

Fake News on Social Media Platform

Dissertation/Project Submitted to

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, (C.G.)



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2023

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Certificate

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This is to certify that **Shweta Choubey**, a student in the 4th Semester of Master of Arts (M.A.) at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, (C.G.) has successfully completed his/her dissertation/project on **Fake news on social media platform**.

I hereby confirm that the matter embodied in the dissertation/project has not been submitted to any other University/Institute for the award of a post-graduation degree at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, (C.G.).

Date:

Place: Bilaspur



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CASE STUDY 1.

Mohammad Akhlakh case:

Mohammad Akhlakh was a 50-year-old Muslim man who lived in Bisada village, Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, with his family. On September 28, 2015, a rumour spread on social media that Akhlakh had slaughtered a cow and consumed its meat, which is considered taboo in Hinduism. The rumour also claimed that Akhlakh had stored the beef in his house.

A mob of about 200 people gathered outside Akhlakh's house and attacked him and his family with sticks and bricks. Akhlakh was beaten to death, while his son was critically injured. The mob also vandalized Akhlakh's house and set it on fire.

The police arrived at the scene and managed to disperse the mob, but by then, Akhlakh had already succumbed to his injuries. The police arrested several people in connection with the lynching, including the son of a local BJP leader.

However, it was later found that the rumours were false and that Akhlakh had not consumed beef. The meat found in his house was later identified as mutton. The incident sparked widespread outrage and raised concerns about the spread of fake news and communal tensions in India.

The Akhlakh case was ongoing for three to four years, and several people have been charged with murder and other offenses. However, the incident has left a deep scar on the community and highlighted the need for greater accountability and regulation of social media platforms to prevent the spread of fake news and hate speech.

In 2019, a fake news story claiming that a Muslim man had killed a cow and was lynched by a mob in Jharkhand went viral on social media.

Similarly, during the Bihar assembly elections in 2020, several fake news stories were circulated on social media platforms, including false claims about candidates and misleading information about voting procedures.

These incidents highlight the need for greater awareness and education around the dangers of fake news and the importance of verifying information before sharing it on social media platform.

The case gained national and international attention, with many criticizing the rise of communal tensions and intolerance in India.