

A STUDY OF THE PERCEPTIONS OF INFORMATION COMPLETENESS AND
AUTHENTICITY IN FEMICIDE REPORTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

by

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Abstract

This research paper critically explores the current discourse on femicide within the dynamic landscape of social media platforms, where the increasing prevalence of such tragic incidents has captured considerable attention. The primary objective of this study is to construct a robust theoretical framework that comprehensively examines the phenomenon of femicide, elucidating the multifaceted dimensions through which information is collected and disseminated in the digital realm.

In addition to theoretical groundwork, the research endeavors to shed light on the profound impact of social media on individual users. To achieve this, the study employs a survey methodology aimed at gauging users' perceptions regarding the completeness and authenticity of information pertaining to femicide circulating on social media platforms.

By addressing the complexities of femicide discourse in the digital space and investigating the perceptions of social media users, this research contributes to a nuanced understanding of how information on femicide is shaped, shared, and received in the contemporary digital age. Through a mix of theory and research, this study aims to provide insights that specifically focus on evaluating the reliability of media information regarding femicide, contributing to informed discussions and potential policy actions.

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1. Introduction

The phenomenon of violence has been an enduring aspect of the human social sphere since the inception of our species (Dores, 2014). While diverse forms of violence exist, this study confines its scope to the examination of violence against women, with a specific focus on femicide. Femicide is understood as the deliberate and targeted killing of women based on their gender. The term has, however, encountered contention, particularly within legal discourse, where some scholars contest its validity. This contention arises from legal frameworks, such as the Greek criminal code, which emphasizes the protection of human life without discrimination, irrespective of the identity of the victim or perpetrator.

Nevertheless, this research aligns with the perspectives of scholars who acknowledge and endorse the term "femicide," as introduced by feminist Diana Russell in 1976 during the "International 'Court' for Crimes against Women" (Grzyb, M., Naudi, M., & Marcuello-Servós, C. 2018). This alignment is motivated by the term's congruence with the nature of the present study. Specifically, the term "femicide" finds explicit usage in contemporary social media discourse, where our audience is intimately acquainted with its connotations and dimensions.

The overarching objective of this thesis is to scrutinize users' perceptions regarding the comprehensiveness and authenticity of information presented in social media reports on femicide. This analysis encompasses the reception of information, its validity, how users assimilate the phenomenon, and their subsequent reactions on social media platforms. By delving into these dimensions, this research seeks to contribute nuanced insights into the ways in which femicide is portrayed, perceived, and responded to within the realm of social media.

1.1. Background of the study

The selection of this specific topic was deliberate, driven by the imperative to investigate it due to its recurring prevalence. The subject matter falls within the domain of communication studies, specifically within social networks. Social networks, being a contemporary digital extension of the communication model, play a pivotal role in shaping perceptions. The focal point of this investigation revolves around femicide, a critical concern within contemporary society.

The primary objective is to employ theoretical frameworks that shed light on users' perceptions regarding the comprehensiveness and authenticity of information pertaining to femicide. The chosen platform for this exploration is social media, a space where information dissemination occurs rapidly and on a large scale. Given the inherent nature of social media as a breeding ground for diverse opinions, femicide emerges as a topic that not only garners frequent attention but also gives rise to conflicting viewpoints.

The central inquiry to be addressed is whether the target audience, comprised of social media users, possesses awareness of the term 'femicide' and the extent of their knowledge on the subject. Additionally, the study aims to ascertain the sources from which users derive information on femicide and to what degree they perceive this information as reliable and authentic. This investigation is deemed imperative due to the perpetual presence of femicide-related content on social media platforms, often accompanied by divergent perspectives and significant public attention.

The methodology employed in this study involves the administration of a questionnaire, designed to gauge the satisfaction of the concerns. Through the respondents' insights, the research aims to unravel the dynamics of user behavior in processing and disseminating information pertaining to femicide. The goal is to contribute to a nuanced understanding of how users navigate and engage with content related to the prevention of femicide.

1.2. Statement of the problem

The principal concern addressed by this thesis is the discernible gap in existing research concerning the correlation between perceptions of information completeness and authenticity within the context of femicide. Recognizing this gap as a foundational premise, the overarching objective is to elucidate the intricacies of this issue, thereby facilitating the derivation of measurable outcomes. The anticipated results aspire to contribute to the current understanding of the subject matter and serve as a foundational framework for potential future studies in this domain.

1.3. Research Objectives

A key concern covered in this research's scope is users' perceptions of the completeness and authenticity of information on the femicide issue in social media. However secondary objectives are to answer the following:

- 1) How users react to a post about femicide.
- 2) Is the information reliable?
- 3) Where do they get their information from?

After answering some basic questions about how information is perceived in relation to the main research topic, we will draw a conclusion based on their answers to explore how users deal with the issue of femicide in the digital environment.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This research project is anticipated to yield a constructive impact on the realm of communication within the context of social science. Its focus on a pervasive societal concern underscores its relevance in the daily lives of individuals. The methodological approach employed is rigorously scientific, with due regard for extant scholarly literature. This undertaking's significance is underscored by its potential to bridge existing research lacunae, providing a foundation for subsequent scholars to extrapolate upon the gathered data and delve into novel facets of the subject matter. Moreover, the dataset generated can serve as a valuable resource for prospective primary investigations involving analogous demographic groups.

Beyond its scholarly implications, this research constitutes a social experiment within the domain of communication science. The data amassed can inform the development of public awareness campaigns concerning femicide. This dual utility extends benefits to both the scientific community and non-governmental organizations deeply engaged in feminist causes. The paramount achievement of this approach lies in heightened societal awareness and the formulation of preventive strategies. It is poised to serve as a catalyst for disseminating information to the public with credibility and authenticity, thereby shaping public opinion positively.

1.5. Scope and limitations

Social networks serve as fertile ground for the dissemination of diverse topics, with feminist issues being no exception. The phenomenon of femicide will be scrutinized through the lens of users' perceptions regarding the completeness and authenticity of

information propagation on this critical subject. The depth of users' comprehension will be gauged by assessing their familiarity with femicide and observing how their perspectives are influenced upon receiving pertinent information. The ensuing quantitative research endeavors to furnish measurable outcomes, thereby addressing the lacuna in understanding how users formulate perceptions on such a pressing issue.

Nevertheless, certain limitations exert an influence on the research. Notably, the study will confine its examination to a restricted sample of users, eschewing a broad survey of the populace due to considerations of demographic disparities and cultural backgrounds. The element of subjectivity in perceptions is also pivotal, as diverse opinions and interpretations may impede the objectivity of responses. Furthermore, the investigation delves into a subject characterized by dynamic data accumulation and constant evolution, introducing a temporal constraint or snapshot phenomenon in the exploration of factors, thereby constituting a limitation given the perpetual variability of pertinent variables.

Despite these limitations, the scales within our study maintain equilibrium. The acknowledged constraints underscore the imperative for further refinement of the issue, potentially extending previous research or serving as a catalyst for more expansive future explorations within the domain.

1.6. Definition of key terms

Femicide: “Femicide is broadly defined as the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender, and can take different forms, such as the murder of women because of intimate partner violence; the torture and misogynist slaying of women; killing of women and girls in the name of “honour;” etc.” (Femicide, 2023).

Perceptions: “perception, in humans, the process whereby sensory stimulation is translated into organized experience. That experience, or percept, is the joint product of the stimulation and of the process itself” (Dember et al., 2023).

Completeness in Communication: “Effective communication depends on the completeness of the message. Incomplete messages create ambiguity in the audience. A complete message brings the desired results without any expense or additional information. Therefore, every message sent by the sender should be complete” (Kendre, 2022).

Authenticity in Communication: “Based on a review of authenticity literature in social psychology, education, marketing and communication, public health communication, organizational behavior and narrative studies, our a priori definition of perceived authenticity is this: the belief by the message receiver that the communicator is a human being with their own history, values, and point of view and that the message they are communicating is in accordance with those values” (Saffran et al., 2020)

Social Media: “Social media can be broadly defined as the set of interactive Internet applications that facilitate (collaborative or individual) creation, curation, and sharing of user-generated content” (Davis, 2016).

2. Literature Review

2.1. Femicide as a Phenomenon Globally

2.1.1. Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence (GBV), a term encompassing a wide range of abuses committed against individuals based on their gender, stands as a poignant violation of human rights deeply entrenched in societal structures. This essay seeks to analyze the concept of GBV, drawing from various academic perspectives, including those presented by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE 2021), Frederick (2016), and Bloom (2008), among others.

At its core, GBV is a manifestation of gender inequality and the power imbalances that have historically favored men over women. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE, 2021) starkly illustrates this through statistics indicating that a significant proportion of violence, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, is directed predominantly towards women and girls. This form of violence not only infringes on the victims' rights to safety and equality but also challenges their fundamental freedoms and dignity. GBV, therefore, is not merely an attack on the individual but an affront to the collective societal values of equality and respect for human rights, as stated in the European Convention of Human Rights.

The diverse forms of GBV extend beyond physical violence. As noted by Frederick (2016), GBV includes acts of sexual, psychological, and economic harm, encompassing coercion and arbitrary deprivation of liberty. These acts often occur within the domestic sphere but are by no means limited to it. The Council of Europe (2011) further broadens this definition, incorporating crimes committed in the name of "honor" and practices like forced marriage and genital mutilation. These forms of violence, deeply rooted in cultural and traditional norms, signify the pervasive nature of gender-based discrimination and the societal inclination to control and subjugate women.

Moreover, the emergence of new technologies and digital platforms has given rise to novel forms of GBV. Cyber violence, as discussed by Agkmpari (2020), represents a growing concern. This type of violence, which includes online threats, harassment, and the non-consensual sharing of private images, extends the reach of gender-based abuse into virtual spaces. The data from EIGE (2020) highlights the alarming prevalence of

such abuse, demonstrating that the fight against GBB must adapt to encompass these evolving forms.

The complex interplay of societal, cultural, and legal factors in perpetuating GBV cannot be overstated. Bourdieu's (2007) notion of "honor" as a controlling asset in conservative societies underscores how deeply ingrained gender norms can justify and perpetuate violence against women. Similarly, the legal framework in countries like Egypt, as reported by the Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Association (CEWLA) and cited by Khafagy (2005), reveals how laws and societal norms can collude to perpetuate gender-based crimes, including honor killings.

To effectively address GBV, a multifaceted approach is necessary. This approach must involve legal reforms, as suggested by the Council of Europe (2011), and a shift in societal attitudes and norms. Media, as posited by Comas-d'Argemir (2014), plays a crucial role in framing the problem of GBV and raising public awareness. By bringing these issues to the forefront of public discourse, media can challenge the normalization of GBV and foster a culture that actively seeks to prevent it.

Understanding and addressing gender-based violence requires a comprehensive approach that considers its multifarious forms and the underlying societal structures that perpetuate it. Acknowledging the extent of the problem, as highlighted by the studies of EIGE (2021), Frederick (2016), and others, is the first step towards developing effective strategies to combat GBV and achieve genuine gender equality. This endeavor is not only a matter of protecting individual rights but is fundamental to the progress and health of societies worldwide.

2.1.2. Femicide

Femicide, a term that starkly encapsulates the gravest extreme of gender-based violence, refers to the killing of women and girls primarily because of their gender. This analytical essay delves into the multifaceted nature of femicide, drawing from various academic sources to explore its definitions, implications, and the challenges in addressing this pervasive issue.

The term 'femicide' first appeared in literary works in the early 19th century but gained significant political and academic attention in the late 20th century, primarily due to feminist movements' efforts to highlight male violence against women (Grzyb et al., 2018). Diana Russell and Jill Radford's definition in 1992, categorizing femicide as the

misogynous killing of women by men, marked a pivotal moment in recognizing the gendered nature of these crimes. This definition, while groundbreaking, also opened the floor to complex questions regarding the scope of femicide. Does it include killings by women influenced by patriarchal norms? What about intimate partner murders or those in conflict zones? These questions, posed by scholars like Al Agkmpari (2020), underline the difficulty in encapsulating the various forms of violence against women within a single term.

In addressing femicide, it's crucial to consider the cultural and societal contexts in which these crimes occur. The introduction of the term 'feminicidio' by Mexican anthropologist and feminist Lagarde in the 1990s contextualizes femicide within a framework of systemic failures to protect women (Grzyb et al., 2018). This perspective highlights not only the act of murder itself but also the societal and institutional complicity that often allows these crimes to go unpunished.

The responsibility of the state in preventing and prosecuting femicide is a critical aspect of this discourse. The Council of Europe argues that addressing violence against women is a state obligation, essential for achieving gender equality (Grzyb et al., 2018). Similarly, the United Nations' definition of femicide encompasses various forms, including intimate partner violence and honor killings, emphasizing the need for state intervention and the frequent failure of authorities to adequately address such crimes.

However, defining femicide is not without challenges. Castoriadis (1975) reminds us that the way we define social phenomena can shape our perceptions and responses. In the case of femicide, this means recognizing the intricate ways in which sexism and misogyny motivate such crimes. As Vourgazopoulou (2022) notes, the differentiation of femicide from homicide lies in its motivation rooted in sexism, a nuance that is crucial for understanding and addressing the issue effectively.

Femicide, as a term and a phenomenon, encompasses a complex interplay of gender, power, and violence. It is not merely the act of killing a woman but a symbol of the pervasive and often institutionalized misogyny that permeates societies. Addressing femicide requires a multifaceted approach that includes legal reform, societal change, and a deep understanding of the gendered dynamics at play. Recognizing the responsibility of the state and society in perpetuating and allowing these crimes is crucial in developing effective strategies to combat and ultimately prevent femicide.

2.1.3. Global Perspectives on Femicide

Femicide, the act of killing women or girls, primarily because of their gender, remains a tragically under-recognized issue worldwide. This "invisibility of femicide" stems from the absence of a universally accepted definition in the criminal codes of many countries. While laws are typically created within specific national contexts, considering various socio-economic factors, the lack of a standardized definition leads to femicide often being obscured within general homicide statistics (Walklate et al., 2020). This obscurity not only misleads in understanding the problem but also fails to acknowledge femicide as a distinct and serious issue. Menjívar & Walsh (2017) argue that such inaction and silence from the state amount to complicity, contributing to institutional violence.

Media plays a complex role in this scenario. Shier & Shor's (2016) analysis of Canadian media coverage revealed an ethnic and cultural bias in reporting femicides. The coverage differs markedly based on the perpetrator's cultural background, often portrayed as a contrast between the 'East' – perceived as patriarchal and traditional – and the 'West', which is viewed as more liberal and modern. This dichotomous portrayal leads to a "culturalization" or "pathologization" of femicide, influencing public perception and response. Grzyb et al., (2018) suggest that femicide can be seen as a cultural issue, ingrained in societal norms that are challenging to change. Such viewpoints necessitate a sensitive approach to femicide, taking into account cultural, social, economic, and legislative contexts (EIGE 2021). Therefore, media narratives should transcend cultural blame and promote awareness around multiculturalism, migration, integration, and rights.

The first step towards addressing femicide globally is the collection and analysis of data. This data is crucial for forensic and criminological investigations, helping to document and compare cases of gender-based homicide. Currently, there is a limitation in research from criminal and medical fields, and various global organizations have highlighted the need for comprehensive data collection. Initiatives like “Femicide across Europe” and “Femicide Watches” (OHCHR, 2015) represent significant steps in this direction. Such movements, driven by researchers and scientists, exert pressure on legal and governmental bodies to not only define femicide but to make gender dynamics visible in crime, particularly in the relationship between victim and perpetrator.

Furthermore, global disparity in the recognition of femicide exacerbates the challenge. In regions where gender inequality is deeply entrenched, femicides are often minimized or justified through cultural or societal norms. This disparity is evident in the varying degrees of media coverage and legal acknowledgment of femicide across different countries. For instance, in some cultures, "honor killings" – a form of femicide – are often misrepresented or justified as a cultural norm, overshadowing the fundamental violation of women's rights and lives (Al Agkmpari, 2020).

The societal impact of femicide's invisibility is profound. It perpetuates a cycle of violence and discrimination against women and girls, reinforcing gender stereotypes and inequalities. Moreover, it hinders the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies, as the lack of data and recognition leads to inadequate policy responses. Consequently, femicide continues to be a global issue that transcends cultural, economic, and political boundaries, requiring a concerted effort from all sectors of society.

The “invisibility of femicide” globally is a multifaceted issue requiring a concerted effort from media, legal systems, and societies at large. The establishment of a universal definition and recognition of femicide in criminal codes, coupled with responsible media reporting and comprehensive data collection, are essential steps towards addressing this grave violation of human rights. By bringing femicide into the light, societies can begin to address the underlying gender inequalities and cultural norms that perpetuate this violence, paving the way for a more just and equitable world.

2.1.4. Addressing the Veiled Reality of Femicide in Greece

In recent years, Greece has witnessed a disturbing increase in femicide cases, a term that refers to the killing of women because of their gender. This phenomenon, often shrouded in societal taboos and legal ambiguities, presents a significant challenge to Greek society, law enforcement, and the media.

The alarming statistics from ERT NEWS and the Hellenic Police Archives highlight this growing crisis. From 2015 to 2020, there were reported 118 femicides, and by October 2022, the number of cases in Greece had reached a staggering 165 (Pampouxidou 2021). The year 2021 alone saw 30 femicides, a significant jump from previous years, coinciding with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and

financial strains. These numbers starkly contrast with the overall decline in homicide rates, revealing a specific targeting of women in violent crimes (Karakasi et al. 2022).

One of the critical challenges in addressing femicide in Greece is the lack of legal recognition. The Greek Criminal Code, as cited by researchers like Al Agkmpari (2020), does not specifically categorize femicides separately from general homicides. The existing articles (299, 302, 310, 311, and 312) under the criminal code and domestic violence laws (Law 3500/2006 amended by Law 4531/2018) fail to distinguish femicide as a unique and gender-specific crime. This absence of legal distinction leads to a failure in adequately addressing the root causes and specificities of femicide (Kotsalis 2017).

Moreover, the Greek media's portrayal of femicide cases often lacks depth and sensitivity. In 2019, media coverage and law enforcement typically classified these incidents as general homicides or domestic violence cases, without acknowledging the gender-based nature of these crimes. This oversight contributes to a societal underestimation of the problem and hinders effective measures to combat it (EIGE 2021).

Femicide in Greece is not just a legal or media issue; it is deeply rooted in cultural norms and gender stereotypes. These societal factors play a significant role in both the perpetuation of violence against women and the response to such crimes. Gender stereotypes often influence the portrayal of both victims and perpetrators in the media, leading to victim-blaming narratives and a lack of accountability for male aggressors (Karakasi et al.,2022).

The cases of domestic femicides have shown an increase over the years, despite a general decrease in overall crime rates. This paradox indicates that while society may be advancing in some areas, the deep-seated issues of gender inequality and violence against women remain prevalent. To effectively address femicide in Greece, there is a need for comprehensive data collection and analysis. The lack of specific data on femicides makes it challenging to understand the full scope of the issue and to develop targeted interventions. Initiatives such as EIGE's Gender Statistics Database are steps in the right direction, providing insights into the relationship between domestic violence and femicides (EIGE, 2021).

Awareness and education campaigns are also crucial in shifting public perceptions and societal attitudes towards gender-based violence. Efforts to raise awareness should focus on debunking myths, challenging stereotypes, and promoting gender equality. Femicide in Greece is a multifaceted issue that requires a concerted effort from legal, media, and societal perspectives. Legal recognition of femicide as a distinct crime, sensitive and informed media coverage, and societal education on gender equality and violence are essential steps towards addressing this crisis. Only through a comprehensive and empathetic approach can Greece hope to tackle the hidden reality of femicide and ensure the safety and dignity of all women.

2.1.5. The Phenomenon of Femicide: A Global Crisis

Femicide, the gender-based killing of women and girls, has emerged as a critical global issue, transcending cultural, social, and geographic boundaries. Despite growing awareness and legal frameworks in various countries, the phenomenon persists, underscoring deep-rooted societal and systemic challenges. This essay examines the state of femicide across different regions, emphasizing the necessity for a unified approach to recognize, address, and ultimately prevent these tragic occurrences.

2.1.5.1. Femicide in the European Context

In Europe, including EU member states, the UK, and Turkey, the data on femicide reveal a troubling scenario. According to Stöckl et al. (2013), between 1989 and 2011, 39% of all murders by intimate partners were female victims. This statistic highlights the intimate partner violence dimension of femicide. However, the lack of consistent and systematic data collection hinders a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

Various European nations have attempted to address femicide within their legal frameworks. Italy, for instance, has Law 119/2013, primarily targeting gender-based violence (GBV) rather than femicide specifically. In Norway, there is a legal distinction between "woman killing" and "partner murder," reflecting a nuanced understanding of these crimes. Meanwhile, Spain's Law 1/2004 focuses on violence against women. The varying approaches across Europe indicate a fragmented perception and treatment of femicide, with many countries still under the umbrella of general homicide laws (Corradi et al., 2018).

2.1.5.2. Femicide in Latin America: The Case of Mexico

Latin America, particularly Mexico, presents a stark example of the femicide crisis. Marcela Lagarde's distinction between "feminicidio" and "femicidio" in Spanish is critical here. "Feminicidio" implies state responsibility for unpunished cases, while "femicidio" refers solely to the act of killing women. The high rates of sexual violence against women and the alarming number of femicides in Mexico call for urgent attention and action. According to SESNSP 2020, there were 891 femicides in 2018 and 983 in 2019 in Mexico, with official figures often questioned for their accuracy (Michel, 2020).

Cultural factors, such as deeply ingrained "machismo," exacerbate the femicide crisis in Mexico. This traditional belief system, which promotes male dominance and female subordination, legitimizes violence against women. Despite legal advancements, the societal and cultural change required to address this issue effectively remains a significant challenge (Frías, 2023).

2.1.5.3. Global Response to Femicide

The global response to femicide has been varied, with international organizations like the UN exerting pressure through initiatives such as "Femicides across Europe" and the UN General Assembly's resolution. However, a coordinated, global strategy is needed to address the root causes of femicide effectively. This includes gender-based discrimination, societal norms that perpetuate violence against women, and insufficient legal protections (Kanbur et al., 2021).

A crucial step in combating femicide globally is the acknowledgment and proper identification of the issue. Recognizing femicide as a distinct and severe problem is the first step towards developing targeted policies and interventions. This recognition must be coupled with comprehensive data collection and analysis to understand the scope and nature of femicide in different contexts.

2.1.6. Towards a Solution

Addressing femicide requires a multi-faceted approach, involving legal, societal, and cultural change. Legal frameworks need to specifically recognize and penalize femicide, distinguishing it from other forms of homicide. Societal attitudes towards women and gender equality must evolve, challenging and changing the norms that contribute to femicide (Corradi et al., 2016). Awareness campaigns and education play a crucial role in altering public perceptions and behaviors. These efforts should aim to

demystify and destigmatize discussions around femicide, encouraging a proactive stance against gender-based violence (Standish & Weil, 2021).

In conclusion, femicide is a global crisis that demands immediate and concerted action. It is a complex issue rooted in gender inequality and societal norms that cannot be solved by legal measures alone. A comprehensive approach involving legal reform, societal change, and global cooperation is essential to combat the scourge of femicide and protect the rights and lives of women and girls worldwide (Kanbur et al., 2021).

2.2. Conceptualizing Femicide within the Social Media Context

2.2.1. Defining Femicide in the Digital Age

The phenomenon of femicide, characterized by the gender-based killing of women and girls, has increasingly garnered global attention, particularly in its portrayal and discussion within the realm of digital media. This essay explores the definition and evolution of femicide in digital discourse, primarily through the lenses of Rodriguez (2022) and Micciolo (2021), while also integrating insights from related academic works. By examining the interplay between social media narratives and societal understanding of femicide, we can discern how digital platforms have become instrumental in shaping public awareness and policy debates around this critical issue.

The term 'femicide' was first coined to give a specific context to the killings of women and girls directly attributable to their gender. According to Diana E. H. Russell, who popularized the term, femicide encompasses a range of motives – from misogynistic hatred to cultural and societal norms that devalue female life. This definition, as Rodriguez (2022) highlights, is crucial in understanding the scope and scale of the problem, particularly in countries like Mexico, where femicide rates are alarmingly high. It is not just the act of murder but the underlying gender-based inequalities and discrimination that fuel such acts.

In recent years, the digital discourse around femicide has expanded significantly. Social media platforms have become pivotal in raising awareness, sharing stories, and advocating for change. Micciolo (2021) examines this shift towards digital activism, where influential personalities like Florence Pugh use their platforms to highlight issues of femicide, particularly in regions where it is most prevalent. This form of activism marks a departure from traditional advocacy, providing immediacy and broader reach.

However, it also raises questions about the authenticity and impact of such digital campaigns.

2.2.2. Evolution of Femicide Discourse on Digital Platforms

The evolution of femicide discourse in digital spaces has been multifaceted. On one hand, social media has democratized information dissemination, allowing for diverse voices and perspectives to be heard. This plurality has led to a more nuanced understanding of femicide, extending beyond mere statistics to include personal narratives and localized experiences (González, 2022). However, as Rodriguez (2022) points out, this democratization also brings challenges, particularly in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of information shared online. Moreover, the portrayal of femicide on digital platforms has influenced legal and societal responses to the issue. The narratives shaped on social media often reflect and amplify public sentiment, which can lead to increased pressure on authorities to address the issue. This is evident in the advocacy strategies discussed by Rodriguez (2022), where different forms of social media activism are analyzed for their effectiveness in raising awareness and inciting action.

2.2.3. Impact of Digital Discourse on Public Perception and Policy

The impact of digital discourse on femicide is significant. As social media narratives evolve, they can reshape public opinion and potentially influence policy responses. This interplay between digital portrayal and real-world actions highlights the power of online platforms in driving social change. However, this power comes with the responsibility to ensure that the advocacy efforts are strategic, focused, and grounded in factual information (González, 2022).

Rodriguez's (2022) study on the categorization of advocacy types in social media underscores the need for a strategic approach in using digital platforms for femicide awareness. The study suggests that while social media can be a powerful tool for advocacy, it requires careful planning and execution to ensure that the message is not only heard but also leads to tangible outcomes.

2.2.4. Challenges and Opportunities in Digital Advocacy

Despite the opportunities presented by digital platforms for femicide advocacy, there are inherent challenges. The spread of misinformation and the potential for echo chambers, where only like-minded views are amplified, pose significant risks.

Additionally, digital activism is often criticized for its perceived superficiality, labeled as 'slacktivism', where online support fails to translate into real-world action. Micciolo's (2021) analysis of digital activism highlights this concern, emphasizing the need for online campaigns to be backed by concrete actions and policies.

The definition and evolution of femicide in digital discourse represent a crucial area in the broader context of gender-based violence. The works of Rodriguez (2022) and Micciolo (2021), along with other scholarly contributions, provide a comprehensive understanding of how social media has transformed the way femicide is discussed and addressed. As we navigate the complexities of the digital landscape, it is imperative to harness these platforms not only for raising awareness but also as catalysts for substantive change in combating femicide and gender-based violence at large (González, 2022). The ultimate goal should be to use digital advocacy not just as a tool for awareness but as a means to drive policy changes and societal shifts that can effectively tackle the issue of femicide.

2.2.5. Legislative Framework on Femicide

The legislative framework addressing femicide is a topic of increasing concern in the international legal landscape. Despite the heightened awareness and recognition of femicide as a distinct form of crime, rooted deeply in gender-based violence, a comprehensive and universally accepted legal definition or legislative approach remains elusive. This essay explores the current legislative frameworks surrounding femicide, drawing upon scholarly research and various national legal systems.

At the international level, femicide is yet to be defined definitively within the legal framework. Karakasi et al., (2022) notes the significance of the crime's integration into some legal systems, which marks an essential step toward acknowledging and combating the violation of women's rights inherent in such acts. This integration signifies an evolving understanding and recognition of femicide as a distinct crime, necessitating specific legal responses.

In Latin America, efforts have been made since 2007 to establish a legislative framework specifically addressing femicide. These efforts, while not resulting in a comprehensive approach, have laid the groundwork for future legislative development. The recognition of femicide in these legal systems highlights an increasing awareness

of the unique nature of crimes against women motivated by gender-based biases and societal norms (Frías, 2023).

In contrast, European countries, including Greece, have not yet incorporated the specific crime of femicide into their legal systems. Kaloutsou (2020) argues that the lack of a distinct legislative category for femicide in these regions reflects an oversight in acknowledging the unique motivations and implications of gender-based killings. The current legal frameworks tend to subsume femicide under the broader category of homicide, failing to recognize the gendered aspects that differentiate it.

In Greece, for instance, the penal code (Law 4619/2019) under Article 299 defines manslaughter with malice aforethought, encompassing any act of killing regardless of the victim's gender. This general approach to crimes against life does not differentiate the specific nuances of femicide. The legislation fails to acknowledge the distinct motive behind femicides - the gender-based hate and discrimination that lead to such crimes. Similarly, Article 303 of the Greek Penal Code, which specifically addresses infanticide, demonstrates the legal system's capacity to recognize and legislate against crimes with specific victims and motives. However, this specificity does not extend to femicide (Pampoukidou, 2021).

The lack of specific legislation for femicide in many countries, including European nations, raises critical concerns. By not differentiating femicide from other forms of homicide, the legal systems fail to address the unique root causes and societal implications of these gender-motivated crimes. This oversight not only hinders the effective prosecution and prevention of femicide but also reflects a broader issue of gender inequality within the legal system (Kaloutsou, 2020).

To address these concerns, it is essential for national and international legal frameworks to evolve and recognize femicide as a distinct category of crime. This recognition should be accompanied by specific legal definitions and penalties that reflect the unique nature of femicide. Such legal acknowledgment is crucial for adequately protecting women's rights, ensuring justice for victims, and addressing the broader societal issues that perpetuate gender-based violence (Karakasi et al., 2022).

The legislative frameworks surrounding femicide remain a complex and evolving area of international law. While some countries have begun to acknowledge and address the issue, there is a significant need for a more comprehensive and globally consistent legal

approach. Recognizing femicide as a distinct crime is a critical step toward addressing the deep-seated gender biases and violence that women face worldwide. As legal systems continue to evolve, it is imperative that they do so in a manner that upholds the rights and safety of women, ensuring that justice is served for victims of femicide.

2.2.6. Interplay between Legal/Societal Perspectives on Femicide and Social Media Narratives

The intersection between the legal and societal perspectives on femicide and the narratives that unfold on social media platforms, particularly Twitter, provides a unique vantage point for understanding the complex dynamics of gender-based violence in the digital age. The works of Gil et al. (2018) and Aka (2023) offer valuable insights into how social media discourse reflects and shapes public perceptions of femicide. This analysis draws on their findings to explore the interplay between these platforms and broader societal and legal frameworks.

Gil et al. (2018) conducted a text mining analysis of tweets related to femicide in Colombia and Mexico. Their study revealed significant negative sentiment surrounding femicide, indicating a public outcry against these acts of violence and the broader societal and legal structures that allow them to persist. The sentiment analysis conducted by Gil et al. underscores the role of social media as a barometer for public opinion, where collective feelings of anger, despair, and demand for justice coalesce into a potent form of digital activism.

Aka's (2023) study on the panoptic effects of femicide in Turkey through Twitter provides another dimension to this discourse. Aka analyzed tweets expressing emotions of pain, anger, and despair concerning femicide, highlighting how these digital expressions serve as a reflection of societal attitudes towards gender-based violence. Aka's work suggests that social media not only mirrors existing societal perspectives but also contributes to shaping them, particularly through the amplification of collective emotions and calls for legal reform.

Both studies illuminate the complex relationship between social media narratives and the broader societal and legal context of femicide. Twitter, in particular, emerges as a platform where individual and collective emotions regarding femicide are not only expressed but also mobilized towards societal change. These digital narratives often reflect frustration with the legal system's failure to protect women and bring

perpetrators to justice. They also highlight the societal normalization of violence against women and the deep-rooted patriarchal structures that perpetuate it (González, 2022).

However, it's crucial to acknowledge the limitations of social media activism. While Twitter provides a space for raising awareness and expressing solidarity, it cannot replace the need for concrete legal reforms and societal change. The effectiveness of these digital narratives in bringing about tangible change remains a subject of debate (Standish & Weil, 2021).

In conclusion, the interplay between legal and societal perspectives on femicide and social media narratives is dynamic and multifaceted. Social media platforms like Twitter serve as a mirror to societal attitudes and a megaphone for public outcry, reflecting collective emotions and demands for change. However, the path from digital activism to concrete legal and societal reform is complex and requires more than just online discourse. It necessitates a concerted effort from all sectors of society, including legal, political, and grassroots movements, to address the root causes of femicide and ensure justice and safety for all women.

2.3. Information Authenticity and Completeness in Social Media Reporting

In the realm of social media, the dissemination of information regarding sensitive issues like femicide is both rapid and widespread. This subsection critically examines the authenticity and reliability of femicide reports on social media platforms, delving into the dynamics that influence the veracity of these reports and their implications for public understanding and policy formulation.

2.3.1. Social Media and the Position of Women

The evolution of social media has significantly altered the landscape of information dissemination, accelerating the spread of ideas and fostering societal change. This rapid exchange is particularly pertinent in the context of gender issues, where social media acts as a powerful catalyst against what Moral (2011) termed the "technology of violence." Historically, journalism has been a male-dominated profession. However, the entry of women into this field marked a pivotal shift. Despite the strides made, women journalists continue to grapple with inequalities and discrimination, as highlighted by Al Agkmpari (2020). They have enriched journalistic content by introducing diverse topics related to womanhood, such as family, healthcare, and

violence against women. Beam & Di Cicco (2010) noted that women tend to humanize news reporting with their unique perspectives, adding depth and value to the narratives. Nevertheless, stereotypes persist in the portrayal of women in journalism. They are often relegated to covering "soft news" categories like fashion and lifestyle, whereas their male counterparts are associated with more "serious" issues like politics and economics. Chambers & Windschitl (2004) argue that the gender of a journalist does not inherently affect the quality or objectivity of news coverage. Still, women in media often face judgments based on appearance rather than professional competence.

The prevalence of sexism in media is an ongoing concern. According to the Human Rights Channel, a significant proportion of women journalists encounter verbal abuse in their work environments. Data from the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF, 2011) indicates a notable gender disparity in journalism globally. This discrepancy is most apparent in regions like the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia, where women occupy fewer roles in journalism compared to men. These figures underscore the necessity for continual research to track advancements and address the lingering gender gaps in media representation.

In the age of social media, women's positioning within journalism has gained both visibility and vulnerability. Social media platforms have emerged as arenas where women can assert their voices and challenge conventional narratives. However, they also expose women to increased scrutiny and sexist backlash. The framing of gender issues by media entities carries immense weight; it is incumbent upon these platforms to advocate for gender equality. The Human Rights Channel suggests implementing legal frameworks for gender equality in media, training for gender-neutral language usage, promoting inclusive advertising, and curbing sexist hate speech (Fox et al., 2015).

While social media has opened new doors for women in journalism, allowing for a more diverse and enriched discourse, the journey towards gender equality in media is far from complete. The challenges faced by women in this field are multifaceted, ranging from stereotypical content assignments to issues of workplace harassment and unequal representation. The path to a balanced media landscape necessitates not only women's active participation in journalism but also a broader cultural and systemic shift in the portrayal and discussion of gender issues. It is imperative to continue striving for gender

parity, fair representation, and the eradication of sexism in all media forms, to truly harness the potential of social media as a tool for positive societal transformation.

2.3.2. Sexism in the Field of Mass Media: A Critical Analysis

In contemporary society, mass media has become a powerful conduit for cultural norms and values, playing a pivotal role in shaping societal perceptions and attitudes. One critical area where this influence is profoundly felt is in the perpetuation of sexism. As Al Agkmpari (2020) defines, sexism encompasses all forms of gender discrimination, manifesting in stereotypes and unconscious biases against any gender, though predominantly affecting women according to EIGE (2020). This essay explores the multifaceted ways in which mass media contributes to and reinforces sexist ideologies, and the implications of these portrayals for societal attitudes and gender equality.

A striking example of media-driven sexism is the perpetuation of cultural stereotypes, such as the portrayal of blonde women as intellectually inferior and more suited to entertainment roles. This type of stereotyping not only reduces women to superficial traits but also undermines their capabilities and contributions in diverse fields. Such representations echo a broader pattern in media where women are often depicted in roles that emphasize dependence on male support, perpetuating the idea of female incapacity and subservience.

The power of media in shaping public opinion and reinforcing gender roles was exemplified in a 2022 incident involving the Greek Ministry of Development and Investment. Their campaign “The housewife’s shopping basket” was met with significant backlash for its sexist implications that domestic responsibilities are primarily women’s concern. The subsequent change to a more gender-neutral “The household’s shopping basket” following public outcry underscores the media's capacity to both reflect and challenge societal norms and prejudices (Karekla et al., 2022).

In the context of Communication for Development and Social Change (CDSC), as discussed by Karekla et al. (2022), the media is viewed as an agent of social change. Morris (2005) advocates for a participatory model of communication that fosters dialogue and discussion on social issues. This approach is particularly relevant when addressing sensitive topics like femicide. Media coverage that victim-blames not only perpetuates sexist viewpoints but also harms public perception and hinders progress towards gender equality.

Sexism in media is not limited to gender alone; it often intersects with other forms of discrimination such as ethnicity, age, disability, social origin, religion, gender identity, and sexual orientation. This intersectionality highlights the complexity of sexism as a social issue and the multifaceted role media plays in either perpetuating or challenging these biases (Stevenson, 2013).

The role of mass media in perpetuating sexism is thus twofold. On one hand, it reinforces harmful stereotypes and norms through its portrayal of women and other marginalized groups. On the other, it has the potential to act as a catalyst for change by challenging these norms and promoting more equitable and diverse representations. The responsibility lies with media practitioners, policymakers, and the audience to critically engage with media content and advocate for representations that reflect the diversity and complexity of society. Achieving gender equality in media portrayal is not only a matter of fairness but also a crucial step towards a more inclusive and equitable society (Buie, 2023).

2.3.3. Media Portrayal of Femicide in Greece

In the complex landscape of modern media, the coverage of femicide presents a challenging intersection of legal, social, and ethical dimensions. Particularly in Greece, the depiction of femicide in the media reflects broader societal attitudes towards gender and violence, as well as the intricacies of journalistic responsibility. This part examines how Greek media covers femicide, exploring the nuances of representation and the implications of such portrayals on public perception and gender-based violence.

The coverage of femicide in Greek media often mirrors the global trend of sensationalizing and trivializing the seriousness of gender-based violence. As observed in various instances, media outlets tend to focus on the sensational aspects of these crimes, sometimes at the expense of the victim's dignity and the broader context of gender inequality. The case of Eleni Topaloudi, a 21-year-old student brutally raped and murdered in Rhodes in 2018, is a poignant example. Greek media coverage of this tragedy frequently centered around victim-blaming narratives, scrutinizing Topaloudi's decision to interact with her assailants rather than addressing the systemic issues of gender violence (Karakasi et al., 2022).

Such representation not only distorts the public's understanding of femicide but also perpetuates harmful stereotypes. The media's emphasis on the victim's behavior, attire,

or lifestyle choices implicitly suggests that women are partly responsible for the violence inflicted upon them. This narrative is not only factually unfounded but also deeply ingrained in societal biases, leading to a misconstrued interpretation of events and further victimization of the affected women (Douzenis & Pavlidis, 2022).

The case of Caroline Crouch in 2021, murdered by her husband in Attiki, further exemplifies the problematic media portrayal in Greece. The initial sympathy and compassion shown towards her husband, based on his societal status and external appearances, starkly contrasted with the eventual revelation of his guilt. Even after his confession, the media narrative oscillated between portraying the murder as a "love tragedy" and romanticizing the perpetrator's actions (Proto Thema, 2021). Such skewed coverage not only undermines the severity of the crime but also propagates a distorted notion of romantic love, where violence is mistakenly accepted or even justified.

When women are the perpetrators of violence against men, the media narrative often shifts dramatically. Women are frequently depicted as emotionally unstable or irrational, further entrenching gender stereotypes and inequalities (Al Agkmpari, 2020). This disparity in media portrayal reflects a deeply rooted patriarchal bias, perpetuating the notion that male violence is somehow justifiable or less egregious than female violence (Kourou & Athanasiades, 2022).

The role of media in shaping public opinion and influencing societal attitudes towards gender-based violence is undeniable. The media's portrayal of femicide cases can either exacerbate social harm or contribute to positive social change. In recent years, movements like #MeToo have demonstrated the power of media in bringing visibility to gender-based violence issues and catalyzing societal awareness and change (Fairbairn, 2020). Such movements underscore the potential of media as a tool for advocacy and reform, highlighting the need for balanced and unbiased reporting.

The way Greek media covers femicide reflects broader societal challenges in addressing gender-based violence. While there have been strides in raising awareness and challenging patriarchal norms, much work remains in ensuring that media coverage is fair, balanced, and devoid of gender biases. Recognizing and addressing these issues is not only a matter of journalistic integrity but also a crucial step towards societal change and the protection of human rights.

2.3.4. Dynamics Influencing Information Authenticity

Social media platforms, with their decentralized nature and user-generated content, present a unique challenge in verifying the authenticity of information. In the context of femicide, this challenge is compounded by the emotionally charged and politically sensitive nature of the subject. Unlike traditional media outlets that are often bound by journalistic ethics and fact-checking protocols, social media content is largely unregulated. This lack of oversight paves the way for both the intentional and unintentional spread of misinformation (Duffy et al., 2022).

The authenticity of femicide reports on social media is influenced by several factors. Firstly, the immediacy of social media allows for real-time reporting, which, while valuable for rapid awareness-raising, often bypasses the rigorous verification processes typically associated with journalism. Secondly, the personal biases and perspectives of social media users can color the portrayal of events, leading to reports that might emphasize certain aspects while omitting others. Thirdly, the echo chamber effect prevalent on social media platforms can result in the amplification of unverified or misleading information, as users often share content that aligns with their pre-existing beliefs or narratives (Schwarz & Williams, 2020).

2.3.5. Challenges in Assessing Reliability

Assessing the reliability of femicide reports on social media is further complicated by the varying degrees of expertise and intent among users. Content shared by individuals or organizations with a vested interest in the subject may be prone to partiality. Activists, for example, might frame information in a way that supports their cause, while others might share content without fully understanding the context or verifying its accuracy (Brantner et al., 2020).

The decentralized and user-driven nature of social media also means that reports can vary widely in terms of detail and completeness. Information might be fragmented, with different users sharing different aspects of a story without a comprehensive overview. This piecemeal approach can lead to a fragmented understanding of events, where the full scope and complexity of femicide cases are not adequately conveyed (Duffy et al., 2022).

Moreover, the viral nature of social media content often leads to the rapid spread of sensationalized or graphic details, which can overshadow critical discussions about the root causes and societal implications of femicide. This sensationalism not only distorts

public perception but also raises ethical concerns about the dignity and privacy of victims and their families (Schwarz & Williams, 2020).

2.3.6. Implications for Public Understanding and Policy

The authenticity and reliability of femicide reports on social media have significant implications for both public understanding and policy formulation. Misinformation or partial information can lead to a skewed perception of the prevalence, causes, and nature of femicide, potentially fueling misconceptions and stigma. For policymakers and stakeholders, this poses a challenge in formulating responses and interventions that are based on accurate and comprehensive information (Dawson & Carrigan, 2021).

Inaccurate or sensationalized reports can also detract from the gravity of femicide as a social issue, reducing it to mere fodder for online engagement rather than a serious matter warranting substantive discussion and action. Furthermore, the spread of unverified information can hinder justice for victims and their families, as public opinion and social media narratives can influence legal proceedings and societal responses (Aldrete & Fernández-Ardèvol, 2023).

While social media platforms play a crucial role in raising awareness about femicide, the authenticity and reliability of the reports shared on these platforms are subject to various influencing factors (Minnema et al., 2022). The challenges in verifying information and the implications for public understanding and policy underscore the need for cautious consumption and sharing of information. Stakeholders, including social media platforms, users, and policymakers, must collaborate to promote the responsible dissemination of information. Initiatives such as digital literacy campaigns, fact-checking tools, and ethical guidelines for reporting sensitive issues like femicide can contribute to ensuring that social media serves as a platform for accurate, respectful, and constructive discourse on this critical social issue (Dawson & Carrigan, 2021).

2.3.7. Incorporating Online Platforms in the Fight Against Femicide

The emergence and proliferation of social media platforms have radically transformed the landscape of public discourse, particularly in relation to sensitive societal issues like femicide. While traditional media has historically played a pivotal role in shaping public perception of social problems, including violence against women, the advent of digital platforms has introduced new dynamics in the dissemination and reception of information related to femicide. Richards et al. (2011) underscore the substantial

influence traditional news media have on public perceptions of crime and victims. They note that the media's portrayal of femicide often lacks the context of intimate partner violence (IPV), thereby minimizing its societal impact and perpetuating stereotypes. However, the rise of social media platforms, as discussed by D'Ambrosi et al. (2018), offers a contrasting narrative. These platforms, driven by user-generated content, create 'networked publics' and 'imagined communities' that foster participatory experiences and provide spaces for reflection and dialogue on gender-based violence.

D'Ambrosi et al. (2018) highlight how social media platforms enable unconventional forms of involvement in political issues, including femicide. Unlike traditional media, where the audience is predominantly passive, social media empowers users to be active participants. Users can share experiences, engage in discussions, and participate in campaigns, thereby fostering a more engaged and informed public. This shift from passive consumption to active engagement represents a significant evolution in the way information about femicide is processed and acted upon.

Both Richards et al. (2011) and D'Ambrosi et al. (2018) recognize the educational potential of media in shaping public awareness. While Richards et al. critique the traditional media's often superficial treatment of femicide, D'Ambrosi et al. observe that online platforms have begun to fill this gap. These platforms offer diverse content that goes beyond mere awareness-raising to include educational and participatory elements, such as online courses, interactive discussions, and mobilization for social causes. This multifaceted approach contributes to a deeper understanding of femicide and IPV among the public.

Despite the advantages of social media platforms in disseminating information about femicide, there are inherent challenges. The unregulated nature of these platforms can sometimes lead to the dissemination of misinformation or biased perspectives. However, the opportunity to counteract such challenges lies in the very nature of these platforms – their ability to facilitate wide-ranging discussions and bring diverse viewpoints to the fore. By leveraging these platforms, advocates and educators can broaden the understanding of femicide, contextualize it within the broader issue of IPV, and mobilize effective responses (Dawson & Carrigan, 2021).

The transition from traditional media to online platforms in the context of femicide reporting and discussion presents both challenges and significant opportunities. While

the traditional media's portrayal, as discussed by Richards et al., (2011) often lacks depth and context, the interactive nature of social media, as explored by D'Ambrosi et al., (2018) offers a more dynamic and participatory approach. This shift has the potential to foster a more informed and engaged public, capable of understanding and combating the complexities of femicide in a comprehensive manner. The key lies in harnessing these platforms judiciously to promote accurate information, meaningful dialogue, and effective mobilization against this pervasive social issue.

2.3.8. Impact of Social Media Dynamics on Public Perception of Femicide

In the digital age, the rise of social media has significantly altered the public's engagement with critical social issues, including femicide. This transformation is not merely about the change in the medium through which information is disseminated, but also about how it shapes public perception. Social media, unlike traditional forms of media, offers a more immediate, interactive, and diverse platform for the discussion and understanding of femicide (Belotti et al., 2021). The foremost impact of social media is its role in enhancing public awareness and engagement with the issue of femicide. Traditional media, constrained by editorial policies and commercial interests, often provides a limited perspective, focusing primarily on sensational aspects of femicide cases without delving into their societal context or underlying causes. Social media, on the other hand, democratizes information dissemination. It empowers individuals and groups to highlight issues, share personal stories, and provide nuanced insights into the complex dynamics of femicide. Platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram have become avenues for activists, survivors, and concerned citizens to amplify their voices, often circumventing traditional gatekeepers of information (Cayli Messina, 2022).

This increased visibility and engagement have led to a more informed and active public. Campaigns and movements leveraging social media have not only raised awareness but also fostered a sense of solidarity among those fighting against femicide. Hashtags, viral campaigns, and online petitions have facilitated global conversations, highlighting the pervasiveness of the issue and mobilizing collective action (Belotti et al., 2021).

Another significant impact of social media is the provision of diverse perspectives, which contributes to a more holistic understanding of femicide. Unlike traditional media, which often presents a monolithic narrative, social media platforms are home to

a plethora of voices. Survivors, feminists, legal experts, and community activists use these platforms to share their experiences, insights, and analyses. This diversity enriches the public discourse, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of femicide, one that includes its social, cultural, legal, and psychological dimensions (Paiva, 2019).

Furthermore, social media fosters community building. It allows individuals from various backgrounds and geographies to connect over shared concerns. Online communities provide support, information, and resources, which are particularly valuable for those who might not have access to such support in their immediate physical environments. These virtual communities also play a crucial role in challenging the stigma and silence that often surround femicide, encouraging open discussions and the destigmatization of victims (Kanbur et al., 2021).

However, the impact of social media is not unequivocally positive. One of the significant challenges is the spread of misinformation. The ease with which information can be shared on social media, combined with the lack of rigorous fact-checking that characterizes many online platforms, means that misinformation can spread rapidly. This poses a danger of distorting public understanding of femicide, potentially leading to victim-blaming narratives, sensationalism, and the trivialization of the issue (Mbinjama, 2023).

Another challenge is the creation of echo chambers. Social media algorithms often show users content that aligns with their existing beliefs and interests, which can lead to the formation of echo chambers where dissenting opinions are scarce. This can result in a polarized discourse, where nuanced discussions are overshadowed by extreme viewpoints, and where the complexity of femicide is reduced to oversimplified narratives.

Social media has undeniably transformed the public's engagement with and perception of femicide. Its ability to enhance awareness, provide diverse perspectives, and foster community building marks a significant advancement over traditional media. However, the challenges it presents, particularly in terms of misinformation and the creation of echo chambers, cannot be overlooked. Navigating this complex landscape requires a critical and informed approach to consuming and sharing information on social media (Belotti et al., 2021). As this platform continues to evolve, its potential to positively

influence the fight against femicide hinges on its users' ability to leverage it responsibly and critically.

2.4. User Perceptions and Reactions to Femicide on Social Media

2.4.1. Understanding Social Media User Engagement with Femicide Content

In the digital age, social media platforms have emerged as pivotal spaces for public discourse, significantly influencing user perceptions and reactions to various social issues, including femicide. Femicide, the most extreme form of violence against women, is a critical issue that often garners significant attention on social media platforms. The rapid dissemination of information through social media platforms plays a crucial role in shaping public awareness and response to femicide incidents. Users interact with content related to femicide through various actions such as sharing, commenting, and reacting, which significantly amplify the reach of such content (Cayli Messina, 2022). The virality of posts related to specific femicide cases or related advocacy campaigns often leads to a surge in public awareness, as observed in instances like the #NiUnaMenos movement or the outcry following high-profile femicide cases.

These interactions are not merely quantitative indicators of user engagement but also qualitatively influence the framing of the issue. As users share and comment on content, they contribute to a narrative that either reinforces or challenges existing societal norms and attitudes towards violence against women. For instance, the portrayal of femicide victims in social media posts, the language used in discussing these cases, and the nature of user comments can either perpetuate victim-blaming attitudes or foster a more empathetic understanding of the issue (Fileborn & Loney-Howes, 2020).

Social media platforms are characterized by the formation of echo chambers, where users are predominantly exposed to information that aligns with their existing beliefs and attitudes. This phenomenon significantly impacts user engagement with femicide content. Users who are already sensitized to gender issues are more likely to engage with and disseminate content that opposes violence against women, while those with opposing views may either ignore such content or engage in ways that reinforce harmful stereotypes and biases (Rodriguez, 2022).

Confirmation bias further complicates this scenario, as users tend to favor information that confirms their pre-existing beliefs. In the context of femicide, this means that while social media has the potential to educate and inform, it can also reinforce divisive

opinions and hinder the development of a unified stance against violence. The challenge, therefore, lies in creating content and fostering discussions that transcend these echo chambers and engage a broader audience in meaningful dialogue (Cayli Messina, 2022).

User engagement with femicide content on social media has tangible implications beyond the digital sphere. High levels of engagement can lead to increased public pressure on policymakers and stakeholders, catalyzing legislative changes and the implementation of more effective measures to combat femicide and support victims. For instance, social media campaigns have played a significant role in advocating for legal reforms, increased funding for women's shelters, and public awareness programs (Rodriguez, 2022). However, it is crucial to recognize the limitations of social media activism. While it can raise awareness and influence public opinion, it is not a substitute for concrete action and policy change. The challenge lies in translating online engagement into offline activism and policy advocacy.

Understanding user engagement with femicide content on social media is essential for comprehending how digital discourse shapes public perception and reaction to this grave issue. While social media platforms offer powerful tools for raising awareness and fostering dialogue, they also present challenges such as echo chambers and confirmation bias. Ultimately, the goal should be to leverage these platforms to create a more informed and empathetic public discourse on femicide, paving the way for substantive changes in policy and societal attitudes (Walklate & Fitz-Gibbon, 2023).

The study by Bas et al. (2022) provides a compelling framework for understanding these dynamics, particularly in the context of Turkey's increasing cases of violence against women. This essay delves into the nuances of user engagement with femicide content on social media platforms, employing insights from Bas et al. (2022) and other relevant sources.

2.4.2. The Landscape of Social Media Interactions

Social media, as a catalyst for public discourse, plays a pivotal role in shaping societal attitudes towards critical issues like femicide. Bas et al. (2022) highlights the surge in digital activism and user engagement in response to the rising femicide rates in Turkey. This phenomenon is not isolated to Turkey but echoes globally, where social media often becomes a battleground for advocacy and awareness campaigns. The "shadow

pandemic" of violence against women, as labeled by Bas et al. (2022), underscores the urgency of this issue.

Key to understanding user engagement is the concept of "affective publics," introduced by Papacharissi (2015), which refers to the formation of public sentiment through shared emotions on digital platforms. In the context of femicide, these affective publics become evident through widespread expressions of outrage, grief, and solidarity, primarily driven by emotional reactions to social media content.

2.4.3. The Role of Emotional Reactions in Femicide Discourse

Emotional reactions on social media, encompassing likes, shares, and comments, serve as indicators of public sentiment towards femicide cases. Bas et al. (2022) observed a significant emotional response to femicide cases on platforms like Facebook and Instagram, with reactions predominantly reflecting sadness and anger. This pattern of emotional engagement is critical in understanding how social media users perceive and react to instances of violence against women.

The prevalence of emotional reactions can also be linked to the concept of "emotional contagion" in online spaces, where the emotions expressed in one post can influence the feelings and reactions of others (Fileborn & Loney-Howes, 2020). In the case of femicide, the collective expression of negative emotions can lead to a heightened sense of urgency and a call to action among users.

2.4.4. Implications for Social Change and Policy

The engagement of users with femicide content on social media has broader implications for social change and policy reform. As Bas et al. (2022) suggest, the visibility of femicide cases and the corresponding public outcry can influence policy decisions and societal attitudes towards gender-based violence. Social media platforms, therefore, become crucial arenas for advocacy and the mobilization of support for victims and their families.

Furthermore, the study of user engagement with femicide content on social media can inform strategies for more effective communication and awareness campaigns. Understanding the emotional triggers and patterns of interaction can help organizations and activists tailor their messages to elicit stronger responses and support for their causes (Walklate & Fitz-Gibbon, 2023).

The exploration of social media user engagement with femicide content, as exemplified by Bas et al. (2022), reveals the complex interplay of emotions, public sentiment, and social activism. The emotional reactions of users not only reflect their individual stances on the issue but also contribute to the shaping of collective attitudes and actions towards femicide. As social media continues to evolve as a powerful tool for social discourse, its role in addressing and combating gender-based violence remains increasingly significant.

2.4.5. Surveying Reactions and Perceptions of Information Completeness and Authenticity among Users

In the discourse surrounding femicide on social media, the authenticity and completeness of information play a crucial role in shaping user reactions and perceptions. As the digital landscape becomes increasingly saturated with diverse content, users are often confronted with the challenge of discerning the reliability and comprehensiveness of information presented on these platforms. The question of authenticity in social media content related to femicide is pivotal in influencing user perceptions. In an age where misinformation and sensationalism are rampant, the credibility of sources becomes a key concern for users. Social media, with its user-generated content, often blurs the lines between verified news and personal opinion, leading to a varied reception by the audience (Rodriguez, 2022).

Studies indicate that users tend to exhibit skepticism towards information that lacks clear sourcing or appears sensationalized (Smith & Graham, 2022). This skepticism can lead to a critical examination of the content, prompting users to seek corroboration from other sources, which is a healthy practice in media literacy. However, this skepticism can also lead to a dismissal of genuine issues when they are presented in a manner that does not conform to the users' expectations of credible reporting (Walklate & Fitz-Gibbon, 2023).

The authenticity of content is also challenged by the inherent biases present in social media algorithms, which tend to promote content that generates engagement, not necessarily content that is factual or balanced. This can lead to a skewed perception of the issue at hand, potentially marginalizing important aspects of femicide and its societal implications (Belotti et al., 2021).

Alongside authenticity, the completeness of information presented on social media significantly impacts user perceptions. In the context of femicide, the nature of content varies from detailed analytical pieces to succinct, emotionally charged posts. Users are often left to navigate through partial narratives or one-sided portrayals, which can lead to an incomplete understanding of the complex nature of femicide.

The tendency of social media to highlight sensational aspects of a story while overlooking the systemic and societal factors contributing to femicide leads to a fragmented perception. Users may become aware of individual cases but remain uninformed about the broader context of gender violence and inequality that underpins such incidents. Furthermore, the episodic nature of social media content, focusing on individual incidents rather than thematic or systemic analysis, contributes to this fragmented understanding (Dawson & Carrigan, 2021).

In-depth, comprehensive content, when available, tends to receive less engagement compared to sensational or emotionally charged posts, as indicated by user behavior studies (Jones & Silverman, 2023). This preference for engaging yet potentially superficial content complicates efforts to provide a nuanced understanding of femicide.

User reactions to the perceived gaps in authenticity and completeness of information on femicide vary. Some users respond by engaging in fact-checking and seeking additional sources, demonstrating a proactive approach to understanding the issue comprehensively. This subset of users often engages in discussions, contributing to a more informed discourse on social media (Brantner et al., 2020).

Conversely, there are users who, confronted with these gaps, may either disengage from the topic or form opinions based on incomplete or inauthentic information. This can lead to apathy, misinformation, or even antagonistic attitudes towards the topic of femicide, further complicating efforts to raise awareness and foster a productive dialogue (Buie, 2023).

The authenticity and completeness of information on femicide in social media are critical factors influencing user reactions and perceptions. The challenge lies in ensuring that the content not only captures user attention but also provides a balanced, comprehensive view of the issue. This involves a collective effort from content creators, platforms, and users to prioritize authenticity and depth in the discourse on femicide,

moving towards a more informed and empathetic understanding of this grave social issue (Rodriguez, 2022).

3. Methodology

3.1. Introduction

This chapter delineates the methodology employed in the study of perceptions of completeness and authenticity of information in social media reporting of femicide. The methodology chapter is crucial, as it serves as the backbone of the dissertation by explaining the research design, data collection and analysis procedures. This rigorous approach ensures that the research results are robust, credible, and reproducible, adhering to the highest academic standards.

The research questions guiding this study are: 1) How does the use of different social media platforms affect users' exposure to and perception of information about femicide? 2) What factors influence users' confidence in the credibility of femicide information on social media, including their choice of sources and methods of verification? 3) How does engagement with femicide content on social media impact users' awareness and emotional responses? These questions aim to unravel the complex dynamics of interactions and perceptions on social media regarding the sensitive topic of femicide, a subject that has gained increasing attention in both academic and social spheres (Smith & Rainie, 2018; Johnson, 2019).

The importance of this chapter in the context of the dissertation is indisputable. Methodology is not simply a procedural element of research, but is fundamentally linked to the validity and reliability of results (Bryman, 2012). A rigorous methodological framework is essential to produce results that not only reflect reality but also make a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge. In the field of social media research, where data are vast and varied, a clear and well-structured methodology is crucial to navigating the complexities of online behaviors and perceptions (Kozinets, 2015). By outlining the methodological approach, this chapter provides a transparent and systematic roadmap for the investigation, ensuring that the research adheres to the principles of scientific inquiry and contributes to the academic discourse on the reporting of femicide in the digital age.

3.2. Research design

The design of this study is resolutely quantitative, relying on a methodological approach that prioritizes the collection and analysis of measurable data. This decision aligns with

the objective of quantifying and statistically analyzing social media users' perceptions of the completeness and authenticity of information about femicide.

The quantitative approach involves the use of structured surveys to collect data from a representative sample of social media users. This method is chosen for its ability to generalize results to a larger population, providing a solid basis for statistically significant conclusions (Creswell, 2014). In addition, it enables rigorous analysis of trends and correlations, in line with the research questions. For example, quantitative data will make it possible to examine the relationship between social media use and perceived credibility of information, thus directly answering the questions raised by the study.

The choice of a quantitative methodology is also motivated by the specific nature of the research questions. As pointed out by Kline (2011) and Field (2013), quantitative methods are particularly suited to testing hypotheses and assessing relationships between variables, which is essential for this research. By objectively measuring frequencies, trends and associations, the quantitative approach provides clear and concise answers to questions about social media use and perceptions of femicide information.

In the context of this study, the quantitative approach offers a suitable methodological route for addressing concepts such as reliability, information verification and user engagement. It offers a structured framework for quantifying and analyzing user perceptions and behaviors, key elements in understanding the impact of social media on the perception of femicide-related information.

3.3. Data Collection Methods

This section describes the methods used for data collection in the study of perceptions of the completeness and authenticity of information about femicide in social media. This study uses mainly a quantitative approach through structured surveys.

Data collection is carried out via an online questionnaire, chosen for its ability to reach a wide range of participants efficiently and cost-effectively (Babbie, 2016). This format is also relevant for sensitive issues such as femicide, allowing participants to respond in a more controlled and anonymous environment (Wright, 2005).

The questionnaire is carefully designed to ensure clarity, relevance and accuracy. Questions are based on Likert scales to assess participants' attitudes and perceptions

quantitatively (Allen & Seaman, 2007). The questionnaire is pre-tested with a small group to validate its reliability and validity (Creswell, 2014).

Sampling is non-probabilistic and relies on the convenience technique, using social networks to recruit participants. This method is appropriate given the nature of the study, which focuses on social media users. The aim is to collect data from around 200 participants, a number deemed sufficient to ensure the statistical validity of the results (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970).

Data collection takes place over a three-month period to ensure maximum participation. Participants are informed of the purpose of the study, and of the anonymity and confidentiality of their responses, in line with ethical research standards (Resnik, 2011). Informed consent is obtained prior to study participation.

Sensitive issues related to femicide are handled with the utmost care to avoid emotional distress among participants. The ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association (APA) are rigorously followed to ensure the integrity and ethics of the research (American Psychological Association, 2010).

3.4. Data analysis methods

This section details the data analysis methods used in the study of perceptions of the completeness and authenticity of information about femicide in social media.

The data collected from the questionnaires will be analyzed using a range of statistical techniques. The analysis will begin with descriptive statistics to summarize the main characteristics of the sample (Mean, Median, Standard Deviation), enabling an initial understanding of the data (Field, 2013).

For data analysis, SPSS statistical software will be used, due to its ability to handle large datasets and perform a variety of complex statistical analyses (George & Mallery, 2016). Specific tests include:

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA): To compare means between different groups of users based on their responses (Pallant, 2013).

Linear Regression: To examine relationships between social media use and perceptions of femicide information (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013).

The use of these statistical methods is justified by their relevance and effectiveness in examining relationships between variables and in understanding trends within the data

collected. ANOVA is particularly useful for comparing perceptions between different demographic groups, while linear regression is ideal for assessing cause-and-effect relationships (Field, 2013).

To ensure data quality and integrity, several steps will be followed:

- Data Cleaning: Checking for data entry errors and managing missing values (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013).
- Normality check: Assessment of the distribution of variables to ensure they meet the assumptions of the statistical tests used (Pallant, 2013).
- Reliability analysis: Use of Cronbach's alpha coefficient to assess the internal consistency of the questionnaire scales (George & Mallery, 2016).

3.5. Ethical considerations

This section discusses the ethical considerations central to the conduct of this research, which examines perceptions of the completeness and authenticity of information about femicide in social media.

Social media research, particularly on sensitive topics such as femicide, raises specific ethical challenges. It is vital to respect the dignity and rights of participants, while recognizing the potentially sensitive nature of the content discussed (Markham & Buchanan, 2012). Confidentiality and informed consent are critical aspects, given the sensitivity of the data collected and the potential vulnerability of participants (American Psychological Association [APA], 2010).

To ensure the ethical conduct of this research, several measures have been implemented:

Informed Consent: All participants are informed of the purpose of the study, the nature of the questions, their right to withdraw at any time, and the measures taken to protect their anonymity and confidentiality. They must give informed consent before participating in the study (Resnik, 2011).

Anonymity and Confidentiality: Data are collected anonymously, and all personal information is removed to ensure confidentiality. Data are stored on secure servers and accessible only to researchers involved in the study (BPS, 2010).

Sensitivity to Traumatic Content: Given the nature of the subject, particular attention is paid to the wording of questions to avoid evoking emotionally disturbing responses. In addition, psychological support resources are provided to participants if necessary (BPS, 2010).

Compliance with Ethical Standards in Research: The study is conducted in accordance with the ethical standards established by the APA and other relevant regulatory bodies (APA, 2010).

Ethical review by a Research Ethics Committee: The research protocol is submitted for review by a Research Ethics Committee, ensuring compliance with international ethical standards (Resnik, 2011).

4. Results

4.1. Reliability analysis

In the present section, the results of the reliability test conducted on the constructed scale are presented.

Table 1 Scale reliability test

<i>Reliability Statistics</i>				
Cronbach's				
Alpha	N of Items			
,466	41			
<i>Item-Total Statistics</i>				
	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item- Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook	206,7766	258,068	,042	,466
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram	206,8723	252,285	,194	,451
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter	206,9043	255,120	,115	,459
How often on average do you come across information related to Femicide on social media? - Facebook	206,8298	252,960	,161	,454
How often on average do you come across information related to Femicide on social media? - Instagram	207,1489	253,935	,143	,456

How often on average do you come across information related to Femicide on social media? - Twitter	207,0213	252,150	,183	,452
Are you familiar with the term Femicide?	206,7979	261,131	-,011	,471
In general, familiarity with the topic of femicide.	205,6915	251,484	,101	,460
Self-perceived informed status about femicide.	205,5745	259,838	-,015	,475
Self-assessed knowledge about femicide.	205,5957	247,534	,164	,450
Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media.	207,3191	261,166	,004	,469
Reliance on social media activists for femicide news.	207,3830	265,529	-,111	,478
Reliance on news organizations for femicide news.	207,2128	257,696	,117	,460
Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news.	207,1915	260,544	,028	,467
Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news.	207,2447	257,284	,106	,460
Perceived informativeness of femicide news on social media.	206,8511	263,461	-,061	,476
Trust in the credibility of social media for femicide information.	207,0000	266,409	-,122	,484
Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity.	206,8085	260,952	-,012	,472
Alignment of femicide information with known facts.	206,8830	252,212	,198	,451
Effect of multimedia on perceived authenticity of femicide reports.	207,3830	255,680	,155	,457

Impact of comments/discussions on authenticity of femicide reports.	207,1170	253,395	,213	,452
Trust in sources sharing femicide information.	206,6915	260,452	,004	,470
Perceived transparency and accountability of sources.	206,7447	248,192	,294	,442
Impact of expert opinions on trustworthiness of femicide information.	206,5851	265,041	-,098	,478
Influence of peer validation on trustworthiness of femicide information.	207,1702	258,465	,074	,463
Frequency of fact-checking femicide information.	206,8617	253,131	,146	,455
Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking.	206,7128	264,530	-,085	,477
Checking source credibility for fact-checking.	206,8191	255,827	,094	,461
Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking.	206,8511	258,687	,042	,466
Impact of social media on awareness about femicide.	206,9362	258,684	,048	,465
Impact of social media on anxiety/distress about femicide.	206,6489	254,187	,139	,456
Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media.	207,0532	256,997	,081	,462
Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts.	207,2660	255,660	,165	,456
Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information.	207,5426	259,498	,053	,465
Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide.	207,3723	257,505	,112	,460
Messaging others to discuss femicide.	207,3404	257,152	,107	,460

Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information	192,5106	212,941	,319	,405
Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide	194,2340	233,170	,115	,464
Information Sources and Reliability	190,9362	235,824	,157	,450
Perceived Credibility and Information Verification	180,2660	230,885	,135	,459
Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement	186,1915	210,049	,317	,404

The results presented concern the reliability analysis of items in a questionnaire used to study perceptions of femicide information in social media. The main statistical tool used here is Cronbach's alpha, a measure commonly employed to assess the internal consistency of question sets in surveys (Tavakol & Dennick, 2011).

The overall Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.466 for all 41 items indicates low internal consistency. According to George and Mallery (2003), a Cronbach's alpha above 0.7 is considered acceptable, while a value below 0.5 is considered insufficient, suggesting that the items do not reliably measure the same concept or construct.

Examination of item-total statistics reveals considerable variation in corrected item-total correlations. Several items show very low correlations (e.g., "Are you familiar with the term Femicide?" with a correlation of -0.011), indicating that they do not correspond well to the rest of the scale. In contrast, other items such as "Perceived transparency and accountability of sources" with a correlation of 0.294 show better consistency with the overall scale.

It is important to note that Cronbach's alpha is only a measure of internal consistency and should not be the sole criterion for assessing the quality of a measurement scale. Other factors such as content validity, construct validity and the relevance of items to the purpose of the study must also be taken into account (DeVellis, 2017).

4.2. Normality check

In the present section the results of the normality tests are presented. For the purposes of producing useful findings and for the need of researching the three research questions

set, the items of the constructed scale were combined into 5 subfactors. Each subfactor, as well as their individual elements are detailed below.

1. Social Media Use and Exposure to Femicide Information

This sub-factor assesses the frequency of social media use and the frequency with which users encounter information about femicide on these platforms.

Variables :

Facebookuse: Frequency of Facebook use.

Instagramuse: Frequency of use of Instagram.

Twitteruse: Frequency of Twitter use.

Femicidefacebook: Frequency of encountering information about femicide on Facebook.

Femicideinstagram : Frequency of meeting information about femicide on Instagram.

Femicidetwitter: Frequency with which information about femicide is found on Twitter.

2. Familiarity and Knowledge of Femicide

This sub-factor measures how familiar participants are with the term "femicide" and their self-assessment of their knowledge of the subject.

Variables:

Femicidefamiliarity: Familiarity with the term "femicide".

GeneralFemicideFamiliarity: General familiarity with the subject of femicide.

FemicideInformed : Self-perception of being informed about femicide.

FemicideKnowledge : Self-evaluation of knowledge about femicide.

3. Information sources and reliability

This sub-factor examines the sources from which users obtain their information on femicide and their confidence in these sources.

Variables :

SourceNGOs: Confidence in NGOs as sources of information.

SourceActivists: Trust in social media activists.

SourceNewsOrgs: Trust in news organizations.

SourceVictimPosts: Trust in victims' publications.

SourceRandomPosts: Trust in random user posts.

4. Perceived Credibility and Information Verification

This sub-factor focuses on perceived credibility of information on social media and information verification practices.

Variables :

SocialMediaInformative: Perceived informativeness of social media.

CredibilityTrust: Confidence in the credibility of social media.

MultipleSourcesCheck: Verification of multiple sources for authenticity.

InfoConsistencyFacts: Consistency of information with known facts.

ExpertOpinionsImpact: Impact of expert opinions on reliability.

5. Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement

This sub-factor assesses how exposure to content about femicide affects users' awareness and emotional reactions, as well as their engagement.

Variables:

ImpactVisualContent: Impact of multimedia content on perceived authenticity.

CommentsDiscussionImpact: Impact of comments/discussions.

ImpactAwareness: Impact on femicide awareness.

ImpactAnxietyDistress: Impact on anxiety and stress.

EngagementFrequency: Frequency of engagement with femicide content.

Each of these sub-factors makes it possible to analyze a different aspect of how social media users perceive and interact with information on femicide, contributing to an overall understanding of the research theme.

For the need of testing the normality of the data distribution, the variables which will be employed for data analysis for each research question will be tested. Thus, the normality tests involve the five SUM variables, each one representing a subfactor variable. The variables are:

1. SUM_SOCMEDUSEANDEXPOSURE
2. SUM_FAMILANDKNOWLED
3. SUM_INFOSOURCERELIAB
4. SUM_PERCEIVEDCREDIB
5. SUM_IMPACTONPERCANDENGAGE

The results of the normality tests are presented below.

Table 2 Normality test

<i>Case Processing Summary</i>						
	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%
Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%
Information Sources and Reliability	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%
Perceived Credibility and Information Verification	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%
Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%

<i>Tests of Normality</i>						
	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information	,121	94	,002	,964	94	,011
Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide	,072	94	,200*	,983	94	,253

Information Sources and Reliability	,086	94	,084	,982	94	,207
Perceived Credibility and Information Verification	,105	94	,013	,981	94	,200
Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement	,070	94	,200*	,983	94	,250

*. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

The results presented in table 2 concern case processing and normality tests for a study investigating perceptions of femicide information in social media. These analyses are crucial in determining the validity of the subsequent statistical methods used in the study.

Based on the results from the Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests, the normality of the data varies across the different subfactors:

Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information

Both tests indicate non-normality (Sig. < 0.05). This suggests that the data for this subfactor do not follow a normal distribution.

Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide

The Shapiro-Wilk test (more appropriate for small sample sizes) shows a significance value greater than 0.05, indicating that the data for this subfactor likely follow a normal distribution.

Information Sources and Reliability

Similarly, the Shapiro-Wilk test shows a Sig. > 0.05, suggesting normality in the data distribution for this subfactor.

Perceived Credibility and Information Verification

The tests indicate non-normality (Sig. < 0.05), implying that the data for this subfactor do not follow a normal distribution.

Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement

The Shapiro-Wilk test shows Sig. > 0.05, indicating a normal distribution of data for this subfactor.

The data for "Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide," "Information Sources and Reliability," and "Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement" appear to follow a normal distribution. In contrast, the data for "Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information" and "Perceived Credibility and Information Verification" do not. These findings are crucial for choosing appropriate statistical tests for further analysis. For the subfactors that do not show normal distribution, non-parametric tests might be more suitable.

4.3. Descriptive statistics

In this section the results of the descriptive statistics analyses are presented.

Table 3 Descriptive statistics

					Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	female	35	37,2	37,2	37,2
	Male	30	31,9	31,9	69,1
	Non-binary	29	30,9	30,9	100,0
	Total	94	100,0	100,0	

					Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	Under 18	16	17,0	17,0	17,0
	18 - 24	16	17,0	17,0	34,0
	25 - 34	15	16,0	16,0	50,0
	35 - 44	19	20,2	20,2	70,2
	45 - 54	15	16,0	16,0	86,2
	54 plus	13	13,8	13,8	100,0
	Total	94	100,0	100,0	

					Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	High school Dpiploma or less	24	25,5	25,5	25,5
	University or associate degree	20	21,3	21,3	46,8
	Bachelor's degree	16	17,0	17,0	63,8
	Master's degree	16	17,0	17,0	80,9
	Ph.D	18	19,1	19,1	100,0
	Total	94	100,0	100,0	

According to the results of table 3 presented here, the distribution of participants by gender, age and level of education in a study of perceptions of femicide information in social media is presented. These demographic data are essential for understanding the context and representativeness of the study sample.

The breakdown of participants by gender shows a notable diversity: 37.2% women, 31.9% men and 30.9% non-binary. This gender diversity is positive, as it provides a variety of perspectives and can enrich the understanding of gender dynamics in the perception of information about femicide. The almost equal representation between genders and the significant inclusion of non-binary people underlines the importance of an inclusive approach when researching sensitive social topics (Smith & Sparkes, 2016).

The sample covers a wide range of ages, from under 18 to over 54. The relatively even distribution of age groups may allow for a more nuanced analysis of the influence of age on perception and engagement with femicide information on social media. This variety of ages can also help to understand how different generations interact with social media and perceive information on sensitive topics (Bryman, 2016).

Education levels range from less than a high school diploma to a PhD, offering a diversity of educational backgrounds. This diversity is beneficial for examining how educational level influences the understanding and critique of information encountered on social media, an aspect often emphasized in the media literacy literature (Hobbs, 2017).

The analysis of demographic variables is crucial to ensure that the results of the study are representative and relevant for different segments of the population. The diversity observed in the sample strengthens the generalizability of the results and offers a more comprehensive overview of public perceptions of femicide in social media. However, it is important to note that the sample size and distribution may also limit the scope of the findings. It would be wise to further explore how these demographic characteristics interact with perceptions and attitudes towards femicide in future analyses of the study.

4.4. Research question 1

In the present section the results of the statistical analyses exploring the research question 1, “How does the use of different social media platforms affect users' exposure to, and perception of, femicide information?” are presented.

Table 4 Research question 1

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,716 ^a	,512	,496	2,69271

a. Predictors: (Constant), On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	685,097	3	228,366	31,496	,000 ^b
	Residual	652,563	90	7,251		
	Total	1337,660	93			

a. Dependent Variable: Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information

b. Predictors: (Constant), On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	8,555	,947		9,036	,000
	On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook	,944	,178	,391	5,301	,000

On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram	1,250	,207	,453	6,022	,000
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter	,761	,195	,293	3,899	,000

a. Dependent Variable: Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information

The results presented in table 4 come from a multiple linear regression analysis aimed at understanding how the use of different social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) affects users' exposure to and perception of information about femicide.

Hypotheses

H0 (Null Hypothesis): Use of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter has no significant effect on users' exposure to and perception of information about femicide.

H1 (Alternative Hypothesis): The use of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter has a significant effect on users' exposure to and perception of information about femicide.

R Square: The model has an R square of 0.512, meaning that 51.2% of the variance in exposure to and perception of femicide information is explained by use of the specified social media platforms.

The Sig. value in the ANOVA is less than 0.05, indicating that the regression model is statistically significant.

All three social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) have significant positive coefficients, indicating a positive effect on exposure to and perception of information about femicide.

The positive and significant coefficients for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter suggest that increased use of these platforms is associated with greater exposure to and potentially different perception of information about femicide. Given that the Sig. value for each independent variable is less than 0.05, we can reject the null hypothesis (H0) and accept the alternative hypothesis (H1).

These results suggest that social media platforms play a significant role in how information about femicide is disseminated and perceived. This has important implications for social media communication, femicide awareness and public engagement strategies.

4.4. Research question 2

In the present section the results of the statistical analyses exploring the research question 2, “What influences users' trust in the credibility of femicide information on social media, including their choice of sources and methods of verification?” are presented.

Table 5 Research question 2

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,694 ^a	,481	,426	2,98907

a. Predictors: (Constant), Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking., Checking source credibility for fact-checking., Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media., Reliance on news organizations for femicide news., Reliance on social media activists for femicide news., Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking., Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity., Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news., Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news.

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	696,827	9	77,425	8,666	,000 ^b
	Residual	750,503	84	8,935		
	Total	1447,330	93			

a. Dependent Variable: Perceived Credibility and Information Verification
b. Predictors: (Constant), Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking., Checking source credibility for fact-checking., Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media., Reliance on news organizations for femicide news., Reliance on social media activists for femicide news., Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking., Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity., Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news., Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news.

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized		Standardized	t	Sig.
		Coefficients		Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	22,159	2,149		10,310	,000
	Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media.	-,821	,281	-,238	-2,921	,004
	Reliance on social media activists for femicide news.	-,581	,259	-,179	-2,238	,028
	Reliance on news organizations for femicide news.	-,129	,305	-,034	-,423	,674
	Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news.	-,467	,319	-,125	-1,462	,147
	Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news.	,382	,274	,113	1,391	,168
	Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity.	1,201	,221	,460	5,423	,000
	Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking.	1,010	,241	,336	4,192	,000
	Checking source credibility for fact-checking.	,860	,210	,328	4,091	,000
	Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking.	,715	,230	,258	3,110	,003

a. Dependent Variable: Perceived Credibility and Information Verification

These results in table 5 from a multiple linear regression analysis designed to explore the factors influencing users' confidence in the credibility of information about femicide on social media, including their choice of sources and methods of verification.

Hypotheses

H0 (Null Hypothesis): Femicide information sources and verification methods have no significant effect on users' confidence in the credibility of such information on social media.

H1 (Alternative Hypothesis): Femicide information sources and verification methods have a significant effect on users' confidence in the credibility of this information on social media.

An R square of 0.481 indicates that 48.1% of the variance in perceived confidence in information credibility is explained by the model's independent variables.

The value of Sig. (< 0.05) indicates that the overall regression model is statistically significant.

Checking multiple sources, using cross-checking with news sources, checking credibility of sources and seeking official statements have significant positive coefficients, suggesting a positive impact on confidence in credibility.

Reliance on NGOs and social media activists for femicide news has a significant negative effect on perceived trust.

The results clearly show that certain verification methods and sources of information have a significant impact on confidence in the credibility of femicide news on social media. These results allow us to reject the null hypothesis (H0) and validate the alternative hypothesis (H1).

The validation of the alternative hypothesis highlights the importance of information verification methods in building trust. It highlights the need for social media users to be critical and methodical in the way they evaluate information on sensitive topics such as femicide.

4.5. Research question 3

In the present section the results of the statistical analyses exploring the research question 3, “How does engagement with femicide content on social media impact users' awareness and emotional responses?” are presented.

Table 6 Research question 3

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,771 ^a	,595	,572	2,61135

a. Predictors: (Constant), Messaging others to discuss femicide., Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts., Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information., Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide., Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media.

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	880,126	5	176,025	25,813	,000 ^b
	Residual	600,087	88	6,819		
	Total	1480,213	93			

a. Dependent Variable: Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement

b. Predictors: (Constant), Messaging others to discuss femicide., Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts., Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information., Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide., Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media.

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	10,444	1,206		8,664	,000
	Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media.	,940	,201	,331	4,685	,000
	Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts.	1,185	,252	,325	4,705	,000
	Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information.	1,328	,253	,369	5,253	,000
	Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide.	1,156	,255	,317	4,524	,000
	Messaging others to discuss femicide.	,706	,241	,210	2,926	,004

a. Dependent Variable: Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement

According to the results of the multiple linear regression analysis of table 6 to determine how engagement with femicide content on social media impacts users' awareness and emotional responses.

Hypotheses

H0 (Null Hypothesis): Engagement with femicide content on social media has no significant impact on users' awareness and emotional responses.

H1 (Alternative Hypothesis): Engagement with femicide content on social media has a significant impact on users' awareness and emotional responses.

An R square of 0.595 indicates that 59.5% of the variance in impact on perception and engagement is explained by the selected independent variables.

The value of Sig. (< 0.05) indicates that the regression model is statistically significant.

All forms of engagement studied (commenting, sharing, participating in discussions, messaging and frequency of engagement) have significant positive coefficients, indicating a positive impact on awareness and emotional responses.

The results show that different forms of engagement with femicide content on social media are significantly associated with an impact on users' awareness and emotional responses. These results allow us to reject the null hypothesis (H0) and validate the alternative hypothesis (H1).

These results highlight the importance of user engagement with femicide content on social media and its role in awareness and emotional responses. This highlights the significant impact of social media in spreading awareness and generating emotional responses around critical social topics.

5. Conclusions - Discussion

5.1. Conclusions

This section concludes the dissertation by integrating findings from data analyses of perceptions of femicide information in social media. These conclusions are drawn by considering the statistical results and placing them in perspective with the existing literature.

Impact of Social Media Use on Perceptions of Femicide

The analysis revealed that the use of different social media platforms has a significant impact on users' exposure to and perception of femicide information (Fuentes & Peterson, 2021). This finding confirms the work of Jensen (2018), which highlights the crucial role of social media in disseminating information and shaping public perceptions. It is imperative to note that, despite the prevalence of social media, the quality and veracity of information shared remain major concerns (Dwivedi et al., 2021).

Factors influencing trust in the credibility of information

Results indicate that information verification methods, such as consulting multiple sources and seeking official statements, boost users' confidence in the credibility of information about femicide (Pan & Chiou, 2011). This finding is in line with research by Aïmeur et al., (2023), who highlighted the importance of media literacy in the critical evaluation of online information. These findings highlight the need for a more rigorous approach to handling information on sensitive topics.

Relationship between Social Media Engagement and Awareness

Analysis also showed that engagement with femicide content on social media is positively associated with an increase in consciousness and emotional responses (Stsiampkouskaya et al., 2021). This observation supports the theories of Ye et al., (2019), who recognize social media as powerful catalysts for awareness and emotional engagement around social issues.

The findings of this research have important implications for communication strategies on social media, particularly in the context of critical social topics such as femicide. They suggest the need for a balanced approach that promotes the dissemination of accurate, verifiable information while stimulating public engagement and awareness

(Anderson & Jiang, 2018). The findings also encourage social media users to adopt a critical and thoughtful approach when evaluating information.

For future research, it would be beneficial to further explore gender dynamics in the perception of femicide information and examine cultural and regional differences in the dissemination and reception of such information on social media platforms.

5.2. Discussion

This section of the dissertation is devoted to discussing the results obtained, putting them into perspective with previous work in the field of social media and information perception. The aim is to validate or challenge the findings of this research in the light of existing studies.

Social Media Use and Perception of Femicide

The results of this study indicate a significant correlation between social media use and perception of information about femicide. This observation is consistent with the findings of Smith & Gallicano, (2015), who also found a strong relationship between frequency of social media use and awareness of social issues. However, unlike the work of Hynes et al., (2023), who suggested a limited influence of specific platforms, this study highlights a distinct impact of different platforms on news perception. This discrepancy could be explained by differences in the samples or methodologies employed.

Reliability of information sources and verification methods

The results highlight the importance of information verification methods in building user trust. This finding supports the research of Manzoor, (2016), who highlight the rise of media literacy in the evaluation of information on social media. However, this study goes further by identifying specific verification methods that influence trust, an aspect less explored in previous studies.

Impact of Engagement on Awareness and Emotional Responses

The findings on the impact of user engagement on their awareness and emotional responses are echoed in the work of Guo et al., (2019) who also observed a link between interaction with social media content and awareness of social issues. However, this study adds further nuance by demonstrating that different types of engagement

(comments, shares, discussions) have varied impacts, suggested greater complexity than reported in previous studies such as Nesi et al., (2021).

Although this study makes a significant contribution to understanding the dynamics of social media and the perception of femicide, it has certain limitations. The correlational nature of the study does not allow causality to be established. Furthermore, the sample may not be fully representative of the overall population of social media users. Future research could examine these relationships in diverse cultural and demographic contexts to enrich understanding of these dynamics.

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Appendices

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	94	100,0
	Excluded ^a	0	,0
	Total	94	100,0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's	
Alpha	N of Items
,466	41

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook	206,7766	258,068	,042	,466
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram	206,8723	252,285	,194	,451
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter	206,9043	255,120	,115	,459
How often on average do you come across information related to Femicide on social media? - Facebook	206,8298	252,960	,161	,454
How often on average do you come across information related to Femicide on social media? - Instagram	207,1489	253,935	,143	,456

How often on average do you come across information related to Femicide on social media? - Twitter	207,0213	252,150	,183	,452
Are you familiar with the term Femicide?	206,7979	261,131	-,011	,471
In general, familiarity with the topic of femicide.	205,6915	251,484	,101	,460
Self-perceived informed status about femicide.	205,5745	259,838	-,015	,475
Self-assessed knowledge about femicide.	205,5957	247,534	,164	,450
Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media.	207,3191	261,166	,004	,469
Reliance on social media activists for femicide news.	207,3830	265,529	-,111	,478
Reliance on news organizations for femicide news.	207,2128	257,696	,117	,460
Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news.	207,1915	260,544	,028	,467
Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news.	207,2447	257,284	,106	,460
Perceived informativeness of femicide news on social media.	206,8511	263,461	-,061	,476
Trust in the credibility of social media for femicide information.	207,0000	266,409	-,122	,484
Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity.	206,8085	260,952	-,012	,472
Alignment of femicide information with known facts.	206,8830	252,212	,198	,451
Effect of multimedia on perceived authenticity of femicide reports.	207,3830	255,680	,155	,457

Impact of comments/discussions on authenticity of femicide reports.	207,1170	253,395	,213	,452
Trust in sources sharing femicide information.	206,6915	260,452	,004	,470
Perceived transparency and accountability of sources.	206,7447	248,192	,294	,442
Impact of expert opinions on trustworthiness of femicide information.	206,5851	265,041	-,098	,478
Influence of peer validation on trustworthiness of femicide information.	207,1702	258,465	,074	,463
Frequency of fact-checking femicide information.	206,8617	253,131	,146	,455
Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking.	206,7128	264,530	-,085	,477
Checking source credibility for fact-checking.	206,8191	255,827	,094	,461
Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking.	206,8511	258,687	,042	,466
Impact of social media on awareness about femicide.	206,9362	258,684	,048	,465
Impact of social media on anxiety/distress about femicide.	206,6489	254,187	,139	,456
Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media.	207,0532	256,997	,081	,462
Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts.	207,2660	255,660	,165	,456
Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information.	207,5426	259,498	,053	,465
Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide.	207,3723	257,505	,112	,460
Messaging others to discuss femicide.	207,3404	257,152	,107	,460

Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information	192,5106	212,941	,319	,405
Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide	194,2340	233,170	,115	,464
Information Sources and Reliability	190,9362	235,824	,157	,450
Perceived Credibility and Information Verification	180,2660	230,885	,135	,459
Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement	186,1915	210,049	,317	,404

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%
Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%
Information Sources and Reliability	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%
Perceived Credibility and Information Verification	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%
Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement	94	100,0%	0	0,0%	94	100,0%

Descriptives

	Statistic	Std. Error
Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information	Mean	17,2979
	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
	Lower Bound	16,5211
	Upper Bound	18,0747
	5% Trimmed Mean	17,3983
	Median	18,0000
	Variance	14,383
	Std. Deviation	3,79255
	Minimum	8,00
	Maximum	26,00
	Range	18,00
	Interquartile Range	4,25
	Skewness	-,524
		,249

	Kurtosis		,250	,493
Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide	Mean		15,5745	,40712
	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	Lower Bound	14,7660	
		Upper Bound	16,3829	
	5% Trimmed Mean		15,4681	
	Median		16,0000	
	Variance		15,580	
	Std. Deviation		3,94720	
	Minimum		7,00	
	Maximum		26,00	
	Range		19,00	
	Interquartile Range		5,25	
	Skewness		,310	,249
	Kurtosis		-,057	,493
Information Sources and Reliability	Mean		18,8723	,34065
	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	Lower Bound	18,1959	
		Upper Bound	19,5488	
	5% Trimmed Mean		18,9374	
	Median		19,0000	
	Variance		10,908	
	Std. Deviation		3,30277	
	Minimum		10,00	
	Maximum		26,00	
	Range		16,00	
	Interquartile Range		4,00	
	Skewness		-,203	,249
	Kurtosis		-,020	,493
Perceived Credibility and Information Verification	Mean		29,5426	,40689
	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	Lower Bound	28,7345	
		Upper Bound	30,3506	
	5% Trimmed Mean		29,5709	
	Median		30,0000	
	Variance		15,563	
	Std. Deviation		3,94496	
	Minimum		19,00	

	Maximum		38,00		
	Range		19,00		
	Interquartile Range		5,00		
	Skewness		-,245	,249	
	Kurtosis		-,197	,493	
Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement	Mean		23,6170	,41149	
	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	Lower Bound	22,7999		
		Upper Bound	24,4342		
	5% Trimmed Mean		23,5390		
	Median		24,0000		
	Variance		15,916		
	Std. Deviation		3,98952		
	Minimum		15,00		
	Maximum		34,00		
	Range		19,00		
	Interquartile Range		5,25		
	Skewness		,153	,249	
	Kurtosis		-,123	,493	

Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information	,121	94	,002	,964	94	,011
Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide	,072	94	,200*	,983	94	,253
Information Sources and Reliability	,086	94	,084	,982	94	,207
Perceived Credibility and Information Verification	,105	94	,013	,981	94	,200
Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement	,070	94	,200*	,983	94	,250

*. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information Stem-and-Leaf Plot

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Frequency      Stem & Leaf
4,00 Extremes  (= < 9)
5,00          1 . 00001

```



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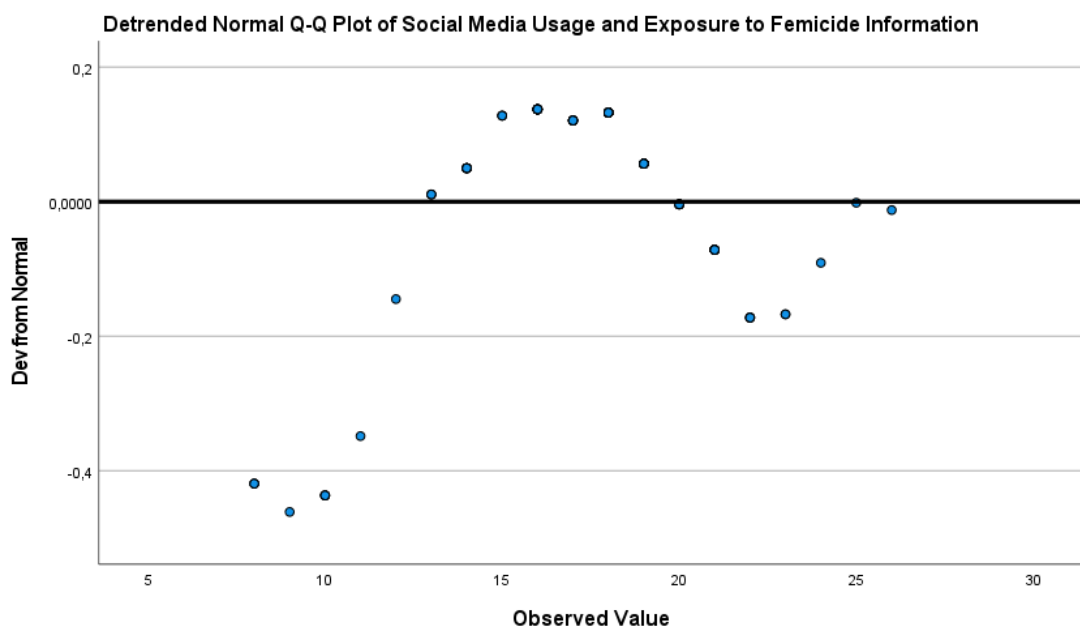
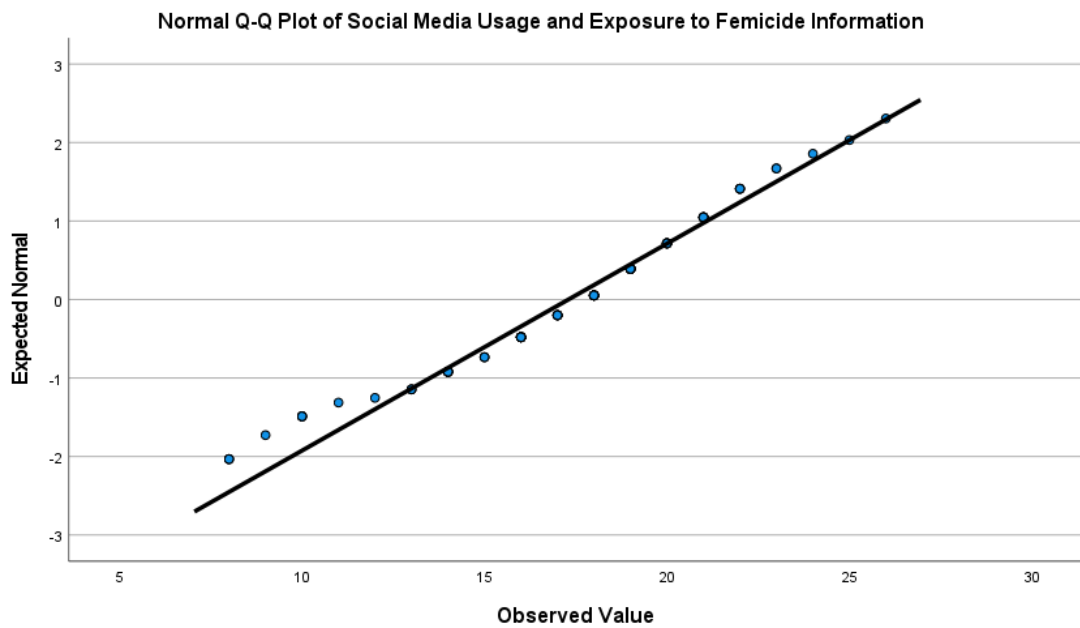
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10,00     1 . 4444444555
20,00     1 . 6666666666667777777
25,00     1 . 88888888888899999999999
17,00     2 . 000000001111111111
6,00      2 . 222233
2,00      2 . 45
1,00      2 . 6

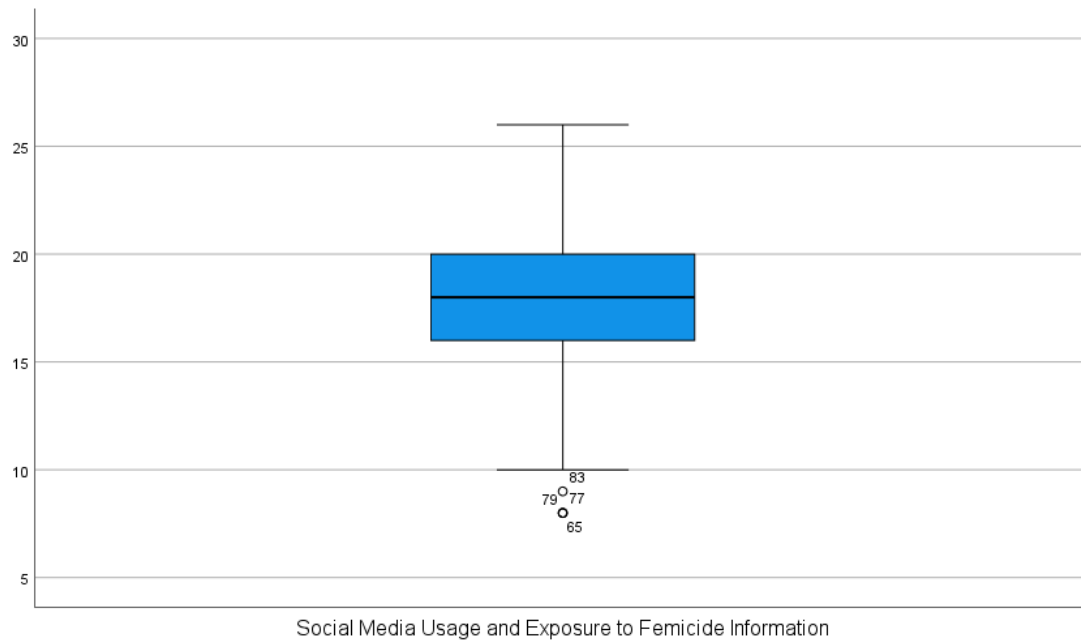
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Stem width: 10,00
Each leaf:  1 case(s)

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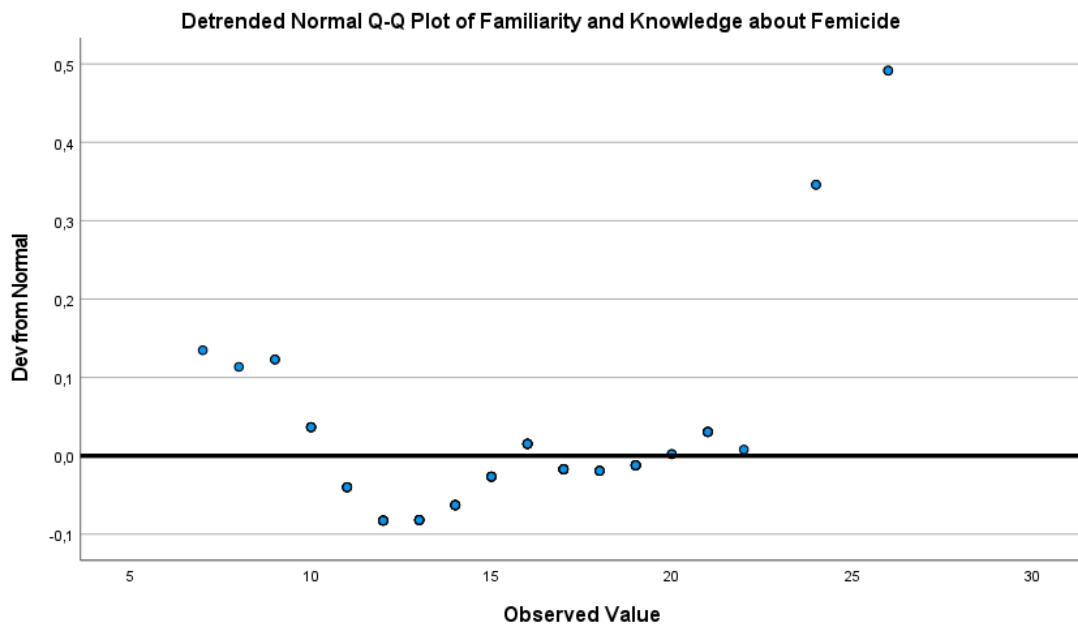
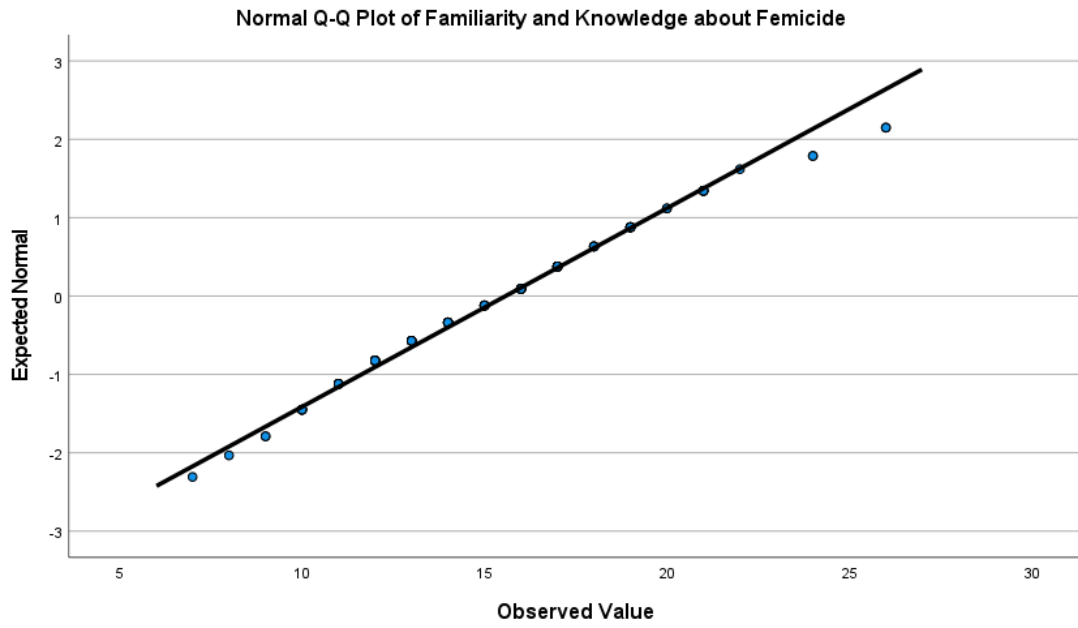


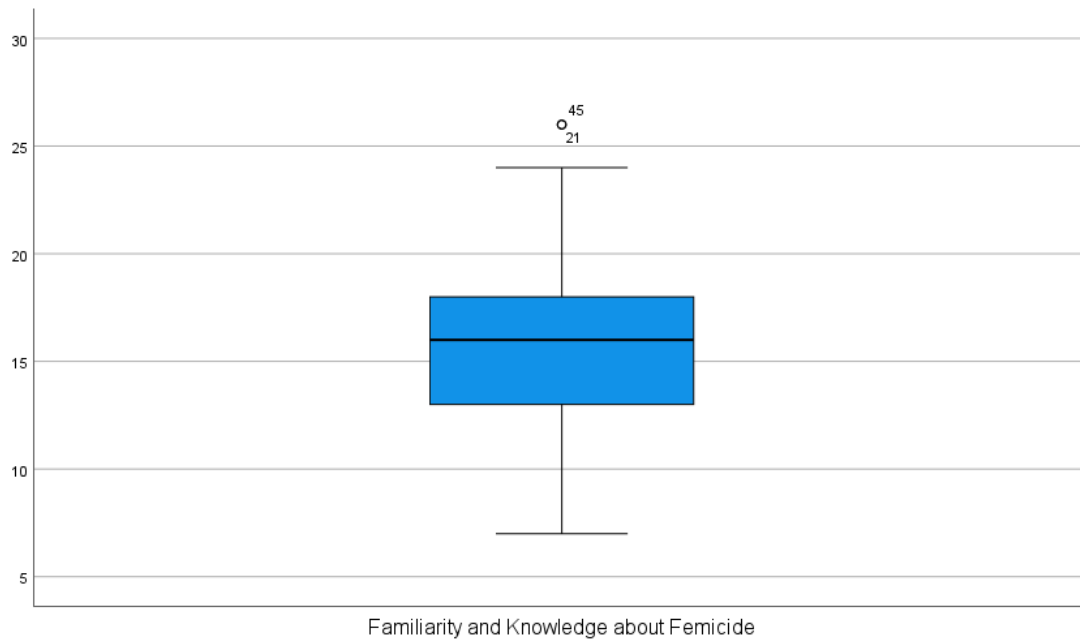


Familiarity and Knowledge about Femicide Stem-and-Leaf Plot

Frequency	Stem &	Leaf
4,00	0 .	7899
35,00	1 .	00000111111222222222223333333444444444
42,00	1 .	555555666666666677777777777788888999999999
11,00	2 .	00111111244
2,00	Extremes	(>=26)

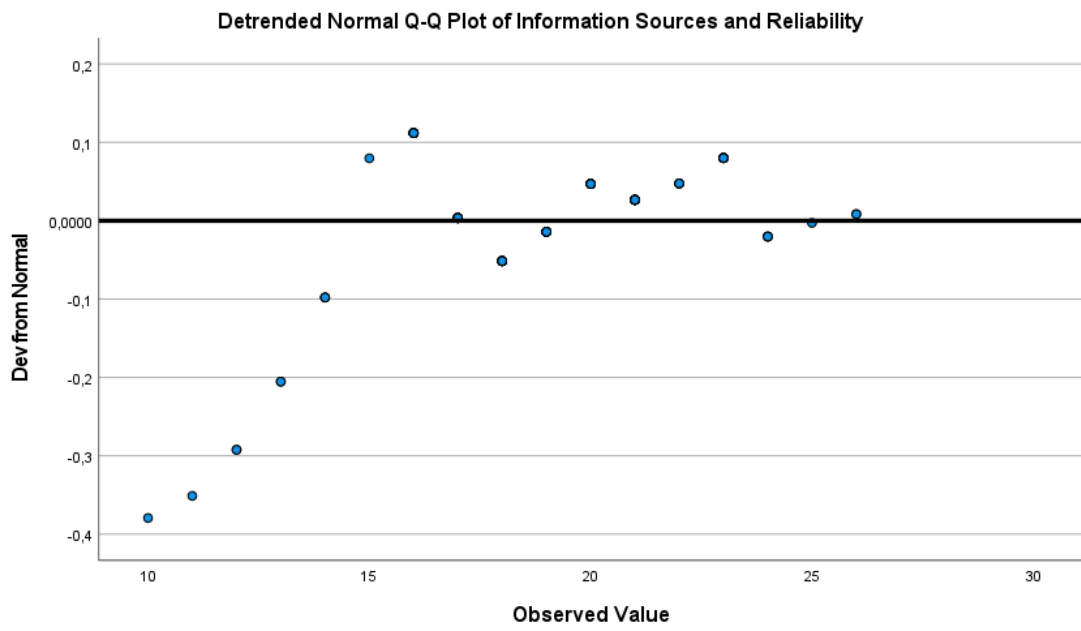
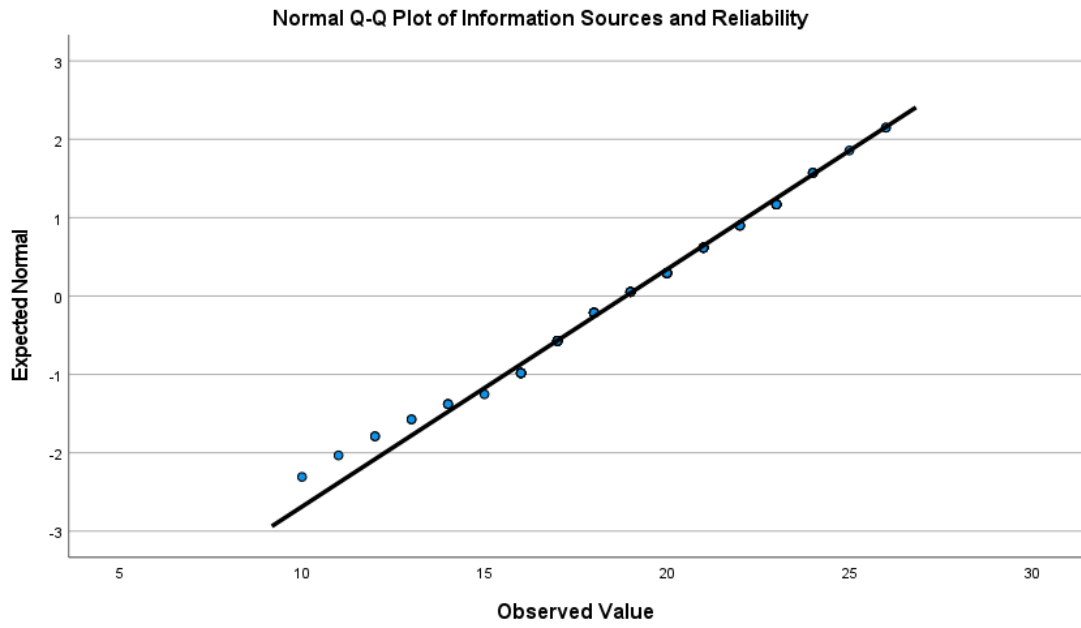
Stem width: 10,00
 Each leaf: 1 case(s)

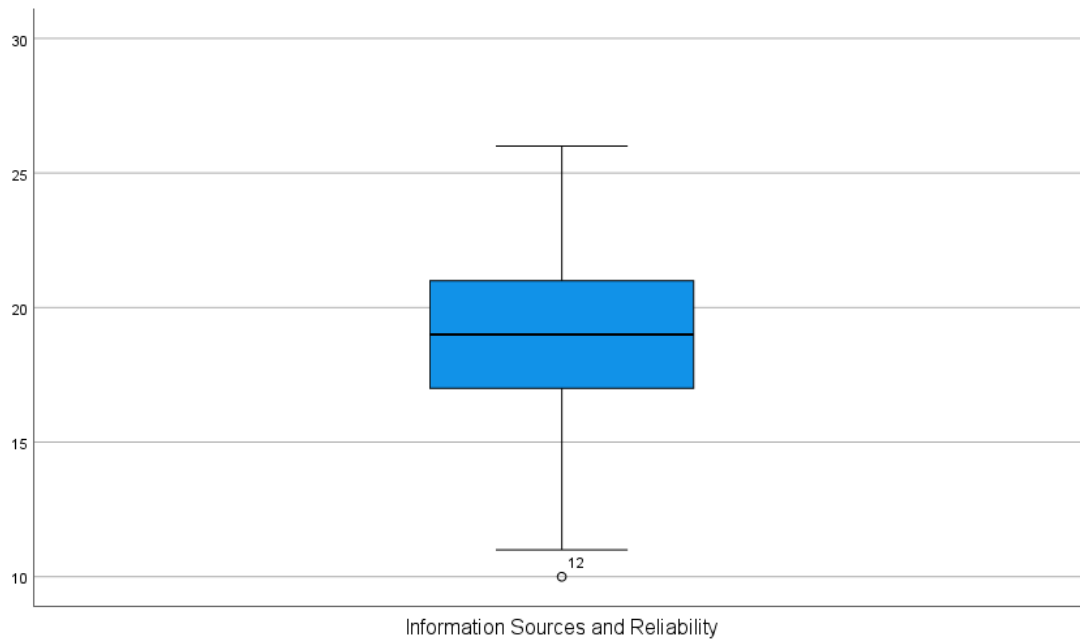




Information Sources and Reliability Stem-and-Leaf Plot

Frequency	Stem &	Leaf
1,00	Extremes	(=<10)
1,00	1 .	1
4,00	1 .	2233
4,00	1 .	4445
23,00	1 .	666666666677777777777777
20,00	1 .	88888888888899999999
22,00	2 .	00000000011111111111
12,00	2 .	222233333333
5,00	2 .	44445
2,00	2 .	66
Stem width:	10,00	
Each leaf:	1 case(s)	

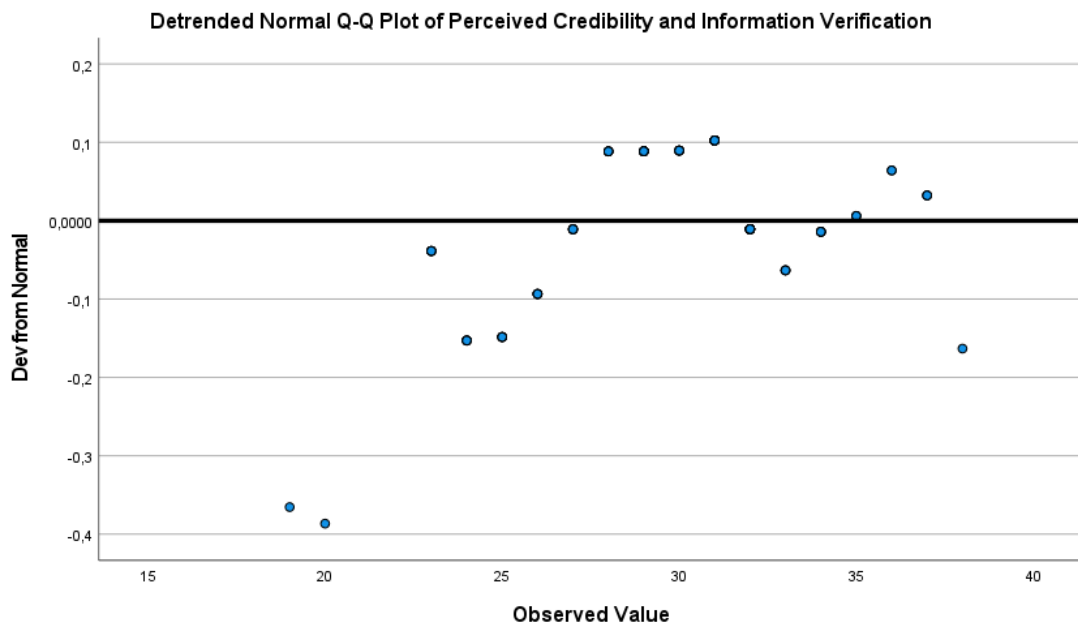
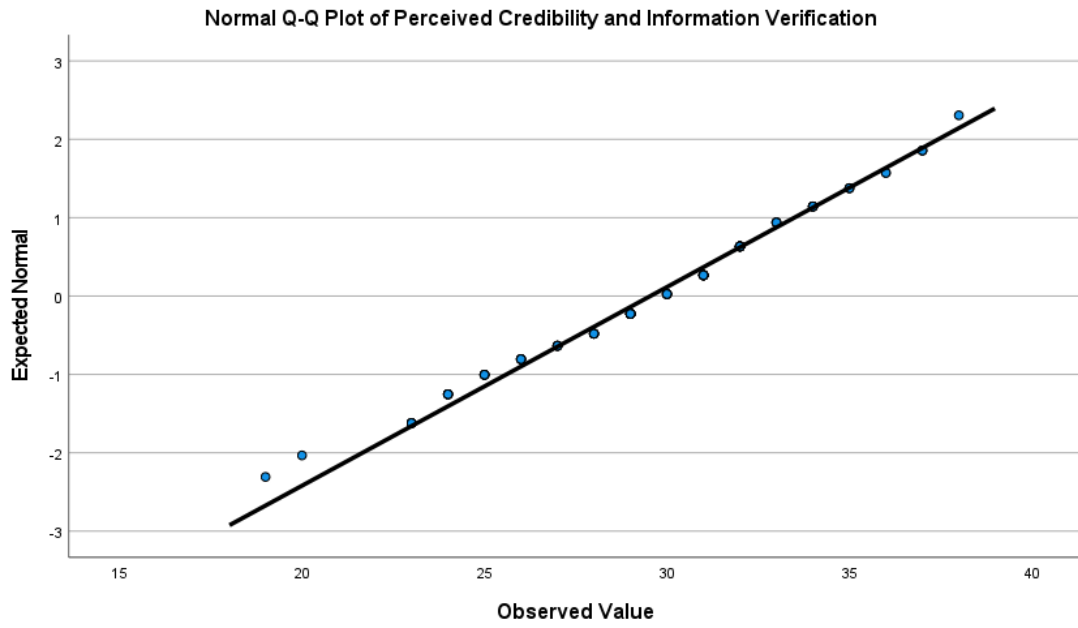


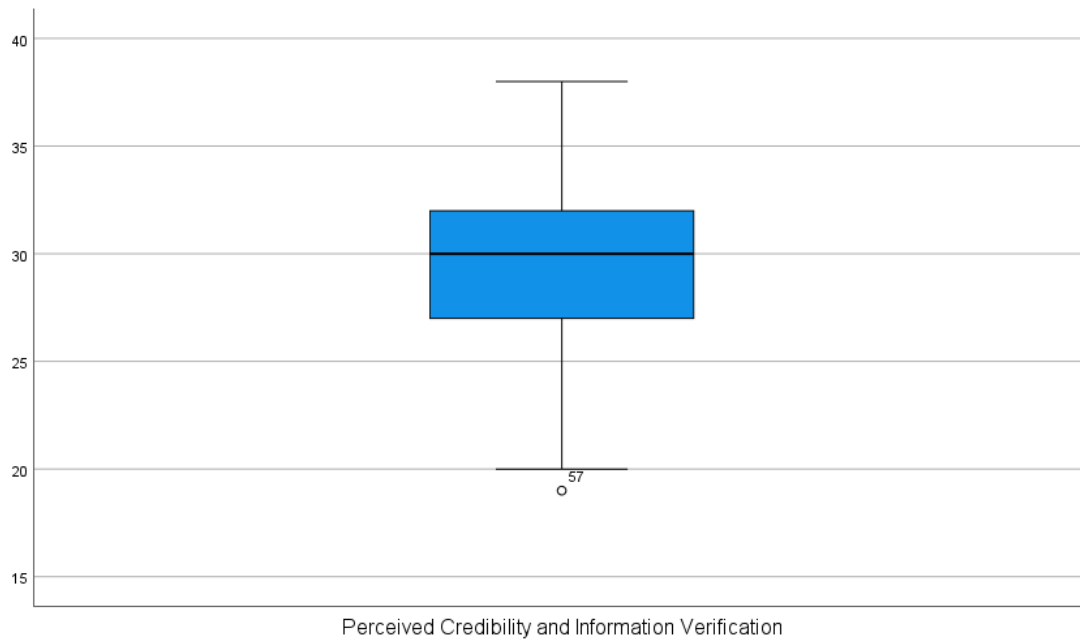


Perceived Credibility and Information Verification Stem-and-Leaf Plot

Frequency	Stem &	Leaf
1,00	Extremes	(=<19)
1,00	2 .	0
5,00	2 .	33333
10,00	2 .	4444455555
10,00	2 .	6666677777
18,00	2 .	8888899999999999999
18,00	3 .	0000011111111111111
17,00	3 .	2222222222222223333
8,00	3 .	44444555
5,00	3 .	66777
1,00	3 .	8

Stem width: 10,00
Each leaf: 1 case(s)



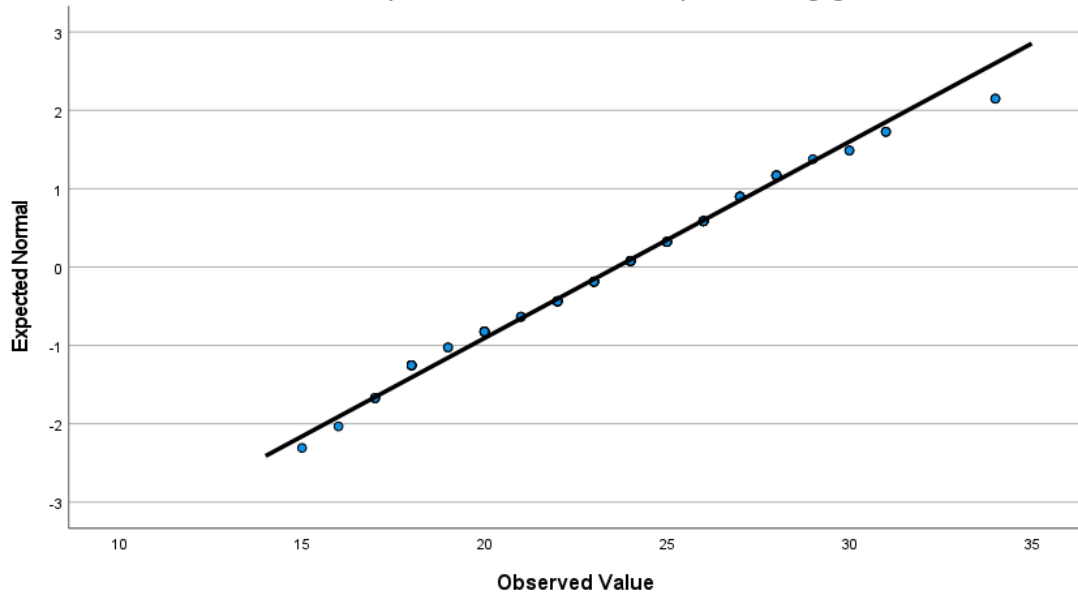


Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement Stem-and-Leaf Plot

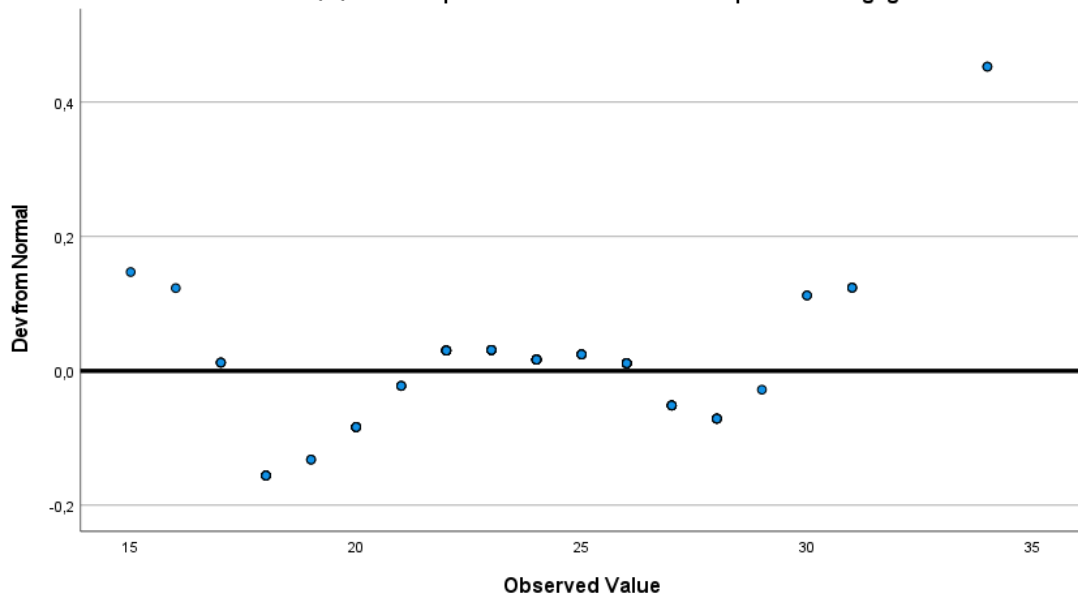
Frequency	Stem & Leaf
,00	1 .
15,00	1 . 567777888888899
41,00	2 . 0000000011122222222222333333344444444444
31,00	2 . 555556666666666666667777778888889
5,00	3 . 00111
2,00	Extremes (>=34)

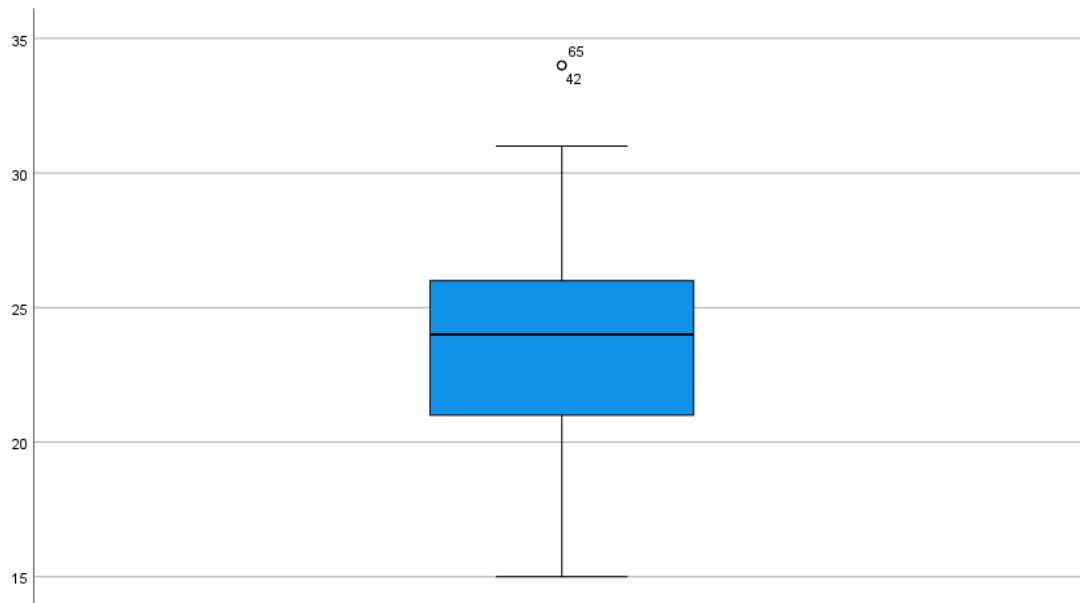
Stem width: 10,00
 Each leaf: 1 case(s)

Normal Q-Q Plot of Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement



Detrended Normal Q-Q Plot of Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement





Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement

Frequency Table

Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	female	35	37,2	37,2	37,2
	Male	30	31,9	31,9	69,1
	Non-binary	29	30,9	30,9	100,0
	Total	94	100,0	100,0	

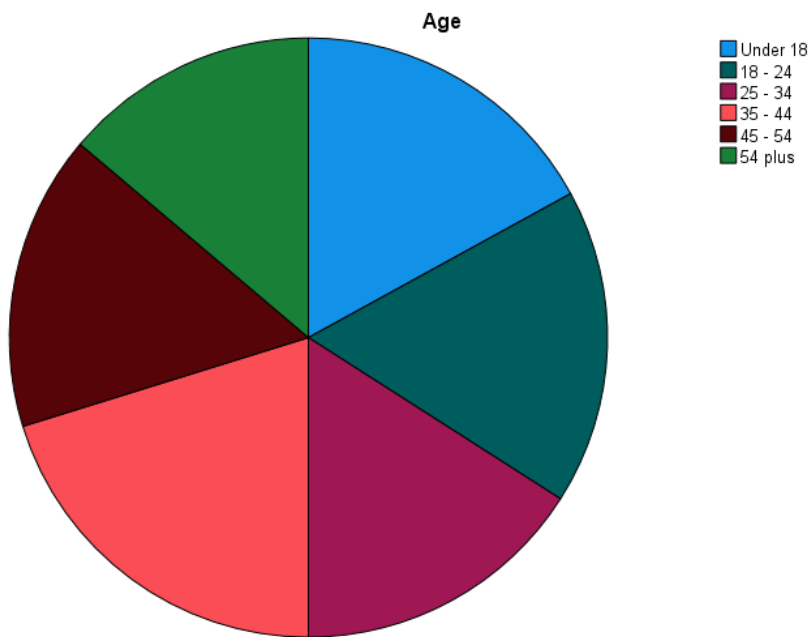
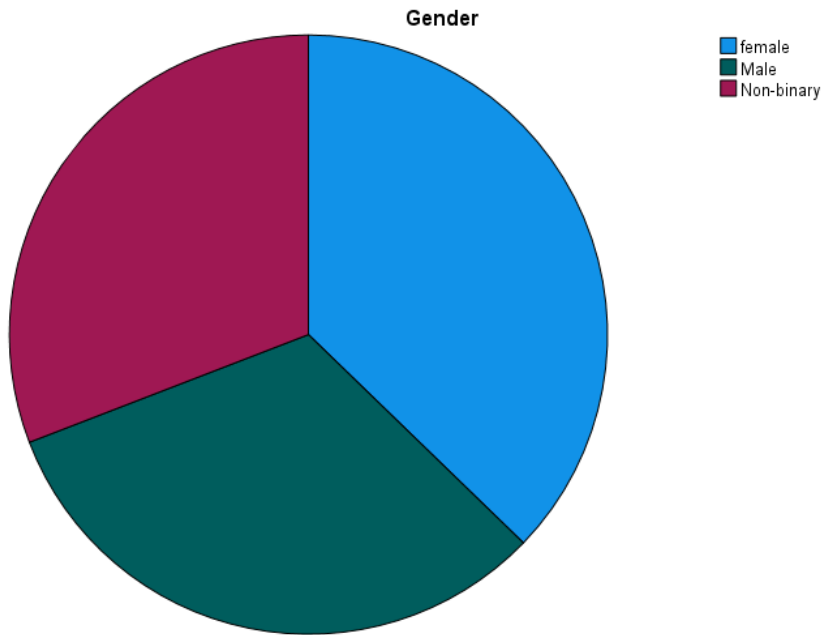
Age

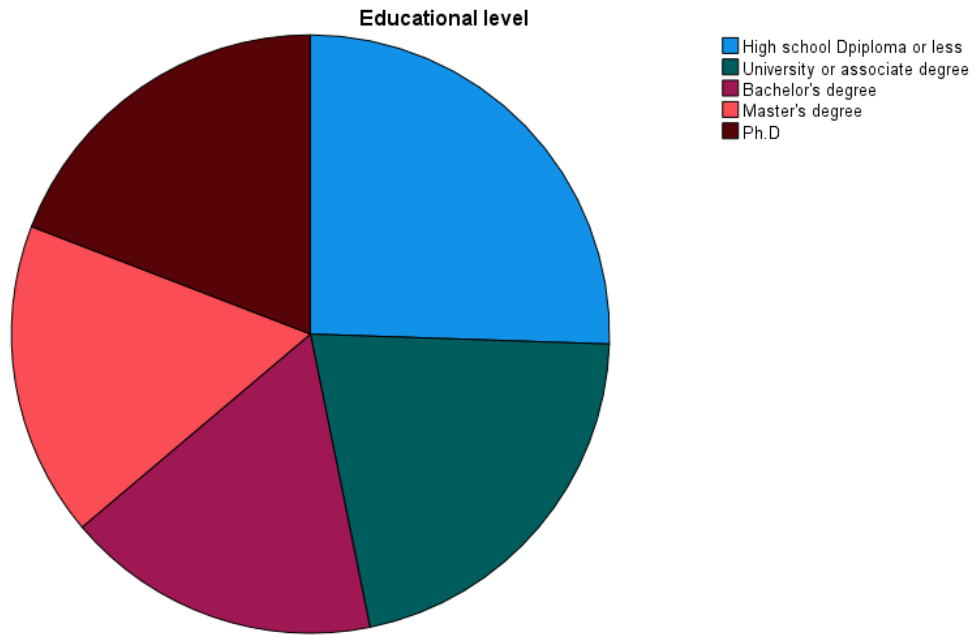
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Under 18	16	17,0	17,0	17,0
	18 - 24	16	17,0	17,0	34,0
	25 - 34	15	16,0	16,0	50,0
	35 - 44	19	20,2	20,2	70,2
	45 - 54	15	16,0	16,0	86,2
	54 plus	13	13,8	13,8	100,0
	Total	94	100,0	100,0	

Educational level

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	High school Dpiploma or less	24	25,5	25,5	25,5
	University or associate degree	20	21,3	21,3	46,8
	Bachelor's degree	16	17,0	17,0	63,8
	Master's degree	16	17,0	17,0	80,9

Ph.D	18	19,1	19,1	100,0
Total	94	100,0	100,0	





Variables Entered/Removed^a

Mode	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram ^b	.	Enter

a. Dependent Variable: Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information

b. All requested variables entered.

Model Summary

Model	R	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,716 ^a	,512	2,69271

a. Predictors: (Constant), On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	685,097	3	228,366	31,496	,000 ^b
	Residual	652,563	90	7,251		
	Total	1337,660	93			

a. Dependent Variable: Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information

b. Predictors: (Constant), On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook, On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	8,555	,947		9,036	,000

On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Facebook	,944	,178	,391	5,301	,000
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Instagram	1,250	,207	,453	6,022	,000
On the scale below how often do you use Social media? (Provide one answer for each social networking site). - Twitter	,761	,195	,293	3,899	,000

a. Dependent Variable: Social Media Usage and Exposure to Femicide Information

Variables Entered/Removed^a

		Variable	
Mode		Remove	Method
1	Variables Entered	d	d

1	Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking., Checking source credibility for fact-checking., Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media., Reliance on news organizations for femicide news., Reliance on social media activists for femicide news., Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking., Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity., Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news., Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news. ^b	.	Enter
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a. Dependent Variable: Perceived Credibility and Information Verification

b. All requested variables entered.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,694 ^a	,481	,426	2,98907

a. Predictors: (Constant), Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking., Checking source credibility for fact-checking., Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media., Reliance on news organizations for femicide news., Reliance on social media activists for femicide news., Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking., Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity., Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news., Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news.

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	696,827	9	77,425	8,666	,000 ^b
	Residual	750,503	84	8,935		
	Total	1447,330	93			

a. Dependent Variable: Perceived Credibility and Information Verification

b. Predictors: (Constant), Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking., Checking source credibility for fact-checking., Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media., Reliance on news organizations for femicide news., Reliance on social media activists for femicide news., Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking., Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity., Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news., Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news.

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	22,159	2,149		10,310	,000
	Reliance on NGOs for femicide-related news on social media.	-,821	,281	-,238	-2,921	,004
	Reliance on social media activists for femicide news.	-,581	,259	-,179	-2,238	,028

Reliance on news organizations for femicide news.	-,129	,305	-,034	-,423	,674
Reliance on victim user posts for femicide news.	-,467	,319	-,125	-1,462	,147
Reliance on random people's posts/shares for femicide news.	,382	,274	,113	1,391	,168
Checking multiple sources for femicide information authenticity.	1,201	,221	,460	5,423	,000
Use of cross-referencing with news sources for fact-checking.	1,010	,241	,336	4,192	,000
Checking source credibility for fact-checking.	,860	,210	,328	4,091	,000
Looking for official statements/reports for fact-checking.	,715	,230	,258	3,110	,003

a. Dependent Variable: Perceived Credibility and Information Verification

Variables Entered/Removed^a

Mode	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1			

1	Messaging others to discuss femicide., Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts., Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information., Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide., Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media. ^b	.	Enter
---	---	---	-------

a. Dependent Variable: Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement

b. All requested variables entered.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,771 ^a	,595	,572	2,61135

a. Predictors: (Constant), Messaging others to discuss femicide., Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts., Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information., Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide., Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media.

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	880,126	5	176,025	25,813	,000 ^b
	Residual	600,087	88	6,819		
	Total	1480,213	93			

a. Dependent Variable: Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement

b. Predictors: (Constant), Messaging others to discuss femicide., Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts., Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information., Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide., Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media.

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	10,444	1,206		8,664	,000
	Frequency of engaging in femicide-related content on social media.	,940	,201	,331	4,685	,000
	Interactions involving commenting on femicide posts.	1,185	,252	,325	4,705	,000
	Interactions involving sharing/retweeting femicide information.	1,328	,253	,369	5,253	,000
	Participation in online discussions/forums about femicide.	1,156	,255	,317	4,524	,000
	Messaging others to discuss femicide.	,706	,241	,210	2,926	,004

a. Dependent Variable: Impact of Social Media on Perception and Engagement