

Social construction of Coronavirus and coping policies: A case study of Iranian online users of the telegram, Instagram and Twitter

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Abstract

When an issue at the macro level directly or indirectly affects the majority of people in a society, behaviors and attitudes that reflect the general attitude of the society are more likely to occur. In this context, researchers can provide policy proposals to policy makers by identifying and studying collective attitudes and behaviors in different areas. The spread of corona virus is one of the cases in which its social construction can be effective in the direction of policy-making in various fields. The purpose of this study was to investigate about the manner of constructing and giving meaning to social corona epidemic in Iran and exploring policies to deal with it among Internet users in a period of 60 days (April and May 2020). The research method of this study was qualitative and thematic analysis method was used to analyze the collected data. The results of the study are in the form of three main categories, including "areas of intensification of the epidemic", "government-people interaction with epidemic" and "strategies to deal with the disease" and several sub-categories and concepts. The results of this study showed the relatively critical attitude of users towards the performance of the government and the people about this epidemic situation. Observance of health points and restrictions in urban and interurban traffic is more important to users than other solutions. The results of this study show that Iranian users have felt lonelier than ever, and although they initially emphasized solidarity mechanisms, over time they have become tired of government policies.

Keywords: Corona, epidemic, online users, Iranians, loneliness, collective frustration.

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