



Governance for Handling Fake News: Structural Modeling Approach

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Abstract

The primary objective of this study was to assess and evaluate the impact of government intervention in countering Internet-based fake news that threatens national security. The research used statistical methods and a survey approach to collect data from a sample population. The sampling technique employed was simple random sampling, while data collection involved conducting interviews with selected individuals who possessed insights from relevant organizations such as the national police, BSSN, Kemenkominfo, and BIN. A statistical method called Partial Least Square (PLS) model using the WarpPLS package was applied to analyse the gathered data. The study's findings demonstrated a strong association between effective governance in combating the dissemination of fake news and the enhancement of national resilience. Consequently, it was concluded that implementing robust and strategic governance practices is crucial for fostering national resilience.

Keywords *Handling Governance, Fake News, Internet, National Security, Police*

INTRODUCTION

According to the World Bank, based on data from the ITU (International Telecommunication Union), in 2017, the share of Internet users worldwide was around 49% of the population; this share increased rapidly compared to 2000, which was only around 6.7%. Therefore, Internet World Stats predicts that in the first quarter of 2021, the share of global Internet users will be 64.2 per cent of the population. The number of internet users is estimated at more than 5 billion, an increase of about 1,300 per cent since 2000. The growing number of internet users will increase the spread of fake news so that cyber warfare and digital war become a topic that is widely discussed in international political and security studies. This discussion begins with the entry of technology into domestic military operations. The military can use electronic devices, use these devices online and engage in digital communications (Libicki, 2014). Cyberwar and digital war can affect international political conditions because they can threaten government systems and information. This can happen because there is much uncertainty in cyberspace, where individuals can take action and cover their tracks; in this case, they can also blame other parties (Clarke, 2009).

The author is interested in conducting further research on cybercrime prevention, specifically focusing on Indonesia. The particular cybercrime under scrutiny in this research is disseminating fake news. The motivation for this study stems from a real-life incident involving a demonstration in September 2019, where the masses protested against amendments to the Job Creation Law and the Criminal Code. Currently, there is limited research on the spread of fake news via the internet, specifically in relation to its potential to jeopardize national security. Furthermore, studies examining the conceptualization or governance models for handling the dissemination of fake news, particularly those posing national security risks, are also lacking. This research gap presents an opportunity for further investigation and exploration to address the unanswered questions and contribute to the existing body of knowledge in the field.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

The curtailment of freedom of speech can be justified on the grounds of national security, as outlined by international legal experts in the Johannesburg Principles (Mendel, 2003). The Johannesburg Principles provide detailed guidance on applying sanctions in the context of national security. These principles establish several key considerations for the limitation of human rights. Firstly, any restrictions imposed must be clearly defined in accessible and unambiguous legislation that is enforced effectively. This ensures transparency and enables individuals to determine whether their actions are legal or illegal. Secondly, restrictions should serve a legitimate purpose and demonstrate their impact in safeguarding valid national security interests. The government must establish a direct link between the restriction and the protection of these interests. Thirdly, the government must be able to substantiate that the disclosure of classified information poses a significant and genuine threat to legitimate national security concerns. This requirement ensures that restrictions on freedom of speech are proportionate and based on verifiable risks to national security. By adhering to these principles, governments can balance protecting national security and safeguarding individual rights.

The research conducted by Kwanda and Lin (2020) sheds light on the influence of organizational policies on handling fake news practices among Indonesian editorial staff. It highlights the significant impact of fake news during democratic processes. Another study by Wilson & Umar (2019) emphasizes the persistence of fake news due to cognitive loops that affect its creation and dissemination. Their survey reveals a negative perception among respondents regarding the detrimental effects of fake news on democracy and the democratic process. Furthermore, fake news can lead to the propagation of false ideas, violate laws, and influence readers' opinions, as highlighted in the research by Diep and Van (2022). Their study explores various perspectives on fraudulent behaviour in publishing fake news, including external influences, corruption, political and economic motives, and different persuasive techniques. The implications of fake news on distortion and misinformation are further supported by the research of Reuter et al. (2019), where most participants recognized the threat and harm fake news poses to democracy. Meel & Vishwakarma (2020) also researched the dangers of fake news, misinformation, and manipulation, underscoring the detrimental impact of information corruption, rumours, wrong information, and distortions facilitated by digital communication systems.

The model in this study is presented in the following figure.

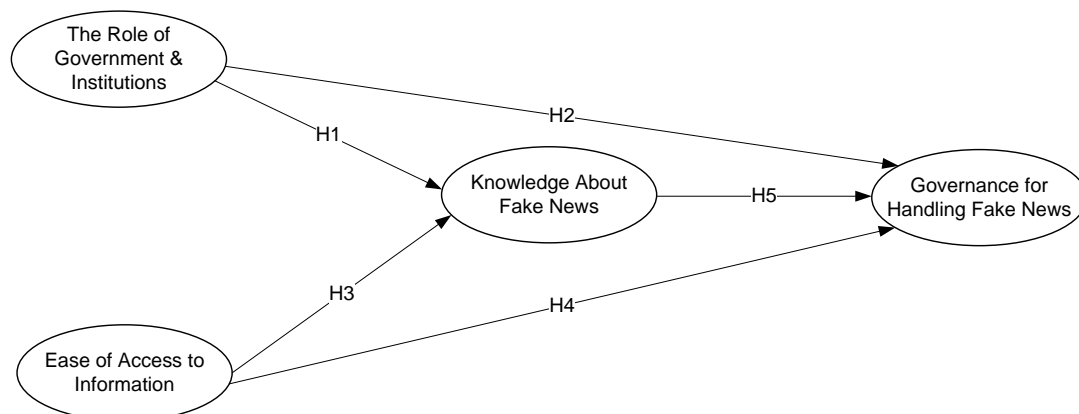


Figure 1. Research Model

The hypothesis is:

H1: The Influence of The Role of Government & Institutions has a significant effect on Knowledge About Fake News

H2: The Influence of The Role of Government & Institutions has a significant effect on Governance for Handling Fake News

H3: The Influence of Ease of Access to Information has a significant effect on Knowledge About Fake News

H4: The Influence of Ease of Access to Information has a significant effect on Governance for Handling Fake News

H5: The Influence of Knowledge About Fake News has a significant effect on Governance for Handling Fake News

RESEARCH METHOD

This study adopted a quantitative approach, employing a survey method to collect data from a sample population. The variables investigated in this research are latent variables, measured using a questionnaire as the research instrument. The survey involved distributing questionnaires to respondents to gather data. To analyze the collected data, the statistical method of structural equation modelling (SEM) was utilized. SEM enables examining relationships between observed and latent variables, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the underlying constructs and their interdependencies.

In this study, the data analysis was conducted using the Partial Least Squares (PLS) model with the WarpPLS package, as described by Solimun et al. (2017). The decision to use PLS was based on two main reasons. First, the analytical model employed in the study was hierarchical, and the structural equation model was suitable for examining the recursive relationships within the model. Second, PLS is well-suited for measuring latent variables, which cannot be directly measured but are inferred from observable indicators. PLS allows for estimating latent variable relationships and assessing their impact on the overall model.

The sampling method employed in this study is simple random sampling, where participants were selected randomly from the population. The data collection method involved interviewing individuals who possess relevant information from organizations such as the National Police, BSSN, Kemenkominfo, and BIN. These interviews aimed to gather insights and data regarding the spread of fake news. The study's findings revealed that a staggering 800,000 websites are involved in disseminating fake news via the internet in Indonesia, posing a significant threat to national security. This statistic underscores the scale and severity of the problem, emphasizing the urgent need for effective measures to address the issue and protect the nation's integrity.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Finding

The researchers employed the WarpPLS method to estimate the model in this study. Before considering the parameters, assessing the validity and reliability of each item in the questionnaire and each variable included in the study was crucial. Validity testing ensured the accuracy and correctness of the survey data, while reliability testing confirmed the consistency and accuracy of the measurement instrument used to assess the variables. The validity and reliability of all variables, including The Role of Government & Institutions (X1), Ease of Access to Information (X2), Knowledge About Fake News (Y1), and Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2), were thoroughly tested. The validation process aimed to establish that the variables effectively measured the intended constructs, while the reliability assessment examined the internal consistency and stability of the measurement instruments. By confirming the validity and reliability of the variables,

the researchers could conclude that all variables in the study were both valid and reliable, ensuring the accuracy and robustness of the collected data for subsequent analysis.

Table 1. Measurement Model Evaluation

Variable	Indicator	Loading Factor	P-value	Conclusion
The Role of Government & Institutions (X1)	Socializing	0.819	<0.001	Significant
	Collaborating	0.851	<0.001	Significant
	Supervising	0.776	<0.001	Significant
Ease of Access to Information (X2)	The Level of User Satisfaction	0.618	<0.001	Significant
	Fulfilment of Needs	0.641	<0.001	Significant
	Ease of Access To Information Itself	0.631	<0.001	Significant
Knowledge About Fake News (Y1)	Understanding Related To Media Use	0.729	<0.001	Significant
	People's Literacy Skills	0.884	<0.001	Significant
Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2)	Transparency	0.402	<0.001	Significant
	Independence	0.392	<0.001	Significant
	Accountability	0.399	<0.001	Significant
	Responsibility	0.541	<0.001	Significant
	Fairness	0.434	<0.001	Significant

Based on Table 1, it can be said that all latent variables have good indicators, and it is appropriate to know the most dominant contribution indicator. Table 2 summarises the results of calculating the coefficients in the WarpPLS analysis.

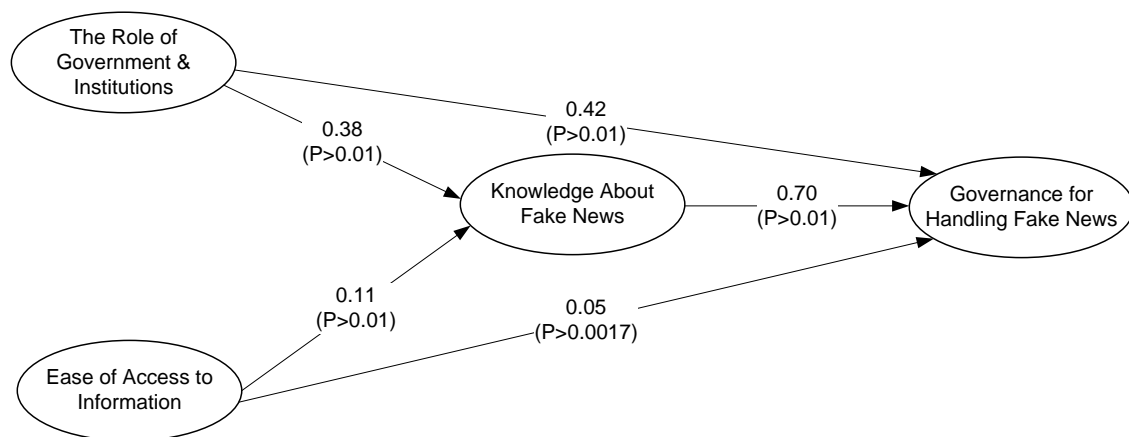


Figure 2. Direct Effect

Table 2. Results of Estimation and Direct Effect Test

Hypothesis	The effect between latent variables		Coefficient	P-value	Conclusion
	Predictor	→ Response			
H1	The Role of Government & Institutions (X1)	→ Knowledge About Fake News (Y1)	0.384	<0.001	Significant
H2	The Role of Government & Institutions (X1)	→ Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2)	0.416	<0.001	Significant
H3	Ease of Access to Information (X2)	→ Knowledge About Fake News (Y1)	0.112	0.014	Not Significant
H4	Ease of Access to Information (X2)	→ Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2)	0.049	0.171	Not Significant
H5	Knowledge About Fake News (Y1)	→ Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2)	0.700	<0.001	Significant

The Influence of The Role of Government and Institutions on Knowledge About Fake News

Based on the p-value of less than 0.005, the statistical hypothesis testing indicates the rejection of the null hypothesis (H0). This implies that The Role of Government & Institutions (X1) significantly influences Knowledge About Fake News (Y1). In other words, a higher level of The Role of Government & Institutions is associated with increased knowledge about fake news. This conclusion is supported by the path coefficient value of 0.384 and the p-value of less than 0.001, indicating a strong and significant relationship between the variables.

The Influence of The Role of Government and Institutions on Governance for Handling Fake News

Based on the p-value of less than 0.005, the statistical hypothesis testing leads to rejecting the null hypothesis (H0). This indicates that The Role of Government & Institutions (X1) significantly affects Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2). In other words, a higher level of The Role of Government & Institutions is associated with an increased level of Governance for Handling Fake News. This finding is supported by the path coefficient value of 0.416 and the p-value of less than 0.001, indicating a strong and significant relationship between the variables.

The Influence of Ease of Access to Information on Knowledge About Fake News

Referring to the p-value > 0.005, the statistical hypothesis shows that H0 is accepted. This underlines that Ease of Access to Information (X2) does not significantly influence Knowledge About Fake News (Y1). In other words, higher Ease of Access to Information does not necessarily increase Knowledge About Fake News. It can be noted from the path coefficient value of 0.112 and p-value > 0.005.

The Influence of Ease of Access to Information on Governance for Handling Fake News

Seeing the value of $p > 0.005$, the statistical hypothesis confirms that H0 is accepted. This shows that Ease of Access to Information (X2) has no significant influence on Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2). A higher Ease of Access to Information may not necessarily increase

Governance for Handling Fake News because the path coefficient value obtained is 0.049 and the p-value > 0.005 .

The Influence of Knowledge About Fake News on Governance for Handling Fake News

Taking into account the p-value < 0.005 , the statistical hypothesis concludes that H_0 is rejected. This shows that Knowledge About Fake News (Y1) significantly influences Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2). As a result, higher Knowledge About Fake News will increase Governance for Handling Fake News, which can be seen from the path coefficient value of 0.700 and p-value < 0.001 .

Table 3. Results of Estimation and Direct Effect Test

Mediation Effect	Coefficient	p-value
X1→Y1→Y2	0.269	< 0.001
X2→Y1→Y2	0.291	< 0.001

The Indirect Influence of The Role of Government & Institutions on Governance for Handling Fake News with Knowledge About Fake News as a Mediator

Based on the table above, it can be defined that The Role of Government & Institutions (X1) has a significant positive effect on Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2) with Knowledge About Fake News (Y1) as a mediator. Since the p-value is < 0.05 , the statistical hypothesis proves that H_0 is rejected. In other words, Knowledge About Fake News (Y1) is able to mediate The Role of Government & Institutions (X1) and Sustainability (Y2) of 0.269.

Indirect Effect of Ease of Access to Information on Governance for Handling Fake News with Knowledge About Fake News as a Mediator

The table above illustrates that Ease of Access to Information (X2) has a significant positive effect on Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2) with Knowledge About Fake News (Y1) as a mediator. By looking at the value of $p < 0.05$, the statistical hypothesis states that H_0 is rejected. This emphasizes that Knowledge About Fake News (Y1) can mediate Ease of Access to Information (X2) and Governance for Handling Fake News (Y2) of 0.291.

Table 4. Model Feasibility

Quality Indices	Statistic	Criterion	Information
Average path coefficient (APC)	0.332, $P < 0.001$	Significant if $P < 0.05$	Significant
Average R-squared (ARS)	0.480, $P < 0.001$	Significant if $P < 0.05$	Significant
Average adjusted R-squared (AARS)	0.476, $P < 0.001$	Significant if $P < 0.05$	Significant
Average block VIF (AVIF)	1.172	acceptable if $AVIF \leq 5$, ideally $AVIF \leq 3.3$	Ideal
Average full collinearity VIF (AFVIF)	1.535	acceptable if $AFVIF \leq 5$, ideally $AFVIF \leq 3.3$	Ideal
Tenenhaus GoF (GoF)	0.541	small if $GoF \geq 0.1$, medium if $GoF \geq 0.25$, large if $GoF \geq 0.36$	Large
Sympson's paradox ratio (SPR)	1.000	acceptable if $SPR \geq 0.7$, ideally $SPR = 1$	Ideal
R-squared contribution ratio (RSCR)	1.000	acceptable if $RSCR \geq 0.9$, ideally $RSCR = 1$	Ideal

Statistical suppression ratio (SSR)	1.000	acceptable if SSR \geq 0.7	Acceptable
Nonlinear bivariate causality direction ratio (NLBCDR)	1.000	acceptable if NLBCDR \geq 0.7	Acceptable

Table 4 presents the analysis results and the values used to assess the model's goodness-of-fit. The overall model evaluation indicates favourable outcomes, suggesting that the empirical data obtained from the field has supported the theoretical model developed in this study. This implies that the relationships and associations proposed in the model align well with the observed data, reinforcing the validity and reliability of the research findings. The successful validation of the theoretical model with the empirical data enhances the credibility and robustness of the study's conclusions.

Ease of access to information plays a crucial role in the governance of handling fake news. When information is readily accessible, individuals have greater opportunities to verify the accuracy and truthfulness of disseminated news. This is especially important in combating fake news, as easy access to information empowers individuals to discern between reliable and misleading sources.

According to Rahmawati (2013), the indicators contributing to the ease of accessing information include user satisfaction, fulfilment of needs, and the overall ease of accessing information. These indicators help assess the effectiveness and efficiency of information dissemination channels, platforms, and systems. By ensuring that these indicators are met, the governance of handling fake news can promote an environment where individuals can easily access accurate and reliable information, thus strengthening their ability to combat the spread of fake news.

The role of government and institutions is of utmost importance in effectively handling and managing fake news. They play a vital role in implementing measures and strategies to combat the spread of false information. Several key efforts undertaken by the government and institutions in fulfilling their roles include socialization, collaboration, and supervision. Socialization is a critical step in preventing the dissemination of hoax information through online social media platforms. By actively engaging in socialization campaigns, the government and institutions can educate social media users about the potential risks of false information. This helps instil good values and norms, encouraging users to critically evaluate the information they receive, thereby mitigating the impact of racist, hate speech, and hoax content.

Collaboration is another crucial aspect of addressing fake news. The government works in conjunction with other agencies, such as the communications service, to form a strong collaborative team dedicated to tackling the issue. By leveraging collective expertise and resources, these entities can develop comprehensive strategies and initiatives to combat the spread of fake news effectively. Supervision is essential to managing fake news on online social media platforms. By implementing supervision mechanisms, the government and institutions aim to prevent the dissemination of false information. Through diligent monitoring and enforcement, they can identify and take necessary actions against accounts or sources spreading fake news, thereby curbing its impact. These efforts, as highlighted by Nurlatun et al. (2021), demonstrate the government and institutions' commitment to addressing the challenges posed by fake news. By adopting a multi-faceted approach encompassing socialization, collaboration, and supervision, they strive to protect the public from the harmful effects of fake news and ensure the integrity of information circulated through online platforms.

CONCLUSIONS

Enhancing national resilience requires effective management and governance in combatting the proliferation of misinformation. It is crucial to adopt sound and strategic governance practices for this purpose. The findings of this study corroborate these ideas by confirming all hypotheses. By implementing good governance in addressing fake news, accurate information can be provided to the public, safeguarding them from falling victim to false narratives. Consequently, the general populace will become more discerning in their news consumption, ultimately bolstering national resilience.

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