THE OCCUPY MOMENT: HONG KONG STUDENT MOVEMENT IN KOREA AND THE FUNCTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA

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ABSTRACT: With the diffusion of social network sites and applications, social media have become one of the most popular Internet (communication) services. Most of the information exchange that occurs on these social networking sites is not only personal information or entertainment, but also new ways to stimulate citizen engagement in politics because of the fast flowing of videos and news reports. They are incorporating more political issues and public affairs into these social media platforms. The 'Umbrella Movement', which triggered global attention, is a typical case that illustrates the importance of social media in the social movement. During the entire 2014 campaign, social media and social media platforms played a key role in providing students a new way to obtain immediate information from different perspectives and allowing some student leaders to announce strategies or directions to other students or participants in the movement. In an era when students' time and attention are increasingly directed towards social media and social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube, these platforms allow students to obtain political information without needing the intermediate role of mass media. Reactions, feedback and conversations generated online are stimulating and facilitate social participation.

KEYWORDS:

INTRODUCTION

When the Occupy Central Movement emerged in Hong Kong, the author experienced the Movement in Seoul, South Korea. People overseas, including Hong Kong citizens who were not in Hong Kong and other people from around the world, participated in the Movement and saw different information from social media as well as mass media. Social media are by no means the main source of how people obtain the news. During this period, the author participated in the movement both online and offline in Seoul; the online participation was through a social media platform and the author participated in the signature campaign in person

in Seoul, which was organised and promoted through the internet. The news from different social media or shared posts from other Hong Kong friends were obtainable during this period which the Korean mass media could provide. It was clear that social media facilitated people who were not in Hong Kong to participate. Many people, including other exchange students and Korean students, showed great enthusiasm for the movement and followed the news on social media. A few people from Hong Kong who were in Seoul created the Facebook page and gathered people who were staying in Korea to participate in triggering the concerns from the world and in and reveal their support for the Hong Kong people. It follows that social media facilitate people's social participation. This paper addresses how people use social media in social participation and its limitations

LITERATURE REVIEWS

Role of social media in social participation: The development of social media in Hong Kong has changed in the past 10 years and various software packages are provided. Social networking websites help people communicate with each other easily and conveniently. Everyone in the society can be part of the media of new communication, and the protest or social movement can gather 10,000 or even 100,000 people to participate in a short time. The role of social media in social participation changed after the 1 July 2003 demonstration. Social media play a vital role in student participation. People use social media gradually in social movements because social media are an interactive platform. People tend to use these social media platforms as identity construction or entertainment. They tend to browse pages with similar ideas that conform with their ideas. Originally, this was not the place for political issues, but people are now more concerned about political issues so they browse more about politics on social media as well. The 'Group' and 'Page' options on Facebook bring people with the same or analogous political viewpoints together. Facebook then gradually serves as a place for political gathering and activities. Holt, Shehata, Strömbäck and Ljungberg (2013) illustrate that social media encourage teenagers to discuss and participate in social issues.

Changes in the initiation of participating social movements in Hong Kong: Political parties facilitate and get people involved in their social movements and encourage citizens to follow their policies. As time goes by, citizens rely less on political parties, and people use the internet

to become involved in social movements by themselves. People who do not have a political background can also initiate social movements by using the internet and social media to launch and promote protests. 'Scholarism' was one of the remarkable organisations that was set up by a group of secondary students, and they used social media like Facebook and YouTube to call for people's attention and to motivate the action. Social network sites are web-based services that allow individuals to (1) construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system, (2) articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection and (3) view and traverse their list of connections and those made by others within the system. The nature and nomenclature of these connections may vary from site to site.

Function of social media in social participation: According to Vitak, Smock, Zube, Carr, Lampe and Ellison (2007), the interactive social media platform enhances the flow of information and triggers more expression of opinions. Facebook is a splendid example. Netizens are able to 'like' posts, to share information including news reports, pictures, comics, videos etc., and to update their individual status to spread news. The influences matter on the number of 'friends' on Facebook. Social media encourage users to share more about themselves and express themselves to the public. Some users express their political views. Facebook is now a place of political activities. The users of the political group on Facebook participate actively in politics, including protests, since they can be affected by the information provided on the social media. In addition, social media are a place for people to against the mass media and the government. Mass media reporting may have bias or people may not think the mass media represent them. Therefore, they can use social media to speak against the information provided by the mass media and also the government. The flow of information on social media can oppose the the mass media and disclose the truth about the issues.

Application of Concepts

Media Witnesses: The concept of media witnesses is often used to illustrate the situation of today's media. The videos with sound and visuals allow the public to witness and experience the issues, even if they are not in the same town (Frosh and Pinchevski, 2009), so they know the crisis of the case. The public need not participate in the movement in order to witness the event. It follows that social media provide the public a platform to witness the total movement and to now the case who want to know through media witnesses. One example is the case of

Alpais Lam Wai-sze. She was angry at police officers for not stopping violent actions by the Hong Kong Youth Care Association, a pro-communist group, against Falun Gong. Her action was recorded and uploaded to social media. The case caused a series of various social actions by different political groups that could be reviewed completely by not only reading news reports but also viewing different recorded and uploaded videos through social media.

Citizen camera-witnessing: To further explain the concept of media witnesses, citizen camera-witnessing can illustrate the changes and effects of people using their own cameras to record issues and share them to different social media platforms. A good example in Hong Kong is the Social Records of Hong Kong (https://www.facebook.com/socrec/). In an era when everyone can take videos with their cameras, civic engagement is connected to the mobile camera-phone. Many key shots are taken by citizens but not by mass media (Anden-Papadopoulos and Pantti, 2013). Most importantly, these shots are not being taken casually; rather, they are dangerous, but citizens want to use these shots to show the truth to the public. Anden-Papadopoulos (2013) points out that the quality of the videos is not high and some shots are blurred; however, it enhances the trust of the public. In citizen camera-witnessing, the recorders are not only the observers; they also have the intention of drawing the attention of the public. Camera-witnessing can be shared to the internet easily using YouTube or Facebook; therefore, it generates more attention from the public, and these videos may also affect the reports of the mass media (Naim, 2007), like the Alpais Lam case did. As a result, civic engagement is now connected to the mobile camera-phone and social media, and it is a very powerful tool in social participation.

Limitation of social media in social participation: Some suggest that social media and new media cannot replace traditional media (Nguyuen 205). Social media only provide some sources and information for people from different perspectives, and they do not have much interaction, as it is difficult to have interaction between traditional media and social media. Also, social media may only be the source for traditional media in reporting. Social media provide information in addition to the mass media so citizens can analyse the issues from different perspectives. Some people still attach greater importance to traditional media. In 2013, the Chinese University of Hong Kong conducted a phone interview with 1500 persons, and 60% of respondents read news from traditional media every week. The conclusion is that social media must work with traditional media or mass media to generate a greater effect by receiving

information appropriately.

Research questions: Based on these illustrations, by studying the role of social media in the social movement, this paper investigates (1) how students use social media to facilitate people's participation and (2) the limitations of social media in students' political participation. The Hong Kong 'Umbrella movement' is investigated in this study while the case is happening in real time and is witnessed by the author.

METHODOLOGY

To learn more about how people use social media in social participation, interviews are used. Interviews are a way to provide more opportunities for respondents to express their ideas in their own way. In this study, semi-structured interviews are conducted. Some pre-set questions were asked to stimulate responses; however, the interviews were non-directive to avoid influencing the interviewees.

Interview Samples: In this study, five interviews are conducted with five students who participated in the social movement in Seoul that supported the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement. Three interviewees are from Hong Kong, one is from Korea and one is from Malaysia. Two Hong Kong students are the administrators and creators of the Facebook page while others have been participants at the events, so that the study can get opinions from the organisers of the application of social media and the participants who used social media to stay informed about this social movement. By interviewing different people who are using social media in different ways, the author can get more information about the event.

The first interviewee is Student A, a female who graduated in Hong Kong and continued her studies in Seoul. She is one of the creators and administrators of the Facebook page 'Political Reform Concerns Group of Hong Kong People in Korea' ('在韓港人政改關注組', 재한 홍콩인 정치개혁 관심 그룹), which is a public Facebook page to gather Hong Kong people who were in Seoul and provide information about the Umbrella Movement to the followers. She was also the organiser of the signature campaign at Gwanghwamun (光化門, 광화문), which was organised through social media and triggered the attention of the Korean mass media. During the interview, questions related to the role of social media from the

administrators' views were asked, for example, the reasons for creating the page, the uses of the page, the reaction to the pages observed etc. This interview helped the author to learn about the usage of social media in social participation, especially for those who did not stay in Hong Kong, and the role of administrators of these social media in social participation. Most importantly, the administrators could provide information about how people reacted on the page.

The second interviewee is student B, a female from Hong Kong. She worked in Seoul through a 'working holiday visa' in 2013–2014. She was also one of the creators of the Facebook page 'Political Reform Concerns Group of Hong Kong People in Korea', and she was the organiser of the signature campaign at Gwanghwamun. During the interview, similar questions as those posed to student A were asked to understand the role of social media in social participation from an administrator's perspective. This interview provided information about how people gathered, organised activities and gained international attention using social media as the preservative of the Facebook page creator.

The third interviewee is student C, a male from Hong Kong. He was an exchange student in Seoul during the Hong Kong 'Umbrella Movement'. He attached great importance to the movement and obtained information about the movement mainly through social media. He liked the page 'Political Reform Concerns Group of Hong Kong People in Korea' and attended the activities organised in Seoul to show his support for the movement. He witnessed the movement online when he was not in Hong Kong. During the interview, questions related to how social media facilitated his participation in the social movement were asked, for instance, how he obtained the information, reasons for 'Liking' those Facebook pages and the effect of social media on him, etc. This interview helps illustrate how students obtained information if they were not in Hong Kong as well as his feeling about the movement, since he could not obtain news reports from the traditional media of Hong Kong in Seoul and also the role of social media.

The fourth interviewee is student D, a Korean male. He was a university student, and he had great interest in the Umbrella Movement. He did not know Chinese; therefore, the only way for him to obtain information was by viewing other language versions of the news reports in Korean or English; otherwise he used dictionaries from his Hong Kong friends. Because of the

different languages, an in-person interview could not be conducted, so it was conducted through the social media application 'KaKaoTalk', which is the most famous social networking application. Student D replied to questions through the application. During the interview, questions related to how social media affected his understanding of the social movement were asked, for example, how he obtained the information and how he was affected by social media. This interview allowed the author to understand the role of social media in social participation for overseas people. Most importantly, this helped the author understand the effect of social media in drawing global attention.

The fifth interviewee is student E, who is a Malaysian exchange student. He did not know much about the affairs in China or Hong Kong, but the information shown on social media shocked him, so he tried to understand what was happening in Hong Kong through social media. He participated in the signature campaign organised by the Facebook page 'Political Reform Concerns Group of Hong Kong People in Korea'. During the interview, questions related to the effect of social media in the Umbrella Movement were asked, for instance, his reasons for 'Liking' the Facebook page, participating in the organised event and how he was affected by the social media, etc. This interview allowed us to understand the role of social media in social participation from the perspective of people from foreign countries. Also, how social media helped draw attention from around the globe could also be investigated.

Study Findings

Their responses to the issue: After the Occupy Movement emerged in Hong Kong and the police applied pepper spray and tear gas, the world focused on the Hong Kong social movement. Student A was a Hong Kong student in Seoul, and she thought that it was not acceptable. She stood for fighting for democracy and supporting from Seoul to trigger more attention around the globe. Student B said she would like to participate in the movement in Hong Kong but she could not, so she made her contribution in Seoul. They found that the Korean mass media were not reporting on the Hong Kong movement that day, and they simultaneously noticed the movement on Facebook, with their friends sharing posts so that they could see the videos showing what was actually occurring in Hong Kong during this period. They took actions to show their support to Hong Kong and to gather people in Seoul who wanted to bring more global attention to the issue. Just as student C noted that many videos were shared and provided

him a way to witness the truth even though Seoul's mass media were not reporting on the movement. He found social media providing more updated information. Student E, as a male student from Malaysia who studied International Relations, was shocked by the Hong Kong police. It was better to be speechless in Malaysia. He expressed that the videos impressed him a lot, and he thought that the digital recordings could show the truth about what happened, which could not be found on television. Student D as a Korean expressed that the mass media reports in Korea merely criticised the action of citizens and Facebook helped him to understand more about the movement in Hong Kong. He helped to share the post in Korean with the title 'Hong Kong needs attention of the globe' just as he read this article to learn more about the Umbrella Movement and to help share the information.

Background information of the Facebook page Political Reform Concerns Group of Hong Kong People in Korea: The Facebook page was made and was liked by 1,615 users on Facebook. According to the Facebook record, around 1500 users stated that they came from Hong Kong. Among these 1500 users, around 500 users stated that they were staying in Seoul during the Umbrella Movement. The page gathered people who were not in Hong Kong but concerned about the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement. The page provided the most immediate and latest information in Chinese, Korean and English for different users. Since most of the users stayed in Seoul and they met a lot of people from other countries, different versions of the information allowed them to explain the Umbrella Movement to other people to draw global attention, Korea in particular. Apart from providing information, the administrators also organised offline activities. A signature campaign on 1 October 2014 in Seoul was organised and promoted through social media. According to the Facebook record, the campaign was created and more than 300 users responded and clicked 'Going' within two days. On 1 October 2014, nearly 500 people participated in the gathering to support the Hong Kong Movement in Seoul, and the SSTV (Korea mass media) reported the activities. This Facebook page facilitated our understanding of the role of social media in social participation from two perspectives: administrators and ordinary users. Furthermore, the effects and limitations of social media in social participation can be investigated.

Effect of citizen camera-witnessing—allowing people to witness: Citizen camera-witnessing is applied to explain the participation of citizens in the social movement. According to Naim (2007), camera-witnessing can be shared to the Internet easily by different social networking

sites: YouTube and Facebook, which users from all around the world can access. Therefore, it generates more attention from the public and the world. According to students A, B and C, they could not watch news reports of the Hong Kong mass media in Seoul. They obtained information and news from Facebook; for example, the shared posts from other friends and other Facebook pages. They could witness the social movement through online viewing. According to Anden-Papadopoulos and Pantti (2011), civic engagement is connected to mobile camera-witnessing. Citizens record dissident activities to promote their political ideas and views. The videos allow views to experience the dissident activities, and it is much easier to trigger a passion for the views because citizens, not news reporters, take the videos, and other people tend to believe in these sources more than other media. It is a powerful tool and way to utilise social participation. They have the intent to record the dissident activities and show them to the world and allow them to witness dissident activities of the social movement. Social media should by no means be the best platform for them to share the screen and process of the movement since the audiences of these social networking sites not limited by the nations. Users from all around the world could also witness the social movement. Moreover, it triggered the attention of many Hong Kong people, and most of them had the intention of recording the social movement so that thousands of videos were uploaded to these social networking sites. Citizens could also provide sources and be the media in the social participation. Apart from that, it is mentioned that the witness allows people to connect and become common witnesses. This can help people experience the issues and share their emotions and encumbrances with other people.

Changed the initiation of social movements: Political parties are not the only ones to initiate social movements; every one of us can also initiate social movements. In the past, political parties facilitated social movements in Hong Kong, and they encouraged citizens to follow, support and also get involved in social movements. This is not the case in society today. Citizens rely less on political parties and initiate their opinions and the internet social movement by themselves. The licencing issue of the Hong Kong Television (HKTV) Network is an example: Five days after the government's rejection of HKTV's television licence application, crowds of protesters (an estimated 80,000) in black T-shirts marched to request the government issue the licence and demand an explanation by the Facebook's calling with 500 thousand "likes". Citizens will find whether the existing political parties represent their views

or not. It follows that these people can initiate their ideas or own social movements according to their own political views. Interviewees A and B were notable examples of this. They wanted to do something for Hong Kong, and they knew the Hong Kong people essentially do not organise events for foreign countries people, so they created the Facebook page and organised events in Seoul on social media. It follows that people who do not have a political background can also initiate social movements by using a social media platform, where they can launch and promote social movements.

Gathering people with similar political views: Social media should be by no means be the main place for people to express their political views today. Political issues are quite sensitive, and some people find that it is more comfortable to voice opinions on the internet. To obtain the information in which users are interested, the best thing to do is to 'Like' and 'Follow' those Facebook pages. These social media sites become a great place to gather people with similar political views, and some people may then organise a social movement in an attempt to further efforts. The 'Group' and 'Page' in Facebook gather people with the same or similar political views together. Facebook serves as a place for gradual political activity. The interviewees mentioned that they had a few Hong Kong friends who were not in Hong Kong, and they wanted to gather them to contribute to the movement. This was also the reason they created the Facebook page. The Facebook record of the page said that more than 1500 users came from Hong Kong. Interviewees also mentioned that most of the Hong Kong exchange students in Seoul shared the page and each of them had 'liked' the page. The interviewees received more than 250 messages from followers asking if they could help by telling them what kind of help they could offer, for example, donations or translation. When people do not agree with the mass media, they express their own views on different social media platforms. For those who do not have strong political opinions, they search on social media to find a Facebook page or YouTube channel that shares similar political views and related issues as them. They would like to get the information from those pages or channels. After gathering people with similar political views, they can share and exchange their opinions and the pages then become a main source for information related to social events.

People's behaviours changed—offline participation to online participation: Social media and different social networking sites are ways for people to participate in social movements. Critics call them 'keyboard fighters' if they only participate online and but participate at "Office" or

at "Home". However, people do not limit themselves to the internet online. Some netizens would participate 'Offline', which means they would come out to participate in person, or even organise social campaigns by using social media. Netizens are active on the Internet, and they participate in the social movement through different reactions immediately online. As mentioned above, people who do not have a political background can also initiate social campaigns by using the internet and different social media platforms. Social media are not designed for political issues; designers could never imagine social media that could be used in social participation. Political parties are not the only groups to organise social campaigns; anyone can initiate them. During the interviews, the two administrators of the Facebook page shared that many users would like to share their concerns and draw more attention. Also, that is the only page concerning the 'Umbrella Movement' in Korea. Many users would like to enhance their power; therefore, they decided to organise a signature campaign on 1 October 2014 in Seoul. They said apart from inviting people to join individually, the best way to inform people was to create an 'Event' on Facebook to ask for participants. The details were published and more than 300 users clicked 'going' within two days of the event's creation. Interviewees A and B said: 'We roughly counted the number of participants, there were around 300. Each participant had signed and told us why they know about our campaign. More than 200 participants mentioned they were notified by the Facebook event'. Social media allowed netizens to participate in the social movement in two ways: organisation and participation. For organisers, social media are an efficient way to call for people to participate or to promote the campaign since Facebook pages already have gathered targeted users. For participation, 'keyboard fighters do not limit themselves to the internet. Social media provide a way for them to get information about different social campaigns. If the campaign shares the same views or aims, the netizens would then participate.

Drawing attention from the globe in a social movement: Everyone in the world can be the media through different social networking websites. Every action there could influence other people. In the era of globalsation, the border between nations is even more blurred. With the diffusion of social networking sites and social media, every issue could easily draw global attention. Interviewee D, who is a Korean, said that he did not know much about Hong Kong and updated the news through social media. Facebook and YouTube were his main source of information. The mass media in Korea were bias, and they only reported news that supported

Beijing. Another interviewee, student E, said that he also understood the issue through social media, and he participated in the signature campaign to show his support for Hong Kong. Many people did not have clear ideas of the issues related to Hong Kong and Mainland China. Social media were then their main source of news. There was no doubt that social media provided information to different users from all around the world. Facebook pages provided different languages so many people could understand the issue. Most importantly, reporters from other countries might not have a good understanding about the issues, and the news might have bias or be unclear. According to the Facebook page: 'Interviewees who come from other countries mentioned that the pages: Political Reform Concerns Group of Hong Kong People in Korea provided news in different language versions, for instance, Korean, English and simplified Chinese. Korean people said it was much easier for them to understand the issue in their mother languages and it was much easier for them to share the ideas with their friends'. The administrators of the page said there was more 30 foreign people who came on the campaign and worked as helpers and explained the Hong Kong issue to other people. Most of them shared the post on their own Facebook page to spread the issue of the Occupy Movement in Hong Kong, bringing more attention to it. Since the 'event' was shared by Korean people online, the SSTV, Korea media, also reported the signature campaign and included the details of the campaign for Koreans. During the day, Korean media also came and reported on the campaign to draw attention of the Korean society.

Limitation of social media in social participation: It has been mentioned that social media cannot replace traditional media. The Chinese University of Hong Kong conducted interviews in 2013 of 1000 Hong Kong citizens, with 60 percent of Hong Kong citizens reading a newspaper or the free newspaper and 40 percent reading news from social media through mobile phones or computer. Therefore, the majority of Hong Kong citizens still stuck with the traditional media to obtain information. It was what new media could not replace the traditional media. Mass media are always the focus of society, and they have a strong foothold as many people still rely on the traditional mass media in Hong Kong. According to interviewee D, who is Korean, the Korean people did not know what was happening in Hong Kong. They noticed only because of the biased report of the mass media in Korea. However, for those who had Hong Kong people as 'Friends' on Facebook or in real life, they were aware of the issues because of the shared posts on Facebook and conservations with people from Hong Kong.

Another interviewee, student E, who is a Malaysian, stayed in Seoul and also noticed the 'Umbrella Movement' through the report of the mass media upon his not understanding whether the message was biased or not. Social media are like supplements in the media industry and they provide another source of information for the public but from different perspectives.

Regarding the influences of social media, they do provide a new platform for people to voice their own opinions and even to organise political activities. However, there is another concern about the influences of social media. Does it really matter on the social participation? Not every comment online matters. Only a part of the opinions would be attached greater importance on, in the meantime the effect of these opinions on social media in social participation is limited. During the interviews, students A and B said their page mattered more to the people in Korea because most of the users were exchange students or had internships in Seoul. These students had relatively more friends from other countries and other Hong Kong friends in Seoul. When they shared the post, the news could be spread quickly among their communities. Students A and B also pointed out that the effect of the page also mattered to the users of the page. If all the readers were from Hong Kong only, the mass media would not notice the page and would not report the signature campaign. It follows that the influences of social media are limited to the number of 'Friends' you have or the number of 'Likes' you get on the page. It is in what extent of the networking is. The more 'Friends' and 'Likes' you have, the more influences you have. New media require people to browse actively. The opinions of supporting or not supporting may trigger another 'fight' on the social media platform. It is just like social networking and it matters more for the page who has more viewers.

DISCUSSION

Global effects of social media in social participation: From the above case study and the findings of the research, social media facilitated a local social movement even though the people were not in Hong Kong. They could also participate in it. There are other global effects of social media in social participation. The case mentioned above showed how people from Hong Kong who were not in Hong Kong used social media to witness and participate in the social movement of Hong Kong. In many cases, social media can also urge global participation in a local social movement. In the case of the 'Umbrella Movement', other people also used

social media to ask for help from around the globe. There was a petition to the White House to ask President Obama to respond, and there were more than 130,000 signatures. This was spread through social media and more than 10,000 people shared to asked their friends to sign as well. Apart from the 'Umbrella Movement', the case of Lee Bo" could also illustrate. A Hong Kong bookseller named Lee Bo, who published books that were critical of the Beijing government, suddenly went missing. Student activist Anges Chow of Scholarism posted a video on Facebook and YouTube in English to draw international attention. The video explained that the purpose of the video was to raise global awareness and spread word about the missing bookseller. The video was viewed by more than one million people and shared by more than 13,000 users. International media like the British Broadcasting Corporation and the *New York Times* reported on it. Among the nearly 1000 comments, there was much support and many comments from people from other countries, including France, Korea, Japan, the USA and the United Kingdom. It attracted international attention successfully. Social media can be used in two ways: allow overseas Hong Kong people to participate and draw international attention.

Financial pressure and political pressure of social media and new media: Financial pressure is always one of the decisive factors in new media. There is not doubt that people give opinions on the issues or report from different perspectives, but they may have to suffer from the financial pressure. For this new media in social media platforms, the main revenue is advertisements or other financial support from investors or supporters. Once they lost the financial supports or the revenues, they could not continue to operate. The case of 'House News' (主場新聞) illustrates the importance of financial support in Hong Kong. They closed the page and websites in 2014 because they lacked operating capital and were politically pressure. Individual users are also under political pressure. Although they voice their own opinions on the internet, their political stance affects them in the real life. For example, most people may delete most of the political posts on Facebook when they are job hunting. Also, some people open another account or use another name to hide their identity because it affects their workplace. The internet is not a utopia, and it is not a platform with complete fairness. Schradie (2011) stated that economic status could affect the usage of the internet and also the content. Citizen camera-witnessing and the development of technology will bring changes and surprises to the world. In the meantime, the government will monitor and apply more pressure to the public in using internet and modern technology.

CONCLUSION

All in all, social media nowadays are one of the most common ways for people to obtain the latest information, political information in particular. With the diffusion of different social networking sites, its power is getting stronger and this enhances the effect of social media on social participation. The case 'Umbrella Movement' is a great illustration on the influence of social media and how they could function in the social movement. Most importantly, social media introduce the concept of citizen camera-witnessing to record and monitor the movement, allowing people to witness the dissident activities to trigger their anger or sympathy and to encourage people to participate or draw the attention of the public and the globe. Although using social media is a new trend in social participation, the influences and limitations are concerns. Mass media still dominate the markets; social media complement the flow of information and provide more information from different perspectives. However, social media are going to have a more key role and it is going to be a more powerful weapon in social participation.

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