



**The Trend of gossips and rumors among men and women at Omdurman Islamic University:
A meta-analysis of factors associated with their spreading**

الميل إلى الأقاويل والاشاعات وسط الرجال والنساء بجامعة ام درمان الاسلامية: التحليل البعدي (ميثا Meta) للعوامل المرتبطة بانتشار الأقاويل والاشاعات.

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Abstract

It is well-established fact that both gossips and rumors are considered as the most powerful psychological weapons that are used to destroy others' morality. In this study, the researcher attempts to investigate the trend of gossips and rumors among men and women in Sudan, and analyze factors (predictors) of their spreading. To achieve that aim, a meta-analysis and quantitative research methodology was adopted. Instrument of data collection included a Chinese scale for measuring attitudes towards gossips and rumors, designed by Jordan, A.L.(2009), it was adapted and translated into Arabic to fit the Sudanese society. Participants were drawn purposively from Omdurman Islamic University(OIU), comprising(300): 149 men, and 151 women. The data was analyzed via (SPSS),employing the following statistical tests to verify the research's hypotheses: One-sample T-test, two-independent sample T-test, Chi-square test, and multiple regression analysis. The results indicate that the participants'(men and women) trend towards gossips and rumors is positive. There is a significant relationship(.000) between gender(men &women) and trend towards gossips and rumors. There is significant statistical difference in trend towards gossips and rumors according to gender(men-women), in favor of men. Factors(Predictors) such as age,

education, job, and marital status. are not significant predictors for gossips and rumors spreading among the participants, however, specialization (sciences-humanities) is significant predictor. The study was concluded by recommendations and suggestions for future researches.

Key words: Trend, Gossips, Rumors, Predictors, Spreading, Omdurman Islamic University.

المستخلص

حقيقة أن الأقاويل والاشاعات تعتبر سلاح نفسي قوي يستخدم في تدمير الروح المعنوية للآخرين. في هذه الدراسة، يحاول الباحث تقصي الميل إلى الأقاويل والاشاعات لدى الرجال والنساء في المجتمع السوداني، وتحليل (Meta) العوامل ذات الصلة بانتشارها. ولتحقيق ذلك الهدف، استخدم الباحث المنهج الكمي والتحليل البُعدي (Meta-analysis). اشتملت أدوات جمع البيانات على المقياس الصيني لقياس التوجه نحو الأقاويل والاشاعات ، من تصميم (Jordan, A.L.(2009)، وقام الباحث بتعديله وترجمته إلى اللغة العربية لكي يتناسب مع المجتمع السوداني. تم سحب عينة قصدية من جامعة ام درمان الاسلامية ،بلغت (300) : 149 رجل و 151 امرأة. وتم تحليل بيانات الدراسة احصائيا باستخدام برنامج الحزمة الاحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية (SPSS)، حيث استخدم الباحث الاختبارات الاحصائية الآتية للتأكد من صحة فرضيات البحث: اختبار t-test لعينة واحدة، اختبار t-test لعينتين مستقلتين، اختبار chi-square، وتحليل الانحدار المتعدد.

وأسفرت الدراسة عن النتائج الآتية: الميل إلى الأقاويل والاشاعات وسط الرجال والنساء ايجابي، وتوجد علاقة دالة احصائيا بين متغير النوع و الميل إلى الأقاويل والاشاعات، وأيضا توجد فروق دالة احصائيا بين الرجال والنساء في الميل إلى الأقاويل والاشاعات ولصالح الرجال، وأخيرا اشارت النتائج إلى أن العوامل (المتنبئات) مثل العمر، التعليم ، الوظيفة، والحالة الاجتماعية ، ليست ذات دلالة كمتنبئات بانتشار الأقاويل والاشاعات وسط المجتمع السوداني، بينما متغير التخصص (علوم- انسانيات)، يعتبر عامل أو متنبئ ذو دلالة في انتشار الأقاويل والاشاعات. وفي نهاية البحث، قدم الباحث توصيات ومقترحات لدراسات مستقبلية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الميل، الأقاويل، الاشاعات، المتنبئات، انتشار، جامعة ام درمان الاسلامية.

1.Introduction

Gossips and rumors are prevalent in our society. From the home to the office, they influence our beliefs and behaviors toward others and generally affect the way we see the world. There is an intensive research around gossips and rumors in a variety of fields, primarily from a psychological perspective. However, the advent of the Internet and social media, offers opportunities to transform the way we communicate, giving rise to new ways of communicating rumors to a broad community of users. Moreover, information spread on social media has a high potential for impact, due to the real-time nature of these media. As a result, news organizations are losing their audiences to lies

and un- verified stories, costing them both money and reputation. Misinformation can also endanger life if adopted by individuals during times of crisis.

There is an increasing need to interpret and act upon rumors spreading quickly through social media, especially in circumstances where their veracity is hard to establish . Analyzing the potential impact of rumors is often as important as checking their truthfulness. Rumor impact analysis usually focuses on impact on real world situations such as in crisis situations and the impact rumors have on individuals. However, there is an inherent gap in the State of the Art related to the study of rumor impact on social media itself. Therefore, there exists an opportunity to formally measure the impact of rumors on social media, and we endeavor to address this challenge. An impactful rumor is one that has potential to ferociously penetrate its social network, through high volumes of shares and user uptake or belief. We consider user engagements as a means for measuring impact and determine impact as an accumulative score of such engagements.

In this study, the researcher considers an important property of rumors, the temporal characteristic that exists, related to the rumor's lifetime. During this lifetime, the rumor spreads and is received by individuals that come across it. Many studies have been done focusing on the long term spreading of rumors, and the speed of spread. Some rumors penetrate their network quickly. They appear in a moment and are quickly received and known to many. This immediate potential, characteristic to a rumor, motivates this study.

Psychological research has been cyclical for many years, while technological research is of very recent interest, following the birth and success of the Internet and social media, giving rise to new ways of communicating rumors to large audiences. The ability to understand and control the type of information that propagates social networks has become ever more important, and has resulted in plentiful research conducted related to gossip and rumor behaviors. Rumor research is a topic of historical interest, as it is a problem central to human psychology. Modern study mentions the burst of interest that arose during World War II, had paved the way for rumors. The next decade witnessed some developmental research. The 1960s and 1970s saw another cycle of interest, with many famous publications. More recently, there has been another round of gossip and rumor behaviors as a result of CORONA disease outbreak.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Spreading of gossips and rumors among the individuals all over the globe , and their impact have largely focused on the ways in which gossips rumors can affect people, their beliefs, and various aspects within their lives. This study, therefore, attempts to answer the following research questions:

- 1- what is trend towards gossips and rumors among the Sudanese?
- 2- Is there any relationship between gender and trend of gossips and rumors?
- 3- Is there any significant difference on gossips and rumors owing to gender?
- 4- What are predictors(factors) affecting rumors circulation in the Sudanese community?

1.3. Importance

It is of prime significance to indicate that both gossips and rumors dominate human being's life, and it is not surprising that they are considered as common elements of every day conversation among the youth and practiced across a wide range of cultures.

1.4. Objectives

1. To assess the Sudanese trend towards gossips and rumors.
2. To investigate the relation between gender and tendency to gossips and rumors.
3. To examine gender difference on trend towards gossips and rumors.
4. To detect the predictors underlying gossips and rumors spreading.

1.5. Hypotheses

It is hypothesized that:

1. The trend towards gossips and rumors among the participants is positive
2. There is a significant relationship between gender and trend towards gossips and rumors.
3. there is significant difference in trend towards gossips and rumors attributed to gender.
4. There are significant predictors of gossips and rumors spreading among the participants.

1.6. Definition of Terms

1.Trend:is a prevailing tendency or inclination towards something that is currently popular. And also, it is a general direction or a way of behaving that is developing and becoming more popular [1].

2. Gossips: refer to talking about someone or something with another person or a group of persons [1].

3. Rumors: refer to spreading specific information about someone or something that has not been verified [1].

1.7.Limitations

This study is limited with regard to time, place , and research's problem. It is conducted in 2021-2022.

2.Literature

Gossips and rumors are similar concepts. Both involve people saying or writing things. Gossip concerns constructs of particular persons – the objects – and rumors include constructs of events and particular persons. Thus rumor is more public than gossip: value-laden information about and interest in members of a small group [2], or an individual. In this study, we include rumors and gossip but use rumors as the overarching concept. Gossiping is often considered as an informal talk among no more than a few individuals, about another individual that is not present, however, it flourishes in networks as well. We embrace this neutral definition, but gossip is usually seen in common parlance as a type of small talk with negative connotations (an evil tongue) or a universal social activity or pleasurable social entertainment. Rumors and gossip have the character of fragmented information, wherein either filtering or elaboration distort the original message as it passes from one non-accountable person to another [3].

Rumors and gossip have a plethora of functions and consequences, gossiping has served a valuable function in human evolution, because it conveys warning signals about precarious situations and insecurities related to individuals in networks too large to evaluate from one's own experience. Gossiping may give individuals an advantage within their social setting, such as reinforced social bonds among the participants and make it possible for individuals to compare their social position with others and to gain power over objects of gossip [4].

Gossip may also have some advantages. It can serve as a safeguard against opportunistic behavior among partners in a network. It is noted that gossip 'can be considered a useful governance mechanism that can work side-by-side with more formal governing mechanisms'. This informal component of the mechanism seems to be especially important when it is difficult to evaluate a person's products and services. Actors in such situations are susceptible to gossip that may harm their reputations; their reputations are guarantees for the quality of their products and services, and the smallest deviation from the expected may be salient [5]. Rumors may also be used to detect a crisis. According to [6], rumors and gossips may provide key information to management about

perceptions of new policies and decisions regarding recruitment and promotions. Because managers receive this type of information more quickly and from more directions than formal information would, it helps them to organize.

Some theorists explicitly differentiate gossip from rumor, but there is no clear consensus on this distinction. For example, [7] ,suggests that rumor, unlike gossip, is concerned with matters of little personal relevance (e.g., politics, the weather). According to [8], gossip differs from rumor because it generally involves “non- essential” information, though both may address personal affairs. Moreover, There is another difference between rumor and gossip, as each appears to function differently in its pure state. Rumors have been described as public communications that are infused with private hypotheses about how the world works, or more specifically, ways of making sense to help us cope with our anxieties and uncertainties[9]. On the other hand, some researchers noted, "almost as many functions of gossip have been argued as writers to write about gossip". More than rumor, gossip tends to be circulated among people, in that it is customarily passed between people who have a common history or shared interests. Popular usage defines gossip as "small talk" or "idle talk," but gossip is hardly inconsequential or without purpose. For example, it has been theorized that gossip played a fundamental role in the evolution of human intelligence and social life , and that it continues to play an active role in cultural learning and as a source of social comparison information. To be sure, it is often noted that rumor and gossip can also be undeniably aversive and problematic-currently illustrated, for example, in the way that rumor and gossip have generated resistance to medical efforts to deal with chronic and fatal current diseases [10].

More recent studies have demonstrated that the relationships among gossip, reputation and cooperation are not straightforward, given the way gossip undermines reputation and destroys cooperation. In an overview of models of the relationships among gossip, reputation, and cooperation. It is demonstrated that those relationships are not merely causal, but also reciprocal. Cooperation may be strengthened because uncooperative behavior damages the reputations of parties that are expected to cooperate. The threat of gossip as punishment in the social context may, in fact, sustain cooperation. Causality can work in both directions. The context may explain why gossip can strengthen cooperation and the relationship between the gossipmonger and the receiver, or why the receiver may lose confidence, and no longer see the gossipmonger as a credible informant. These different recent models do have something in common, however: Negative gossip

undermines the reputation of the target and has negative emotional consequences for its targets [11]. Gossip may harm the long-term interaction through loss of trust, which may reduce the long-run intention to cooperate. Thus, gossip-based loss of trust may reduce short-term gains in cooperation, given the disciplinary effect of threat on the victim of gossip. Accordingly, recent studies – often simulation research – confirm and elaborate upon earlier studies with their analytical explaining models . Rumors can also arise because of lack of information about issues that staff members perceive as being extremely important – staffing levels, for example. A nurse describes speculations about people being laid off [12].

The individual may find himself in one of three orientations or situations in relation to a rumor. The rumor, or the situation, may cause the individual to take a critical set, an uncritical set, or a transmission set toward it. Briefly stated, if the individual takes a critical set it means that he is capable of using "critical ability" to separate the true from the false in rumors he hears. If an individual takes an uncritical set, it means that he is unable to use "critical ability" to test the truth of the rumors he hears [13].

Gossip refers to unverified information about other people or events that is shared informally between individuals. Across cultures, gossip is a common element of everyday social interaction, important for establishing friendships, providing entertainment, and exchanging knowledge. However, gossip is also used to attack and defame individuals, to create social discord, and even to incite panic. Because of gossip's potential for considerable misuse, gossiping is generally regarded as a socially undesirable and prohibited activity[14]. Nevertheless, despite gossip's reputation for causing more harm than good, several studies have found that some individuals have highly positive attitudes about gossip and consider it to be a useful and valid form of information exchange [15].

Recent studies have shown that informal information, such as gossip, may have negative consequences on the work environment concerning cooperation, trust, and emotions among employees. Unlike previous studies, we have shown that the relationship between formal and informal information is dualistic rather than complementary/supplementary. In practice, this means that managers need to relate to the ongoing dynamic dualistic relationship between rumors and formal information. In this way, managers can improve the work environment before rumors turn to gossip, leading to a deterioration of the work environment. Thus, the practical implications from

this study contribute to the highlighted need for knowledge about ways that managers can improve the work environment when there is an increasing risk of rumors turning to gossip[16].

[17] , see gossip as ‘the vehicle of reputations’, and from this study, we claim that rumors may occupy the first step in the process, as ‘the vehicle of gossip’. The difference between rumors and gossip concerns more than the subject of the information or the way it is conveyed. It is the character of socially undermining a person’s reputation, especially a manager’s that can inhibit future trustful discussions that is the most significant feature of gossip.

3.Methodology&Procedures

3.1. Method

This research is designed to verify specific hypotheses based on a quantitative methodology, as well as, a meta-analysis approach ,which is a statistical technique for combining the findings from independent studies[18]. Meta-analysis is a systematic review methodology that offers the researcher a rational and helpful way of dealing with a research problem [19].

3.2.Participants

Three hundred participants (151 women, and 149 men), ranging in age from 20 to 59, were recruited from Omdurman Islamic University. The sample was selected according to purposive sampling technique.

The following table summarizes the sample and its associated variables:

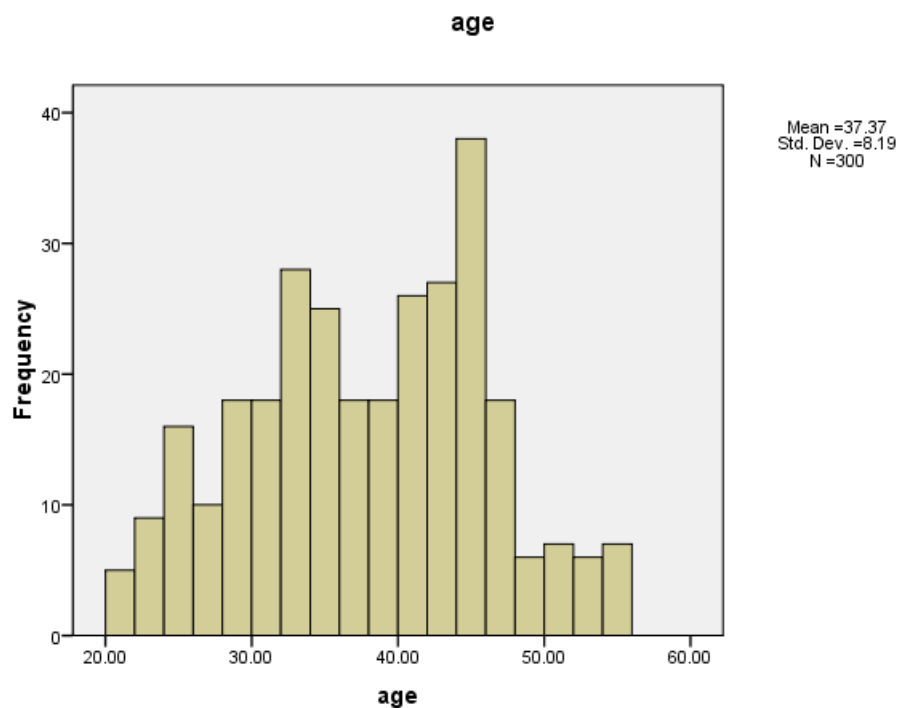
Table-1.

Descriptive Statistics of the Sample

Variable	Frequencies	Percentage %
Age		
20-29	58	19
30-39	107	36
40-49	115	38
50-59	20	7
Gender		
Men	149	49
Women	151	51

Education		
Post-graduate	185	53
University	142	47
Job		
Teaching	166	55
Others	134	45
Specialization		
Sciences	151	51
Humanities	149	49
Marital Status		
Married	176	59
Single	124	41
Total	300	100%

The following figure-1, shows age variable of the research sample in terms of Mean and Standard Deviation:



3.3.Instrument

To assess people’s trend towards gossips and rumors, the researcher in this current study adopted Littman’s (2009) Attitudes Towards Gossip (ATG) scale, which measures the degree to which gossip and rumor are viewed positively. The ATG, in its original version, comprises two subscales that assess distinct, but correlated, attitudinal dimensions: Attitudes about the Social Value (SV) of gossip and attitudes about the Moral Value (MV) of gossip. The SV subscale inquires about gossip’s “social capital,” which is to say its usefulness for forming social relationships (e.g., “Gossip is a good ice-breaker”) and its merit as a source of information capable of stimulating one’s interest (e.g., “I love to know what is going on in other people’s lives”); thus, the SV scale assesses attitudes involved in using gossip to one’s advantage. The MV scale is concerned with views on the appropriateness of transmitting gossip to others (e.g., reverse-scored item, “It is wrong to talk about others when they aren’t around”) and on the reliability of gossip as a source of information (e.g., “Gossip is often true”)[20].See :Appendix-1.

Reliability & Validity.

To calculate both reliability and validity coefficients of the scale, the researcher used Statistical Package for Social Sciences, as shown on the following table;

Table-1.

Correlation Coefficients for each items of the scale:

Item	Correlation	Item	Correlation
1	.726	9	.670
2	.700	10	.695
3	.719	11	.719
4	.657	12	.716
5	.697	13	.751
6	.680	14	.716
7	.680	15	.745
8	.689		

It was calculated that Cronbach's Alpha reliability(.720), and thus validity(.848).

3.4.Procedures

- 1.A Chinese scale for measuring the trend of gossips and rumors among the Sudanese, was translated into Arabic.
- 2.A sample for a pilot study was selected, and the translated scale was accordingly administered.
- 3.A total sample was draw from the population, comprising(300) participants.
4. The collected data was statistically analyzed to obtain the results.

3.5.Statistical Processing

- 1.Cronbach Alpha.
- 2.Correlation Coefficient.
- 3.One-sample T-test.
- 4.Two-independent samples T-test.
- 5.Chi-square Test.
6. Regression Analysis.

4. Results

Hypothesis -1

It hypothesizes that trend towards gossips and rumors among the participants is positive. The following table shows the result:

Table-2. One-sample Statistics

Trend	N	Mean	SD	SD Error Mean
	300	50.7567	7.67852	.45487

One-sample T-test

	Test Value= 45					
Trend of gossips and rumors					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	T	Df	Sig,(2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Lower	Upper
Trend	12.656	299	.000	5.75667	4.8615	6.6518

It is clear that the participants'(men and women) trend towards gossips and rumors is positive.

Hypothesis-2

It predicts that there is relationship between gender and trend towards gossips and rumors. The following table shows the result:

Table-3. Chi-square Test

Gender-frequencies

	Observed N	Expected N	Residual
Male	149	150.0	-1.0
Female	151	150.0	1.0
Total	300		

Chi-square Test.

	Gender	Trend
Chi-square	.013	1.704
Df	1	36
Asymp.Sig.	.908	.000

There is a significant relationship(.000) between gender(men &women) and trend towards gossips and rumors.

Hypothesis-3

It speculates that there is significant difference in trend towards gossips and rumors attributed to gender. The following table shows the result:

Table-4.

Two Independent Samples

Gender	N	Mean	S.D	Mean Difference	t	Sig,(2-tailed)
Trend	149	51.9262	7.97640			

men				2.3236	2.578	.01
female	151	49.6026	7.63246			

There is significant statistical difference in trend towards gossips and rumors according to gender(men-women), in favor of men.

Hypothesis-4

It claims that there are significant predictors of gossips and rumors spreading among the participants. The following table shows the result:

Table-5.

Multiple Regression Analysis:

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.274 ^a	.075	.060	7.64051

a. Predictors: (constant), marital status, educational level, age, job, specialization.

ANOVA^b

Model	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1396.290	5	279.258	4.784	.000 ^a
Residual	17162.947	294	58.377		
Total	18559.237	299			

a. Predictors: (constant), marital status, educational level, age, job, specialization.

b. Dependent Variable: trend.

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std.Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	45.252	3.367	-	13.439	.000
Age	-.007	.056	-.007	-.122	.904
Education	-.180	.920	-.011	-.196	.845
Job	1.506	.940	.095	1.602	.110
Specialization	4.029	.941	.256	4.284	.000
Marital status	-1.544	.961	-.097	-1.607	.109

a. Dependent Variable: trend

Comment: Factors(Predictors) such as age, education, job, and marital status. are not significant predictors for gossips and rumors spreading among the participants, however, specialization(science-humanities) is significant predictor.

5. Discussion

The first result shows that the participants'(men and women) trend towards gossips and rumors is positive.

It has been shown that, when people believe rumors, they instinctively spread the topics they believe in. The more people believe a rumor, the more frequently they spread the rumor [38]. In fact, people may be actively involved in rumors, as long as the credibility of Internet rumors positively affects the audience's willingness to redistribute rumors. In addition, people's perceptions can have a driving effect on their behavior. Trust is a person's perception of things or opinions, which will have a propulsive effect in the course of action. In the process of rumor propagation, Liu argued that the degree of user trustworthiness plays a mediating effect in the influence of network density on the willingness to propagate rumors [21].

The second result of this study indicates that There is a significant relationship(.000) between gender(men &women) and trend towards gossips and rumors.

Physical appearance gossip (e.g. clothes) has been found to be higher in females. In the context of gender differences in friendship, this type of gossip may be more of a threat to the more communal female friendship which values self-disclosure and intimacy more so than in the case of males . According to research conducted in the Netherlands, gossip about physical appearance and sexual reputation are the focal elements of the evolutionary value of gossip, as this is a means of intersexual competition for potential mates. In Belgium, [22], found gender differences in the recall of gossip from same-gender rivals. Females recalled more attractiveness information, while males recalled more cues relating to wealth status. Reputation gossip is often used as form of aggression with females, as it can be a highly effective method of reducing the attractiveness of a same-gender rival. Hence in the context of mating, females are vulnerable when it comes to reputation. This finding may be some of the basis for gender differences in physical appearance related gossip. With research in the United Kingdom, [23], points to the asymmetry of male and female conversation. Males are more self-focused, females converse more about others. Females emphasize the building and maintaining social networks and males are more concerned about display and status. [23], argues that gender differences in conversation can be considered along evolutionary lines, with males using conversation as a form of self-promotion for the purpose of attracting a mate, a kind of vocal form ,refers to male speech as a form of advertising, particularly if females are present . In addition, the talk becomes more intrusive, more competitive and political in the presence of females.

The third result is that There is significant statistical difference in trend towards gossips and rumors according to gender(men-women), in favor of men.

Achievement gossip (e.g., grades, salaries) is another aspect of gossip that may be related to the male emphasis on agency in friendship. This form of gossip may be more associated with male friendships, given the greater interest in individuation through emphasis on individual accomplishments. Also male friendships are more concerned with establishing status and reputation. As gossip is part of conversation, and friends are more likely to gossip compared to acquaintances, gender differences in conversation may explain a possible greater emphasis on achievement related gossip [24].

The fourth result points out that Factors(Predictors) such as age, education, job, and marital status. are not significant predictors for gossips and rumors spreading among the participants, however, specialization(science-humanities) is significant predictor.

Education is a prime factors because individuals who have learned to be critical in their analysis of what is learned, are less apt to believe and transmit gossips and rumors. [25], point out that the process of spreading rumors usually goes through three stages: generation, evaluation, and re-spreading. The concept of rumor re-spreading is relative to the initiation of the rumor. It emphasizes the role of the information audience in the dissemination process. The focus is on its diffusion behavior after one hears the rumor. According to the existing literature, there are many variables affecting re-spreading, and the main research covers the following four aspects: the information itself, the disseminator, the individual audience, and the social environment. It can be noted that the importance and ambiguity of information will contribute to the spread of rumors, in addition to the importance and ambiguity of information that will cause the spread of rumors, individual intelligence, the level of knowledge, and moral values will also have an impact on the propagation of rumors. Furthermore, opinion leaders, communication channels, and trust in the rumor can also influence re-spreading of the rumors. There are many academic studies on the factors influencing rumor propagation. However, there is little research on the relationship between anxiety, rumor discrimination, opinion leaders, and trust in the process of rumor re-spreading.

6. Conclusion

This study yielded primary results, these results have several implications about how gossips and rumors are viewed and utilized among the Sudanese at different settings. The results offer an interpretation regarding gossips circulation as well as rumors, and why both men and women are actively engaged in such undesirable behaviors. The current study was concluded by some recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

Recommendations

- 1- Mental health experts should clarify the potential risks connected with gossips indulgence.
- 2- To provide counseling programs among individuals at workplace.
- 3- Organizations should take care of their personnel.
- 4- Mass media should be keen on offering effective ways of communicating among people.

Suggestions

- 1- A cross-cultural investigation is needed for assessing gossips and rumors.
- 2- The effect of Social Media on Gossiping behavior should be conducted.
- 3- Rumors circulation and its correlates among jobless people.

4- An analysis of factors underlying gossips and rumors.

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Appendix-1:

A scale for measuring Attitudes towards gossips & rumors.

Age () years. Gender: male () female() Educational level ()

Position () Specialization() Marital status ()

***Make/Mark (/) below the option that fits you :**

No.	Item	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Gossip is a good ice-breaker.					
2	Rumors are rarely true.					
3	It is very enjoyable to talk about other people.					
4	It is wrong to talk about others when they are not around.					
5	I love to know what is happening to other people's lives.					
6	Gossip is not worth trusting.					
7	I always mind my own business instead of gossiping.					
8	Regardless of whether a rumor is true or not you should never					

	mention it.					
9	Gossiping is a great way to pass the time.					
10	I have never known gossip to be helpful to anyone.					
11	I like to share what I hear about others.					
12	Gossip is often true.					
13	People's gossip is fearful.					
14	I think prying into the affairs of others is improper.					
15	Gossip can help us to start up a conversation with unfamiliar people.					