

Pseudoscience Reflection

Name of Student

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### 7-3 Pseudoscience Reflection

Grimes' article on the surge of pseudoscience during the COVID-19 pandemic pinpoints a critical tactic of pseudoscience: the exploitation of **arguments from authority**. Grimes highlights how ostensibly credible scientists and physicians have misused their positions to propagate unfounded claims about COVID-19, misleading the public by leveraging their perceived authority rather than robust scientific evidence. The tactic is particularly dangerous because it cloaks misleading or false claims with a veneer of credibility that can be difficult for the public to question.

Grimes' assertion that "we become curators of our own media" reflects the contemporary challenge posed by the vast array of online information (Grimes, 2022). The phrase suggests that individuals now have the power to select and share information according to personal biases, often without the rigorous checks traditionally performed by professional gatekeepers such as editors and fact-checkers. In the context of pseudoscience, this self-curation allows for the rapid spread of misinformation as people tend to circulate information that confirms their preexisting beliefs, regardless of its factual accuracy.

The motivation behind individuals who traffic in pseudoscience, as discussed in the article and observed on discussion boards, often includes a desire for recognition, financial gain, or the affirmation of ideological beliefs. These motivators are potent drivers that can lead individuals to champion pseudoscientific ideas, especially in times of crisis when uncertainty and fear make people more susceptible to believing and spreading misinformation.

In my future career in healthcare, the impact of pseudoscience could significantly challenge my ability to provide evidence-based care. Misinformation can lead to patients refusing necessary treatments or demanding inappropriate or harmful ones. To mitigate this, it will be crucial to enhance patient education, promote critical thinking, and strengthen the

patient-provider relationship to foster trust and ensure that healthcare decisions are informed by reliable, scientifically valid information. As healthcare professionals, we must diligently combat pseudoscience by clearly communicating evidence-based practices and explaining their rationale, helping patients make informed decisions based on accurate information.

References

Grimes, D. R. (2022, October 1). *COVID Has Created a Perfect Storm for Fringe Science*.

Scientific American.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/covid-has-created-a-perfect-storm-for-fringe-science/>