. it added statistically significantly to the prediction.

The Durbin-Watson value was calculated and according to its results, it is concluded that there is no autocorrelation problem as the results is 1.906 which is between 1.5 and 2.5.

There is 10.2 % of variance explained in the level of precaution towards Covid-19 by the news avoidance during vaccine stage is the logic of regression.

Table 4.7: The Regression table for RQ3 testing results – Vaccine stage:

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	4.812	.115			42.019	.000
	News avoidance - during vaccine	-.240	.038	-.319		-6.394	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during vaccine stage

The unstandardized coefficient Beta value is -0.240, and the standardized coefficient Beta value is -0.319, shows that there is a negative relation between news avoidance and level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during the vaccine stage (see Table 4.7).

The P-value shows that there is an effect of news avoidance on level of precaution towards Covid-19, during the vaccine stage, which started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

A regression analysis was run to predict level of precaution towards Covid-19 during vaccine stage from news avoidance. It is concluded that news avoidance statistically significantly predicted level of precaution towards Covid-19, $F(1,360) = 40.881$, $p < .000$, $R^2 = .102$. It added statistically significantly to the prediction, as P-value is less than .05.

This will lead to concluding that news avoidance has a negative effect on the level of precaution towards Covid-19, during curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020 and vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021, the effect is stronger in the vaccine stage as the people are avoiding the news of Covid-19 more during the availability of the vaccine which represents the solution of this pandemic and a sign of returning to normal life.

4.6 The Difference In The Level Of News Fatigue And The Level Of News Avoidance And Level Of Precaution Towards Covid-19 Based On Gender

RQ4. Do different gender groups differ on their levels of news fatigue, levels of news avoidance, and levels of precaution towards Covid-19 during:

- c. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.?
- d. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.?

T-test is used to answer RQ4, compares the means for two groups. T-test is a parametric test that has two assumptions, which are normality distribution and no outliers.

Each data set related to news fatigue, level of news avoidance, and level of precaution towards Covid-19 during curfew was tested separately, and no one of them is normally distributed and each one of them has outlier, so the non-parametric version of T-test, which is Mann-Whitney U-Test is used.

4.6.1 Level of news fatigue comparison based on gender

A Mann-Whitney U test was conducted to see the differences in news fatigue according to gender during curfew stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of news fatigue comparison based on gender is 0.696. This leads to conclude that there is no difference between males and females in their level of news fatigue during the curfew stage. The same test was done again to see the differences in news fatigue according to gender during the vaccine stage. The testing results show that: The P-value of level of news fatigue comparison based on gender is 0.155. This leads to conclude that there is no difference between males and females in their level of news fatigue during the vaccine stage. This will lead that no differences between males and females in their level of news fatigue during curfew or the vaccine stage.

4.6.2 Level of news avoidance comparison based on gender

A Mann-Whitney U test was conducted to see the differences in news avoidance according to gender during curfew stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value level of news fatigue comparison based on gender is 0.049. This leads to conclude that there is difference between males and females in their level of news avoidance. The comparison ranking results shows that males are having a higher level of news avoidance than females, the males mean ranking is 191 while the females mean ranking is 169.8.

The same test was done again to see the differences in news avoidance according to gender during the vaccine stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of news avoidance comparison based on gender is 0.110. This leads to conclude that there is no difference between males and females in their level of news avoidance during the vaccine stage. This will lead that male were avoiding Covid-19 News during the curfew stage more than women, but there were no differences in news avoidance during the vaccine stage according to gender.

4.6.3 Level of precaution comparison based on gender

A Mann-Whitney U test was conducted to see the differences in level of precaution according to gender during curfew stage. The testing results shows that: P value level of level of precaution comparison based on gender is 0.003. This leads to conclude that there is difference between males and females in their level of precaution. The comparison ranking results shows that females are having a higher level of precaution than males, the females mean ranking is 198.7 while the males mean ranking is 167.3.

The same test was done again to see the differences in level of perception according to gender in during vaccine stage. The testing results shows that: p value of level of level of perception comparison based on gender is 0.000. This leads to conclude that there is a difference between males and females in their level of perception during the vaccine stage. The comparison ranking results shows that females are having a higher level of precaution than males, the females mean ranking is 202.39 while the males mean ranking is 167.19. This will lead that female are having more level of perception toward Covid-19 during curfew stage and vaccine stage.

4.7 The Difference in The Level Of News Fatigue And Level Of News Avoidance And Level Of Precaution Towards Covid-19 According To Level Of Education

RQ5. Do different education groups differ on their levels of news fatigue, levels of news avoidance, and levels of precaution towards Covid-19 during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.?

- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.?

ANOVA is used to answer RQ5, compares the means for more than two groups. It helps to compare the means of more than two sets of data. T-test is a parametric test that has two assumptions, which are normality distribution and no outliers.

Each data set related to news fatigue, level of news avoidance, and level of precaution towards Covid-19 during curfew was tested separately, and no one of them is normally distributed and each one of them has outlier, so the non-parametric version of ANOVA which is Kruskal-Wallis Test is used.

4.7.1 Level of news fatigue comparison based on level of education

Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted to see the differences in news fatigue according to level of education during curfew stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of news fatigue comparison based on level of education is 0.778, which is higher than 0.05. This leads to conclude that there is no difference between different levels of education in their level of news fatigue during the curfew stage.

The same test was done again to see the differences in news fatigue according to level of education during vaccine stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of news fatigue comparison based on level of education is 0.054. This leads to conclude that there is no difference between different levels of education in their level of news fatigue during the vaccine stage. This will lead to concluding that there are no differences between different levels of education in their level of news fatigue during curfew or the vaccine stage.

4.7.2 Level of news avoidance comparison based on level of education

Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted to see the differences in news avoidance according to level of education during curfew stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value level of news avoidance comparison based on level of education is 0.306. This leads to conclude that there is no difference between different levels of education in their level of news avoidance.

The same test was done again to see the differences in news avoidance according to level of education during vaccine stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of news avoidance comparison based on level of education is 0.878. This leads to conclude that there is no difference between different levels of educations in their level of news avoidance during the vaccine stage. This will lead to conclude that there are no differences between different levels of education in their level of news avoidance during curfew or the vaccine stage.

4.7.3 Level of precaution comparison based on level of education

Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted to see the differences in level of precaution according to level of education during curfew stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value level of level of precaution comparison based on level of education is 0.122. This leads to conclude that there is a difference between different levels of education in their level of precaution.

The same test was done again to see the differences in level of perception according to level of education during vaccine stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of level of perception comparison based on level of education is 0.166.

This leads to conclude that there is no difference between different levels of education in their level of perception during the vaccine stage. This will lead to concluding that there are no differences between different levels of education in their level of perception during curfew or the vaccine stage.

4.8 The Difference in The Level of News Fatigue And Level Of News Avoidance And Level Of Precaution Towards Covid-19 According To Frequency of getting news

Q6. Is there a difference in level of news fatigue, level of news avoidance, and level of precaution towards Covid-19 according to Frequency of getting news? during:

- a. Curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.
- b. Vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

ANOVA is used to answer RQ6, compares the means for more than two groups. It helps to compare the means of more than two sets of data. T-test is a parametric test that has two assumptions, which are normality distribution and no outliers.

Each data set related to news fatigue, level of news avoidance, and level of precaution towards Covid-19 during curfew was tested separately, and no one of them is normally distributed and each one of them has outlier, so the non-parametric version of ANOVA which is Kruskal-Wallis Test is used.

Frequency of getting news used in this test are: More than once an hour, Once an hour, several times a day, Once a Day, Once a week, and Less than once a week.

4.8.1 Level of news fatigue comparison based on frequency of getting news

Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted to see the differences in news fatigue according to Frequency of getting news during curfew stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of news fatigue comparison based on Frequency of getting news is 0.007, which is than 0.05. This leads to conclude that there is a difference between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of news fatigue during the curfew stage.

The comparison ranking results shows that respondents who gets news about Covid-19 more than once an hour have the highest level of news fatigue; their mean rank is 226.5. Respondents who get news about Covid-19 once an hour are in the second place with a mean rank of 212.5. In the third-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 several times a day with a mean rank of 188.5. In the fourth-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 once a day with a mean rank of 188.2. In the fifth-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 once a week with a mean rank of 171.5. finally, in the sixth-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 less than once a week with a mean rank of 119.4.

The same test was done again to see the differences in news fatigue according to Frequency of getting news during vaccine stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of news fatigue comparison based on gender is 0.000. This leads to conclude that there is a difference between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of news fatigue during the vaccine stage.

The comparison ranking results shows that respondents who gets news about Covid-19 more than once an hour have the highest level of news fatigue; their mean rank is 279.13. Respondents who get news about Covid-19 once an hour are in the second place with a mean rank of 188.5. In the third-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 once a day with a mean rank of 187.04. In the fourth-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 once a week with a mean rank of 181.07. In the fifth-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 several time a day with a mean rank of 178.26. finally, in the sixth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 less than once a week with a mean rank of 105.11.

This will lead to concluding that there are differences between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of news fatigue during curfew and the vaccine stage, the people who get news more than once an hour are having the most level of news fatigue.

4.8.2 Level of news avoidance comparison based on frequency of getting news

Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted to see the differences in news avoidance according to Frequency of getting news during curfew stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value level of news avoidance comparison based on Frequency of getting news is 0.003. This leads to conclude that there is a difference between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of news avoidance.

The comparison ranking results shows that respondents who get news about Covid-19 less than once a week have the highest level of news avoidance; their mean rank is 241.9. Respondents who get news about Covid-19 once a week are in the second place with a mean rank of 208.2. In the third-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 more than once an hour with a mean rank of 187.6. In the fourth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 several times a day with a mean rank of 172.2. In the fifth-place

respondents who get news about Covid-19 once a day with a mean rank of 168.5. finally, in the sixth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 once an hour with a mean rank of 107.5.

The same test was done again to see the differences in news avoidance according to Frequency of getting news during vaccine stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of news avoidance comparison based on frequency of getting news is 0.000. This leads to conclude that there is a difference between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of news avoidance during the vaccine stage. The comparison ranking results shows that respondents who get news about Covid-19 less than once a week have the highest level of news avoidance; their mean rank is 264.9. Respondents who get news about Covid-19 more than once an hour are in the second place with a mean rank of 220.08. In the third-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 once a week with a mean rank of 212.86. In the fourth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 once a day with a mean rank of 172.83. In the fifth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 several times a day with a mean rank of 154.36. finally, in the sixth-place respondents who gets news about Covid-19 once an hour with a mean rank of 89.

This will lead to conclude that there are differences between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of news avoidance during curfew and the vaccine stage. The people who get news less than once a week are having the most level of news avoidance.

4.8.3 Level of precaution comparison based on frequency of getting news

Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted to see the differences in level of precaution according to Frequency of getting news during curfew stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value level of level of precaution comparison based on Frequency of getting news is 0.016. This leads to conclude that there is a difference between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of precaution.

The comparison ranking results shows that respondents who get news about Covid-19 once an hour have the highest-level perception; their mean rank is 282.5. Respondents

who get news about Covid-19 once a day are in the second place with a mean rank of 195.77. In the third-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 more than once an hour with a mean rank of 189.5. In the fourth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 several times a day with a mean rank of 181.09. In the fifth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 once a week with a mean rank of 159.23. finally, in the sixth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 less than once an hour with a mean rank of 135.34.

The same test was done again to see the differences in level of perception according to Frequency of getting news during vaccine stage. The testing results shows that:

The P-value of level of level of perception comparison based on Frequency of getting news is 0.000. This leads to conclude that there is a difference between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of perception during the vaccine stage.

The comparison ranking results shows that respondents who get news about Covid-19 once an hour have the highest-level of perception; their mean rank is 281. Respondents who get news about Covid-19 once a day are in the second place with a mean rank of 203.99. In the third-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 more than once an hour with a mean rank of 190.68. In the fourth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 several times a day with a mean rank of 177.08. In the fifth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 once a week with a mean rank of 147.34. finally, in the sixth-place respondents who get news about Covid-19 less than once an hour with a mean rank of 127.76.

This will lead to concluding that there are differences between people according to the frequency they are getting news in their level of precaution during curfew and the vaccine stage, the people who get news once an hour are having the most level of precaution.

5. CONCLUSION

The significance of the study reported here lies in two respects: it studied the phenomena of news fatigue and news avoidance in the context of an absolute monarchy, which is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in contrast to all research work that studied these two phenomena only in the context of a media environment based on democratic political systems such as the USA, the UK and Korea.

The absolute Saudi monarchy is considered in all its details, in which the king's authority includes all the powers and decisions in all significant and detailed issues, which is a primary difference that distinguishes it from the known democratic systems. As a result, all Saudi local media organizations, local journalists, influencers in social media work from within the Kingdom, following government policies in dealing with all issues, including COVID-19, which necessarily reflect the directions of the Saudi Royal Court. This constitutes a new context in which the two phenomena of news fatigue and news avoidance are studied entirely differently from the context of previous studies.

On the other respect, this scientific work examined the impact of both phenomena on the level of people's compliance with the precautionary measures against Covid-19, as local authorities and international organizations depend on the media to provide the public with correct instructions and information and the role of this research is to investigate the influences of the public's fatigue and avoidance of the news of the pandemic.

The results of this study confirm that the phenomena of news fatigue and news avoidance gain a wider spread among the public during the uncertain times that prevailed during the curfew phase, and this uncertainty was represented by the absence of a medical vaccine that serves a decisive treatment for the Covid-19 pandemic. The results revealed that 55% of the respondents had news fatigue during curfew, but 42% had fatigue during the vaccine stage. Also, it showed that 55% of the respondents had news avoidance during curfew, but 35% had news avoidance during the vaccine stage. So, a higher percentage of people were prone to feeling fatigued by the news during times of uncertainty, which is in line with Stainback's report that in uncertain situations, more people tend to perceive fatigue (2020).

The research results also indicate the double negative impact of the phenomenon of avoiding news on individuals' commitment to precautionary measures during vaccine times. In other words, during the lockdown period, people who actively avoid news about the pandemic have a 5.7% lower level of compliance with Covid-19 preventive measures compared to individuals who do not avoid the news. In comparison, the negative effect of news avoidance doubled during the vaccination period. Individuals who avoided news showing a lower level of adherence to precautionary measures 10.2% compared to individuals who did not avoid the news during the vaccination period, which means double the negative effect from 5.7% during the lockdown stage to 10.2% the vaccine stage.

In contrast to the negative effect of news avoidance, news fatigue has a positive impact on individuals' adherence to preventive measures against Covid-19, and this effect is increased by a third during the vaccination phase compared to the lockdown phase. In other words, during the lockdown period, people experiencing Covid-19 news fatigue showed a 6.8% higher compliance level compared to individuals without Covid-19 news fatigue. While the positive impact of news fatigue increases at the level of preventive measures against Covid-19 during the vaccination period, the level of individuals' commitment to precautionary measures increases to 10.7% compared to individuals who do not feel tired from the news of Covid-19.

The different influence trends of news avoidance and news fatigue on the protective behavior against Covid-19 show that both phenomena are two distinct constructs, and they work differently in impacting people's behavior in times of crisis.

About the gender variables, there was no difference between males and females in their level of news fatigue during the curfew stage and vaccine stage. Also, there was no significant difference between males and females in their level of news avoidance during the vaccine stage, but in the curfew stage, males perceived a higher level of news avoidance than females. Regarding the degree of compliance with the precautionary measures against Covid-19, women showed a higher level of compliance with the precautionary measures against Covid-19 during the curfew and vaccination phases.

The previous conclusions about gender are constant with pre-pandemic healthcare practices that report that women more time visiting the doctors and give more attention to doctors' advice in their daily life (Olcaysoy, Gollwitzer and Oettingen 2020). They additionally give more further consideration to the health-related needs of others (Olcaysoy, Gollwitzer and Oettingen 2020). Therefore, it is not unexpected that these trends translate into more significant efforts by women to stop the spread of the disease, and that is to follow the preventive measures.

The results of this research are similar to the results of Olcaysoy, Gollwitzer and Oettingen in gender aspect, which was conducted on people living in the United States of America. It indicated that American women reported more than men that they followed the preventive measures (2020).

About the education level variables, there were no significant differences in news fatigue level, news avoidance level, and level of precautionary measures against Covid-19 according to the education level in both curfew and vaccine stages.

There are no differences in outcomes based on educational levels. It could be attributed to the role of the active health media in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which played a tremendous educational role during the Covid-19 crisis. they used all forms of content, traditional media, and the Internet to reach all segments of society and educate them about the causes of disease transmission and how to limit its spread. Furthermore, imposing fines on violators of directives. All of these previous efforts could be interpreted to reduce the differences between the different levels of education.

At a time when the whole world is seeking to push individuals to follow precautionary measures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus by using various means, including news, the link between the phenomenon of avoiding the news and the decrease in individuals' compliance with these measures will be a crisis added to the list of problems that accompanied the emergence of the pandemic.

The damage of the negative behavioral trend correlated with the phenomenon of avoiding news is not limited to those who avoid news only, but also to the people around them by the possibility of transmitting the infection to them, consequently, the high number of

infected people and then the high level of occupancy in hospitals and the inability of the health system to deal with the rising numbers and the chain of crises that do not end, the previous mentioned chain consequences could worsen the whole situation.

Correlation does not imply causation, so further investigation of news avoiders' behavior is critical to determine whether there is a causal relationship between news avoidance and reduced compliance or if there are other reasons why news avoiders show this damaging behavior.

An effective communication strategy for COVID-19 depends on the broad scope of the message. Avoiding news will limit the effectiveness of communication efforts to inform individuals and groups about the procedures to follow during times of ban and beyond. The crowd should be notified of step-by-step instructions on how to visit indoor public places or safely meet with high-risk individuals when it comes to keeping the number of new infections low. And the guidance in times of easing the measures is often more detailed than the ban guidelines. As a result, those instructions reach the broadest range of the audience through the news is a condition for the effectiveness of crisis management. Yet, the phenomenon of avoiding news limits the efficacy of those communication efforts to manage the crisis.

An absolute monarchy remains one in which citizens have no decisive role. It is up to the king and his crown prince to assess the risks and the strategy to deal with them, and citizens and residents must follow orders and impose penalties on violators. There is no doubt that the early response of the Kingdom's leadership to the crisis, whether at the media or health level, reduced the risks of the pandemic. In the media, awareness messages were intensified according to a deliberate strategy from the Ministry of Health, directly backed by the Crown Prince. These reasons significantly reduced the presence of dissenting opinions. Thus, reducing the factor of conflict of views on the behavior of individuals, there is an opportunity in favor of future studies for further study and investigation in comparing the impact of political systems on the behavior of individuals, their perception of news fatigue, and news avoidance.

This study remains as an attempt to understand the impact of the two phenomena of news fatigue and news avoidance on the behavior of compliance with precautionary measures

against Covid-19, in light of a media climate based on a monarchical regime, which can be count as an introductory investigation according to previous researches that was elucidated by this scientific work.

5.2 Limitations And Recommendations For Future Studies

This research relied on data gathered via a nonprobability sampling technique from a population of solely Internet users. It should be noted that the findings cannot be statistically generalizable to the whole Saudi Arabia population owing to the use of a nonprobability sample of Internet users in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This research's findings were based on a cross-sectional investigation. Instead, a longitudinal study might have helped us explore the impact of changes in real news intake on reported news weariness or avoidance. The use of in-depth interview technique at various periods may be a better way to know the quality of the news, its source, and its subjects that feed the two phenomena of news weariness and news avoidance.

According to several research, the sensation of news weariness is related to the reader's appropriateness, culture, and experience dealing with it (Song, Jung, and Kim 2017). Future research could look into the consumption of Covid-19 News and its relationship to the two phenomena of Covid-news fatigue and avoidance among doctors and health workers, because the news topic is relevant to their work and there is the possibility of different results that enlighten the scientific community.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Information

Name Surname :

Place and Date of Birth :

Education

Undergraduate Education :

Graduate Education :

Foreign Language Skills :

Work Experience

Name of Employer and Dates of Employment:

Contact:

Telephone :

E-mail Address :

APPENDIX A

A.1 Survey Questions:

Section 1: Covid-19 news consumption habits in general

1. Where do you go to consume Covid-19 news?
 - a. TV channels
 - b. Newspapers
 - c. Radio stations
 - d. Magazines
 - e. News websites
 - f. Social media platforms "Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Snapshot,
 - g. WhatsApp

2. How often do you get news about Covid-19?
 - a. more than once an hour
 - b. once an hour
 - c. several times a day
 - d. once a day
 - e. once a week
 - f. less than once a week

3. I usually find out the recent news about Covid-19 through:
 - a. Word of mouth
 - b. Print (newspaper, magazine, etc.)
 - c. Radio
 - d. Television
 - e. Social Media
 - f. Internet Website
 - g. WhatsApp

4. Thinking about what is said in the news about Covid-19, in your view, how much exaggeration is there in terms of the seriousness of the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic?
 - a. Generally exaggerated
 - b. Generally correct
 - c. Generally underestimated
 - d. No opinion

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below.

5. I verify news about Covid-19 that I receive from any news sources:

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

Section 2: News fatigue - during curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements

6. I was closely following news about Covid-19 **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

7. I faced difficulty realizing the news about Covid-19 **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

- f. Strongly agree
- g. Agree
- h. Neutral
- i. Disagree
- j. Strongly disagree

8. I felt pessimistic due to news about Covid-19 **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

9. I was tired due too much news about Covid-19 **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral

- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

10. I was stressed by reading and watching the news about Covid-19's numbers of infections and deaths **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

Section 3: News avoidance - during curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below.

11. I felt it was useless to read or watch the news about Covid-19 **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

12. I did not want to hear or watch any news about Covid-19 **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

Section 4: Level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during curfew, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020

Please indicate to what extent you were practicing the following measures

13. How often did you practice social distancing **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020?

- a. Always
- b. Usually

- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

14. How often did you wear a mask **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020?

- a. Always
- b. Usually
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

15. How often did you sanitize your hands using a hand-rub or hand-wash **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020?

- a. Always
- b. Usually
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

16. How often did you avoid shaking hands with others **during curfew**, which started on 23 March and ended on 21 June 2020?

- a. Always
- b. Usually
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

Section 5: News fatigue - during vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021

Please indicate how much you agree with the statements below.

17. I am closely following the news about Covid-19 **during the vaccine stage** started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

18. I face difficulty assimilating the news about Covid-19 during the vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree

- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

19. I feel pessimistic due to news about Covid-19 **during the vaccine stage** started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

20. I was tired due too much news about Covid-19 **during the vaccine stage** started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

21. I was stressed by reading and watching the news about Covid-19 **during the vaccine stage** started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

Section 6: News avoidance - during vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below.

22. I feel it is useless to read or watch the news about Covid-19 **during the vaccine stage** started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

23. I did not want to hear or watch any news about Covid-19 **during the vaccine stage** started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021.

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree

Section 7: level of precaution towards Covid-19 - during vaccine stage started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021

Please indicate to what extent you were practicing the following measures

24. How often do you practice social distancing in this current pandemic **during the vaccine stage** started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021?

- a. Always
- b. Usually
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

25. How often do you wear a mask during the vaccine stage, started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021?

- a. Always
- b. Usually
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

26. How often do you sanitize your hands using a hand-rub or hand-wash during the vaccine stage, started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021?

- a. Always
- b. Usually
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

27. How often do you avoid shaking hands with others during the vaccine stage, started on 26 December 2020 and lasted until the end of April 2021?

- a. Always
- b. Usually
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

Section 8: Need for news in general

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below.

28. I enjoy keeping up with the news

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

29. I think the news is important in my life

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

Section 9: Demographic information

30. How old are you?

- a. 18-25
- b. 26-29
- c. 30-39
- d. 40-49
- e. 50-59
- f. 60 or older

31. What is your gender?

- a. Female
- b. Male

32. What is your marital status?

- a. Married
- b. Widowed
- c. Divorced
- d. Never married

33. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- a. Less than a high school degree
- b. High school degree or equivalent
- c. Associate degree

- d. Bachelor degree
- e. Graduate degree

34. Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?
- a. Employed, working 1-39 hours per week.
 - b. Employed, working 40 or more hours per week.
 - c. Not employed, looking for work.
 - d. Not employed, and not looking for work.
 - e. Retired.
 - f. Disabled, not able to work.
35. How much total combined money did all members of your household earn in 2020? (All the numbers in Saudi Rial currency)
- a. 0 – 36,000
 - b. 36,001 – 72,000
 - c. 72,001 – 144,000
 - d. 150,001 – 300,000
 - e. 300,001 – 750,000
 - f. 750,001 – 999,999
 - g. 1 Million or more
36. What is your legal situation in Saudi Arabia?
- c. I am a Saudi citizen.
 - d. I am a resident in Saudi Arabia.

A.2 Arabic Version of the Survey Questions:

أسئلة الاستبانة:

القسم الأول: عادات استهلاك الأخبار بشكل عام

1. ما هو مصدرك الرئيسي لمعرفة جديد أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩"؟

1. قنوات التلفاز
2. الصحف
3. المحطات الإذاعة
4. المجلات
5. المواقع الإخبارية
6. منصات التواصل الاجتماعي "تويتر، يوتيوب، فيسبوك، انستجرام، سناب شات"
7. تطبيق الواتساب

2. كم مرة تحصل على أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩"؟

1. أكثر من مرة في الساعة
2. مرة واحدة في الساعة
3. عدة مرات في اليوم
4. مرة في اليوم
5. مرة في الأسبوع
6. أقل من مرة في الأسبوع

3. عادةً ما أعرف آخر أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" من خلال:

1. حديث الناس
2. الإعلام المطبوع مثل (جريدة، مجلة، إلخ).
3. المذياع
4. التلفاز
5. وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي
6. مواقع الإنترنت
7. تطبيق الواتساب

4. هل تحصل على إشعار بالأخبار من أي تطبيق أخبار على هاتفك؟

- أ- نعم
ب- لا

5. أتحقق من صحة أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" التي أتلقها من أي مصدر إخباري:

1. أوافق بشدة
2. أوافق

3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

6. بالتفكير فيما يقال في أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩"، من وجهة نظرك، ما مقدار المبالغة في خطورة انتشار المرض؟

1. مبالغ في خطورتها بشكل عام
2. مقدار الخطورة صحيحة
3. يقللون من مقدار خطورتها
4. ليس لي رأي

القسم 2: تجنب الأخبار - أثناء حظر التجوال الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020.

يرجى الإشارة إلى مدى موافقتك على البيانات أدناه.

7. شعرت أنه من غير المفيد قراءة أو مشاهدة أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" خلال حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020.

1. أوافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

8. لم أكن أرغب بسماع أو قراءة أو مشاهدة أي خبر عن جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" خلال حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020.

1. أوافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

القسم الثالث: إرهاب الأخبار - أثناء حظر التجوال الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020.

يرجى الإشارة إلى مدى موافقتك على البيانات أدناه.

9. إلى أي مدى كنت تتابع أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020؟

1. متابع بشدة
2. متابع إلى حد ما
3. لست متابع بشكل واضح
4. لست متابع
5. لست متابع أبداً

10. كنت اشعر بالتشاؤم بسبب التعرض المستمر لأخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020.

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

10. كنت أشعر بالتعب بعد التعرض المكثف لأخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020.

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

12. وجدت صعوبة في استيعاب أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020.

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

13. كنت أشعر بالقلق بعد الاطلاع على أعداد الإصابات والوفيات الناتجة عن جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-١٩" أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020.

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض

5. أعارض بشدة

القسم 4: مستوى الاحتراز تجاه كوفيد-19 - خلال حظر التجوال الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020

يرجى الإشارة إلى مدى موافقتك على البيانات أدناه.

15. هل كنت تمارس "التباعد الاجتماعي" أثناء حظر التجوال الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

16. هل كنت تحرص على البقاء في المنزل بهدف التباعد الاجتماعي أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

17. هل كنت تحرص على ارتداء الكمامة أثناء حظر التجوال الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

18. هل كنت تحرص على تعقيم يديك عبر فركها باستخدام الصابون أو معقم أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020؟

1. أ دائماً
2. غالباً
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادراً
5. أبداً

19. هل كنت تحرص على عدم مصافحة الآخرين أثناء حظر التجوال الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020؟

1. دائماً
2. غالباً
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادراً
5. أبداً

20. هل كنت تحرص على تنظيف وتعقيم الأشياء والأسطح التي يتم لمسها بشكل متكرر أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020؟

1. دائماً
2. غالباً
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادراً
5. أبداً

21. هل كنت تحرص على تجنب التواجد في أماكن مزدحمة أثناء حظر التجوال، الذي بدأ في 23 مارس وانتهى في 21 يونيو 2020؟

1. دائماً
2. غالباً
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادراً
5. أبداً

القسم 5: تجنب الأخبار - خلال مرحلة التطعيم بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021

يرجى الإشارة إلى مدى موافقتك على البيانات أدناه.

22. أشعر أنه من غير المفيد قراءة أو مشاهدة أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-19" خلال مرحلة التطعيم التي بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021.

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

24. لا أربح بسماع أو قراءة أو مشاهدة أي خبر عن جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-19" خلال مرحلة التطعيم التي بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021.

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

القسم 6: إرهاق الأخبار - خلال مرحلة التطعيم بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021
يرجى الإشارة إلى مدى موافقتك على البيانات أدناه.

25. هل تتابع عن كثب الأخبار حول كوفيد-19 خلال مرحلة التطعيم التي بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021؟

1. متابع بشدة
2. متابع إلى حد ما
3. لست متابع بشكل واضح
4. لست متابع
5. لست متابع أبداً

26. اشعر بالتشاؤم بسبب التعرض المستمر لأخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-19" خلال مرحلة التطعيم التي بدأت في 26 كانون الأول / ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021.

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

27. حالياً، أشعر بالتعب بعد التعرض المكثف لأخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-19" خلال مرحلة التطعيم التي بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021.

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

28. أجد صعوبة في استيعاب أخبار جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-19" خلال مرحلة التطعيم التي بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021.

- أ. موافق بشدة
- ب. موافق
- ج. محايد
- د. أعارض
- هـ. أعارض بشدة

29. أشعر بالقلق بعد الاطلاع على أعداد الإصابات والوفيات الناتجة عن جائحة كورونا "كوفيد-19" خلال مرحلة التطعيم التي بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021.

- أ. موافق بشدة
- ب. موافق
- ج. محايد
- د. أعارض
- هـ. أعارض بشدة

القسم 7: مستوى الاحتراز تجاه كوفيد-19 - خلال مرحلة التطعيم التي بدأت في 26 ديسمبر 2020 وامتدت حتى نهاية أبريل 2021

يرجى الإشارة إلى مدى موافقتك على البيانات أدناه.

30. حاليا هل تحرص على التباعد الاجتماعي؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

31. حاليا، هل تحرص على البقاء في المنزل بهدف التباعد الاجتماعي؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

32. حاليا، هل تحرص على ارتداء الكمامة؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

33. حاليا، هل تحرص على تعقيم يديك باستخدام فرك اليدين باستخدام الصابون أو المعقم؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

34. حاليا، هل تحرص على تجنب مصافحة الآخرين؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

35. حاليا، هل تحرص على تنظيف وتطهير الأشياء والأسطح التي يتم لمسها بشكل متكرر؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

36. حاليا، هل تحرص على تجنب الأماكن المزدحمة لتجنب الإصابة بفيروس كورونا؟

1. دائما
2. غالبا
3. بعض الأحيان
4. نادرا
5. أبدا

القسم الثامن: الحاجة إلى الأخبار بشكل عام

يرجى الإشارة إلى مدى موافقتك على البيانات أدناه.

37. أنا أستمتع بمتابعة الأخبار أولا بأول

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

39. أعتقد أن الأخبار أساسي في حياتي

1. موافق بشدة
2. أوافق
3. محايد
4. أعارض
5. أعارض بشدة

القسم 9: المعلومات الديموغرافية

1. كم عمرك؟

1. ١٨ - ٢٥
2. ٢٦ - ٢٩
3. ٣٠ - ٣٩

4. ٤٠ - ٤٩
5. ٥٠ - ٥٩
6. ٦٠- وأكثر

2. ما هو جنسك؟

1. أنثى
2. ذكر

3. ما هي حالتك الاجتماعية؟

1. متزوج/ة
2. أرمل/ة
3. مطلق/ة
4. لم أتزوج ابدا

4. ما هو أعلى مستوى تعليمي أتممته؟

1. أقل من شهادة الثانوية العامة
2. شهادة الثانوية العامة أو ما يعادلها
3. شهادة جامعية
4. درجة البكالوريوس
5. دراسات عليا

5. أي من الفئات التالية يصف وضعك الوظيفي على نحو أفضل؟

1. غالبا، أعمل من 1-39 ساعة في الأسبوع.
2. مؤظف، يعمل 40 ساعة فأكثر في الأسبوع.
3. لا أعمل، وأبحث عن عمل.
4. لا أعمل، ولا أبحث عن عمل.
5. متقاعد.
6. معاق، غير قادر على العمل.

6. متوسط الدخل الإجمالي لجميع أفراد أسرتك في عام 2020؟ (جميع الأرقام بعملة الريال السعودي)

1. ٣٦.٠٠٠ - .
2. ٧٢.٠٠٠ - ٣٦.٠٠١
3. ١٤٤.٠٠٠ - ٧٢.٠٠١
4. ٣٠٠.٠٠٠ - ١٤٤.٠٠١
5. ٧٥٠.٠٠٠ - ٣٠٠.٠٠١

6. ٧٥٠.٠٠١ – ٩٩٩.٩٩٩

7. مليون ريال سعودي فأكثر

7. ما هو وضعك القانوني في المملكة العربية السعودية؟

1. انا مواطن سعودي.
2. أنا مقيم في المملكة العربية السعودية.



A.3 Informed Consent Form:

I am writing a Master's thesis on the Covid-19 news fatigue in Saudi Arabia under the supervision of Assistant Professor Ozen Bas, PhD, Kadir Has University, Turkey. I would like you to fill out a short survey on your news consumption and its impact on you during the vaccination phase fighting against the Covid 19. Even if you do not feel as though you continuously consume news, please take time to fill out the survey. Those who do not usually consume the news are a vital part of this project, as those who usually consume the news.

Your responses will be kept anonymous and will be used at the aggregate level only. The results will be presented as a small image of how widespread the Covid-19 news fatigue in Saudi Arabia. If you would like to receive a summary of the results later, send an email to Khaled Alzubiri at 20170919010@stu.khas.edu.tr.

Please fill out the following survey as honestly as possible and to the best of your ability. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes.

Please circle one answer per question that BEST describes your news relation with news and its impact on you.

If you are not permanently living in Saudi Arabia, please do not fill this survey. You are free to decide not to participate in this study or to withdraw at any time.

If you have any concerns about this project, you can contact me at 20170919010@stu.khas.edu.tr or Dr. Ozen Bas at ozen.bas@khas.edu.tr. Thank you for your time.

By completing this survey, you are giving your permission for the University of Kadir Has and me to use it in my Master's thesis and probably used it in future publications.

A.4 Arabic version of the informed consent form:

استمارة الموافقة المسبقة:

أعد أطروحة الماجستير حول تعب أخبار كوفيد-١٩ في المملكة العربية السعودية تحت إشراف الأستاذة المساعدة أوزين باش، دكتوراه بجامعة قادر هاس.

أرغب في أن تقوم بملء هذه الاستبانة القصيرة حول استهلاك الأخبار وتأثيره عليك خلال مرحلتي الحجر الصحي الكامل والتطعيم ضد فيروس كوفيد-١٩.

حتى إذا كنت لا تشعر أنك تستهلك الأخبار باستمرار، أرجوا منك تخصيص بعض الوقت لملء هذه الاستبانة. أولئك الذين لا يستهلكون الأخبار عادة هم جزء حيوي من هذا المشروع البحثي، بقدر أولئك الذين عادة ما يستهلكون الأخبار.

سيتم الاحتفاظ بإجاباتك دون التعرف على هويتك، وسيتم استخدامها على المستوى الإجمالي فقط. سيتم تقديم النتائج كعينة صغيرة لدى انتشار تعب الأخبار كوفيد-١٩ في المملكة العربية السعودية، وعلاقة ذلك بمستوى الالتزام بالإجراءات الاحترازية لوقف انتشار الجائحة.

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على ملخص للنتائج لاحقاً، أرسل بريدًا إلكترونيًا إلى خالد الزبيري على الأيميل التالي: 20170919010@stu.khas.edu.tr.

يرجى ملء الاستبانة التالية بأقصى قدر من الصدق. ستستغرق إجابتك عن الاستبانة مدة لا تزيد عن 10 دقائق.

يرجى وضع دائرة حول إجابة واحدة لكل سؤال بحيث تصف على أفضل وجه علاقتك بالأخبار وتأثيرها عليك.

إذا كنت لا تعيش بشكل دائم في المملكة العربية السعودية، أرجوا منك عدم ملء هذا الاستبانة. لك مطلق الحرية في أن تقرر عدم المشاركة في هذه الدراسة أو الانسحاب في أي وقت أثناء تعبئتك للاستبانة.

إذا كان لديك أي مخاوف بشأن هذا المشروع البحثي، يمكنك التواصل معي عبر الإيميل التالي: 20170919010@stu.khas.edu.tr


أو مع الدكتورة أوزين باش عبر الإيميل التالي:
ozen.bas@khas.edu.tr

من خلال إكمال ملء هذه الاستبانة، فإنك تمنح إذنًا لي ولجامعة قادر هاس باستخدام المعلومات في أطروحة الماجستير الخاصة بي وربما تستخدم في منشورات علمية مستقبلية.

A.5 Ethical Approved:

Figure A.1 Ethical Approved 1

Evrak Tarih ve Sayısı: 19.03.2021-3899

 T.C.
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Sayı : E-82741295-300-3899
Konu : Khaled Alzubairi'nin Etik Kurul Raporu

LİSANSÜSTÜ EĞİTİM ENSTİTÜSÜ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜNE

İlgi : 01.03.2021 tarihli ve E-20562626-300-2872 sayılı yazınız.

Enstitünüz Yeni Medya Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencisi Khaled Alzubairi'nin, Dr.Öğr.Üyesi Özen Baş'ın danışmanlığında yapacağı "News Fatigue and News Avoidance in Saudi Arabia During the Covid-19 Pandemic and their Relationship to the Level of Precautions Taken by People" konulu tez çalışması Üniversitemiz İnsan Araştırmaları Etik Kurulu tarafından değerlendirilmiştir.

Çalışmanın Kadir Has Üniversitesi Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği Yönergesi kapsamında bilimsel araştırma etik ilkelerine uygun bulunduğuna ilişkin İnsan Araştırmaları Etik Kurul kararı ekte gönderilmiştir.

Bilgilerinizi rica ederim.

Prof. Dr. Sondan DURUKANOĞLU
FEYİZ
Rektör

Ek:Khaled Alzubairi' nin İnsan Araştırmaları Etik Kurul Raporu (2 sayfa)

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Figure A.2 Ethical Approved 2

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İnsan Araştırmaları Etik Kurulu

Sayı : E-17446481-050.06.04-3720
Konu : Khaled Alzubairi' nin İnsan
Araştırmaları Etik Kurul Raporu

REKTÖRLÜK MAKAMINA

İlgi : Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü Müdürlüğü'nün 01.03.2021 tarih ve E-20562626-300-2872 sayılı yazısı ve ekleri

Üniversitemiz, Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü, Yeni Medya Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencisi Khaled Alzubairi' nin, Dr.Öğr.Üyesi Özen Baş'ın danışmanlığında hazırlamakta olduğu "News Fatigue and News Avoidance in Saudi Arabia During the Covid-19 Pandemic and their Relationship to the Level of Precautions Taken by People" isimli tez araştırması projesine ilişkin İnsan Araştırmaları Etik Kurulu raporu ekte sunulmuştur.

Gereğini bilgilerinize arz ederim.

Saygılarımla

Prof. Dr. Ömer Lütfi GEBİZLİOĞLU
Başkan

Ek:Khaled Alzubairi'nin İnsan Araştırmaları Etik Kurul Raporu

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Unvanı: İdari İşler Görevlisi



Tel No: 2125336532-1136

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Figure A.3 Ethical Approved 3

Evrak Tarih ve Sayısı: 16.03.2021-3720

Kadir Has Üniversitesi
İnsan Araştırmaları Etik Kurulu Raporu
(11.03.2021)

Kadir Has Üniversitesi, Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü, Yeni Medya Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencisi Khaled Alzubairi'nin, Dr.Öğr.Üyesi Özen Baş'ın danışmanlığında hazırlamakta olduğu "News Fatigue and News Avoidance in Saudi Arabia During the Covid-19 Pandemic and their Relationship to the Level of Precautions Taken by People" isimli tez araştırma projesi amaç, kapsam, veri sağlama ve koruma yöntemi bakımından incelenmiş ve insan araştırmaları etik ilkelerine uygun bulunmuştur.

e-imzalıdır Prof.Dr. Ömer L. Gebizlioğlu Başkan	e-imzalıdır Prof.Dr. G. Deniz Bayrakdar Üye
e-imzalıdır Prof.Dr. Ayşe H. Bilge Üye	e-imzalıdır Prof. Dr. Ali Güzel Üye
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