

Abstract

The use of hate speech on social media has been increasing worldwide. Some countries have developed their specific legislation to regulate social media users and platform operators. This article, based on recent observations of the use of hate speech on social media in Hong Kong, explores the issue of hate speech on social media during the period from May 2018 to April 2020, during which there were major social and political events in Hong Kong. Study 1 examines comments in a total of 30 posts by the Hong Kong government on its Facebook page at different time points. A count was conducted on the number of offensive comments and different types of responses from other users. Study 2 consists an online survey to capture Hong Kong social media users' ($N = 234$) attitude towards online hate speech and their observations about recent social media platform usage. This article also discusses possible policy options in respect of hate speech and way forward.

Keywords: Hate speech, offensive, online, social media, Hong Kong.