Workshop on Medical Fact-checking Techniques and Tools

COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges in every domain of our life. Fake news, misinformation, distorted facts, manipulated figures and wild rumours were circulated creating fear and confusion. To address the problem, identify and expose fakies and to train budding students, Department of Media and Communication Studies organised a workshop on "Medical Fact-checking Techniques and Tools" by veteran media person Dr Shalini Narayanan, a former IIS and IIMC Professor on 27th November 2020. The objective was to help and train the participants to debunk medical infodemic and misinformation.



Professor (Dr) Ajitabh, HoD, stated on the occasion that our health professionals and media persons have been at the forefront of checking medical misinformation and fight Covid-19 pandemic. To check this menace, news media has started dedicated programmes to inform and educate their viewers. This has opened up new avenues for the journalism and mass communication students to get trained and play the role of responsible interventionists to educate and inform masses for sustainable healthy living.



Giving a detailed presentation with case studies and substantial data, Dr Shalini Narayanan, the Google-trained Health and Fit Trainer, said that the real danger with fake news is that it's not just fake news that make people believe false things, it's also making them less likely to accept truthful information. Quoting Google sources, she said that there were more searches on Health than Education, Finance, Travel and Sports. She elaborated on the techniques and tools to counter misinformation by verifying source, image and video as well.

Yashika Arora, a BAJMC student expressed happiness to attend the very informative and interesting workshop as they got to know a lot of facts about misinformation process and how it effects people negatively on their health. They learnt that how they can be careful from this misinformation effects.

Thanking the distinguished guest and attendees, Dr Deepak Kumar, Assistant Professor, hoped that this special session would be of immense help for the students and mentors to be an alert communicator. Ms Riya Dutt, a student of BAJMC (2nd Year) moderated the programme.







