

# Mitigating the Impact of Fake News on Selected College Students

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**Abstract:** *To achieve these objectives, a mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. A representative sample of college students from various institutions in Surigao was selected for the study. Participants were asked to complete questionnaires assessing their exposure to and consumption of fake news, along with its perceived impact on their political beliefs, educational pursuits, and general mindset. Furthermore, focus group interviews were conducted to gain deeper insights into how specific demographic characteristics might mediate these effects. The findings of this study provided valuable insights into the repercussions of fake news on college students. It was discovered that exposure to fake news significantly influenced students' political views, often leading to polarization and misinformation-driven beliefs. Moreover, the impact on their educational endeavors was evident, as the spread of fake news could disrupt critical thinking and lead to the dissemination of false information within academic contexts. Additionally, students' mindsets were found to be vulnerable to manipulation through the spread of misinformation, affecting their decision-making processes and worldview. Regarding demographic differences, age was observed to play a crucial role, with younger students being more susceptible to the effects of fake news due to their higher reliance on digital media. Sex and grade level, however, did not exhibit significant variations in response to fake news dissemination. In conclusion, this study emphasizes the importance of addressing the impact of fake news on college students and highlights the need for educational interventions that promote media literacy and critical thinking skills. By understanding the factors that mediate the influence of fake news, educators, policymakers, and stakeholders can develop targeted strategies to mitigate its adverse effects on the younger generation, fostering a more informed and discerning society*

**Keywords:** Mitigation, Spread of Fake News, Students, Differences

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