

The point is that this acute issue can reach enormous proportions and pose a threat to entire nation. A 2019 survey showed that a whopping 88 percent of the first-time voters across India agreed that fake news was a real problem. It has revealed that an overwhelming majority of people in the country with more than 300 million WhatsApp users access news primarily through social media where information rarely gets checked for validity and authenticity.

It is necessary to highlight the fact that the issue of fake news in India manifests itself in diverse levels. Even mainstream politicians use adulterated information to score a political point or win arguments. Thus, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been implicated in profiting from fake news spreading for several times. The problem has also penetrated into Bollywood. Such prominent stars like Dilip Kumar, Shakti Kapoor, Lata Mangeshkar, and Katrina Kaif have become victims of a death hoax.

One of the most appalling form fake news take is spread among ordinary people. The key features of Indian's mentality encompass naivety, heartiness and acute sense of justice which is combined with low level of media literacy. Therefore, when fake news raise crucial problems like kidnapping, their reaction often results in mob justice. In 2016 Roshni Helpline produced a video in order to boost the safety of children in Pakistan. It showed two men on a motorcycle snatching a small boy. At the end they demonstrated a sign that said: 'It takes only a moment to kidnap a child from the streets of Karachi.' The clip circulating on WhatsApp in India did not include the end of the original, so it looked like the motorcyclists had truly abducted the boy. Within few days after the news was aired more than 5 guiltless Pakistans became the victims of Indian mob justice. Ordinary people just battered them to death with stones and footwear.

In order to resolve the issue, WhatsApp developers have made a number of modifications for Indians. However, the problem can not be uprooted if the government benefits from it and ordinary people are not taught media literacy. It appears that the most effective way to resolve this issue is to help people to think critically. Critical thinking and media literacy classes conducted both among young and senior generations will allow them to feel more independent, confident and protected.

## **А. Шибалович**

### **GUN VIOLENCE AS AN ALARMING EPIDEMIC OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY**

Gun deaths in the USA have reached the highest rates in 50 years. It's a pressing issue that needs careful consideration. In order to prove the relevance of the problem, it is necessary to take a look at the Gun Violence Archive 2020, where we will face the number of 12,102 people that have been killed by over past 4 months. Compared to 22 other high-income nations, the U.S. gun-related homicide rate is 25 times higher. The data reveals clear trend of growing gun-

related deaths annually. Wide access to firearms and loose regulations lead to more than 39,000 men, women and children being killed with guns each year in the USA.

When talking about gun violence it is necessary to consider the laws and the process of buying guns. There are several barriers to buying a gun in America, but there are generally so many loopholes in the current laws that most people can buy a gun without too much of a problem. Restrictions on purchasers are typically evaluated through a background check. The most well-known way to bypass background checks is the private sales loophole: if someone purchases a gun from a private seller, such as a friend or family member, no gun background check is required. Taking this information into consideration it is clearly seen why America has tremendous numbers of gun-related deaths compared to other high income countries. Statistics shows that the stricter a state's gun regulation the fewer suicides (using gun) occur. With 107 laws, California had the most restrictions on gun use and the state has the lowest suicide rates in the country. Whereas Montana has the highest suicide rate and only four laws restricting gun use. This example proves connection between country's laws and number of deaths.

The way that the USA resolving the problem has divided into: government and citizens' approach. The high profile citizens' approach was music video "this is America" published by American singer Childish Gambino, which gained over 600 million views. Among the most notable things people took from the video was that guns seem to be treated with more respect than human lives. In one of the brutal shooting scenes, the gun was carried off in a special red-colored cloth by a well-dressed man as the victim was dragged off. The red cloth symbolized how "red" (Republicans) politicians in particular seem to value gun rights more than lives lost. Violence prevention and educational programs have been established in many schools and communities by the US government. These programs aim to change personal behavior of both children and their parents, encouraging children to stay away from guns, ensure parents store guns safely, and encourage children to solve disputes without resorting to violence. Empirical evaluation of gun violence prevention programs has been limited. Of the evaluations that have been done, results indicate such programs have minimal effectiveness.

Taking into account the annual number of gun related deaths in America, loose gun laws and inefficient government measures, it is crucial to start resolving the issue before it ignites.

**Я. ЯНКОВЕЦ**

## FOOD WASTE IN AMERICA: THREATENING REALITY

In the most recent years, food waste has become a complex phenomenon attracting the attention of scientists, consumers and activists. The United States is the global leader in food waste with the Americans discarding nearly 80 billion pounds of food, what equates to more than \$161 billion, approximately 219 pounds of waste per person and 30–40 % of the US food supply.