

7 in 10 internet users concerned about fake news

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Seven in 10 adult internet users in the country believe there is a “serious” problem of fake news online, results of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) surveys show.

The SWS poll, taken from March 23 to 27, found 67 percent of adult Filipinos who think fake news in the internet is a serious problem (40 percent very serious and 26 percent somewhat serious) against 13 percent who said it is not serious (nine percent somewhat not serious and four percent not serious at all).

This resulted in a net score of +54, which was 11 points below the net +65 (73 percent serious, eight percent not serious) in December 2017.

The remaining 20 percent of respondents were undecided.

In March 2018, the proportion of internet users who said there is a serious problem of fake news in the internet was higher in Metro Manila and balance Luzon, both at 71 percent, compared to the Visayas at 68 percent and Mindanao at 52 percent.

It was higher in classes ABC at 90 percent, than in class D at 64 percent and class E at 62 percent.

Belief that there is a serious problem of fake news in the internet was higher among men at 72 percent than women at 62 percent, the SWS noted.

It was higher among college graduates at 76 percent, than among high school graduates and below, ranging from 54 percent to 67 percent.

By membership in social media platforms, perceived seriousness of the fake news problem in the internet was highest among Instagram users at 77 percent, followed by Twitter users at 76 percent, Viber users at 75 percent, YouTube users at 68 percent and Facebook users at 67 percent.

The SWS March 2018 survey also showed that 42 percent of adult Filipinos are now using the internet, a point higher than the 41 percent registered in June 2017.

Meanwhile, 60 percent of adult Filipinos think there is a serious problem of fake news in the media (29 percent very serious, 31 percent somewhat serious), while 13 percent said it was not serious (seven percent somewhat not serious, six percent not serious at all), for a net score of +47.

About three in 10 or 27 percent were undecided.

The Fourth Quarter 2017 Social Weather Survey, fielded on Dec. 8 to 16, asked adult respondents, “In your opinion, how serious is the problem of the spread of fake news in the media like television, radio and newspapers?”

The December 2017 poll also showed 61 percent (32 percent very serious, 30 percent somewhat serious) of respondents who believe the government is serious in solving the fake news problem in the media.

Only eight percent (four percent somewhat not serious, four percent not serious at all) said the government was not serious, while 31 percent were undecided.

Both surveys were done through face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults, 18 years old and above, nationwide.