Research on Unfriendly Comments Against Women on China’s Microblog -- Taking Tangshan Hitting Event as An Example

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Abstract. Women’s rights have been a hot topic for most people in recent years. It has aroused the attention of people from all walks of life in the society. This thesis focuses on the in-depth discussion of women's rights. This paper takes Tangshan beating incident as an example to discuss and analyze its fundamental problems and reasons in depth. This study employs mixed methods combines both qualitative methods and quantitative methods. The participants in this study were participating discussants on related superwordname on Weibo. The study will retrieve the keywords in their sentence on Weibo so as to obtain the views of different groups on the Tangshan beating incident, such as influencers in Weibo, disadvantaged groups, college students. The study focus on their views on social security and gender issues, and it enables participants to have a clear cognition of the public opinion on the Tangshan beating incident. These methodologies will make the paper get the opinions of different groups on the Tangshan beating incident, so as to help the researchers analyze the differences and reasons of social public opinion environment. The problem of females' weak position remains unsolved because women are still trapped in the stereotype made by men, over which also being widely spread through the information exchange mechanism of network: classic features like gentle, thoughtful and obedient are what thought to define “a good woman”. Participants use an incidence happened in Tang Mountain to start a study. The purpose of the study is to trace the presented fact back to its origin of biases, hopefully contributing to the development of strategies that help build a more equal and inclusive network environment. All these studies and research help people realize the reality of females’ situation on the Internet and how they are affected by the guide of media.

Keywords: Women, Prejudice, Internet, Stereotype.

1. Introduction

Weibo is a kind of broadcast social media and network platform based on user relationship information sharing, dissemination and acquisition to share short real-time information through the following mechanism. Weibo allows users to access it through Web, Mail, App, IM, SMS, PC, mobile phone and other mobile terminals, and realize instant information sharing, communication and interaction in the form of text, pictures, videos and other multimedia. It realizes the holographic release mode, and truly realizes the release and reception of information anytime and anywhere [1].

On March 06, 2017, NBA China and Weibo announced that Weibo became the official social media platform of NBA China. With more than 300 million active users on Weibo, the two sides will jointly launch short real-time videos of NBA games, game highlights, original programs and a wealth of interactive products. On June 14, 2017, Weibo, Miaopai, Wanhe Tianyi, Tao Meng and other MCN institutions reached a strategic MCN cooperation based on miniseries and micro variety short videos and established the "Creator Alliance" [2].

In June 2021, Weibo had 566 million monthly active users and 246 million average daily active users. On June 1, 2022, Weibo released its financial results for the first quarter of 2022. Weibo's net revenue for the first quarter was $484 million, compared with the estimated $472 million; First-quarter adjusted earnings per share of $0.56, compared to estimates of $0.46; Adjusted EBITDA for the first quarter was $153.1 million, compared with estimates of $123 million [3].
In this famous application, a serious incident was posted on Weibo, which attracted the attention of many people. It happened at 2 a.m. on 10th of June in 2022 in a barbecue restaurant from Lubei District, Tangshan City, Hebei Province. When the incidence was posted on Weibo, it aroused a lot of people's concern and discussion [4]. Wang and other four victims met to eat at the barbecue restaurant. At this time, Chen Mou Zhi and a number of people and four provincial personnel for plotting to carry out gambling illegal crimes also came to the store to dine and drink. The victim said Chen was dressed in green. He came in. Then the victim did not know what Chen Mou Zhi said on the bar. And then he came back and touched the victim. The victim wouldn't let him touch her, and he slapped her. The Public video shows Chen and others hitting the four victims with chairs and wine bottles after they were rebuffed and reprimanded. Since then, Chen Mou Zhi and others dragged the victim to the grill outside the sidewalk to continue to beat, in the face of the suspect's continued violence, the victim ran into the grill next to the alley. The alley, which measures 11.6 meters long and 7.3 meters wide, is a blind spot for public videos, leading to multiple rumors online. Some reporters guessed that 4 victims were sexually assaulted in the alley, dropped from the upstairs, run over by a car and other content. However, after interrogating the victim, interrogating the criminal suspect, and comprehensive scene investigation, and evidence collection, these guesses are all fabricated false information. Langfang public security organ task force police Su Fan said that Chen Mou Zhi continued to beat the victim in the alley, after out of the alley. From the first suspect Chen Liang went into the alley, to the last suspect Shen Jun got out of the alley, the process lasted about 1 minute and 41 seconds.

After the murder that night, four victims were taken to the hospital by 120 ambulances. Among them, two victims with minor injuries were checked by the hospital and left without needing to be kept in the hospital for treatment. The two victims with serious injuries were hospitalized and released July 1. By the Ministry of Justice forensic identification of the scientific research Institute, the victim Wang Mou, Liu Mou for minor injury level two, Li Mou, far for minor injury. On June 11, under the unified command of the Ministry of Public Security, police in Hebei and Jiangsu provinces arrested Chen Mouzhi and nine other suspects. The Tangshan incident was once a hot search on Weibo. A Weibo post on the final trial of the Tangshan incident, published by CCTV News, had 1.31 million likes and almost 130,000 retweets.

Many people have spoken up for the Tangshan incident, but there have always been negative comments. Some comments say that girls should not eat out at midnight, and some think that girls are harassed by others because they dress inappropriately. Some people even think the girls don't need to react so dramatically [5]. In many previous cases involving women, there were those who felt that the girl who was being harassed had brought it on herself. They always have very high standards for girls.

2. Literature Review

With the rise of feminist consciousness online in China, many scholars have carried out research on the subject around females’ present situation under new media, in particular though the major social platform in China - Weibo. In H. Y. Wang’s research, she analyzes that feature of Weibo - common, fragmented and personalized - allowed the arousal of feminism on the social platform and voices of female being heard but failed to provide a stable protection for the group [6]. While in the investigation made by X. H. Shao, she points out that although the platform provided by Weibo help variegate women’s images and voices, it does not change the situation that the dominant voice in new media is held in the hand of men [7]. The problem of females’ weak position remains unsolved because women are still trapped in the stereotype made by men, over which also being widely spread through the information exchange mechanism of network; classic features like gentle, thoughtful and obedient are what thought to define “a good woman”, while individuals contrast with that are accused of undignified and not loving herself. Women have always contributed to the life and economic development of their countries, often in activities not recognized as economic, but they are excluded
from processes of institutionalization and their presence is very rare at the highest levels of the social hierarchy. Women organized themselves and participated in the liberation movements of India, Malaysia, Libya, and Egypt, but were later relegated to their customary low status. Among the structural and ideological factors impeding access of women to political power and a true social status are cultural nationalism and religious ideology [8].

In addition, J. Shi finds that media on Weibo selectively report information about cases, leading the public focus on the female victims instead of the case itself [9]. Supporting this with actual data, X. Z. Zhang’s examines 152 news with female victims and discovers that despite the changing in narrative perspectives, their contents tend to present features about sexual attraction on female victims distinctly. Reports pay attention to the description of victims’ appearances, ages and social status. This kind of news incline to narrate in a “inverted pyramid structure” that convey messages mainly focus on the fact instead of the deeper origin [10]. Such reports and comments often raise guesses and criticism among the public, thus bringing secondary injuries to victims as well as their family. Researchers find that these new media often encroach female victims on unrelated personal information. As a result, this often inadvertently strengthens the idea of “blaming the victims”, like “women suffering from sexual harassment because they are scantily clad” [11].

All these studies and research help people realize the reality of females’ situation on the Internet and how they are affected by the guide of media. However, it lacks a study that focus directly on one of the largest social platforms in China, Weibo. Due to its enormous community and users, Weibo plays a key role in presenting the typical conflict between patriarchy and feminism. The beating case in Tangshan, being one of the most representative cases recently, consequently works as a clear starting point for the study to dig into the problems about women on China’s social media. The purpose of the study is tracing the presented fact back to its origin of biases, hopefully contributing to the development of strategies that help build a more equal and inclusive network environment. To achieve the goal, it is valuable for the research to study unfriendly comments against females on Weibo through the beating case in Tangshan.

3. Methodology

Firstly, the paper will investigate this topic on the basis of positivism. Then it will present the methods of research, including existing data, participant observation and interviews. Next, researchers will talk about how to analyze and use the data. Finally, the study will discuss some key ethical issues.

This study employs mixed methods combines both qualitative methods and quantitative methods. The qualitative method helps understand the basics of this event, meanwhile, the quantitative method provides a different type of view that using data science methods to transform data into examples and facts. The rationale for combining two methods is to maximize the chance that the data captures the complexities of the circumstances. These methods are more suitable for the comprehensive study of social problems, especially for the complex social problem like the Tangshan beating incident.

The participants in this study were participating discussants on related super word name on Weibo, the overall conditions for selecting the participants were that: (a) they each expressed their views on gender issues, (b) the interactive quantity of their published content has reached a certain amount, (c) they come from different ages, from all parts of China and from all walks of life, (d) they should have the ability to expressed their views on gender issues.

The study will retrieve the keywords in their sentence on Weibo so as to obtain the views of different groups on the Tangshan beating incident, such as influencers in Weibo, disadvantaged groups, college students. After the data is available, the paper will interview individuals who have the characteristics of these groups on Weibo. The study focuses on their views on social security and gender issues, and it enables people to have a clear cognition of the public opinion on the Tangshan beating incident. In this research, the participants will take part voluntarily and are informed of the research aim and objectives. All personal details of participants will be kept in privacy be stored
separately from the findings and will not be disclosed within the dissertation. The research is not for commercial use. These methodologies will make the paper get the opinions of different groups on the Tangshan beating incident, so as to help the researchers analyze the differences and reasons of social public opinion environment.

4. Results

The first result that the researcher found is the stereotyped thinking about women. Many men believe that women are inherently weak and need protection from men [12]. Therefore, women must keep their place and follow men's instructions in order to be protected. In this case, the women who went out at night and wore explicit clothing violated men's stereotypes of women as safe and secure. This led to a nasty comment in the comments section.

The second result that the researcher found is the moral level of blame. In the Tangshan incident, the four victim girls went to the barbecue at midnight to drink. Some people think it is morally wrong to be out drinking beer in the middle of the night. Technically they think these girls deserve what they get. On Weibo, a netizen commented that a girl deserves to be beaten for drinking in the middle of the night. Although most people refuted the netizen's views, some netizens still agreed with him [13].

The third result that the researcher found is that the girls are not fighting back the right way. In the surveillance video, when the prisoner came to harass the girls, they pushed them away and swore. Some netizens feel that women should not say dirty words to men, which is insulting to them. Not to mention the thugs who did it. It is normal for a man to get angry because of a woman's verbal aggression. While it is wrong for them to hit people, there is something wrong with the victims.

The fourth result that the researcher found is the proportion of violence in sexist remarks is increased. On Weibo, the proportion of violence in sexist remarks is going up after Tangshan beating incident. Physical violence stimulates online talk, physical threats against women have replaced the insult [14]. A large number of sexists have been encouraged and claimed that they will attack women in real life. This change has exacerbated gender divisions and created panic among women.

5. Discussion

The stereotyped thinking about women exists mostly because some people are too traditional and inflexible. In the past, especially before women and men had equal rights, the presence of women was always very small. They can only be housewives at home because they have no right to work or go to school. Even now, women in some small towns do not have the same equal rights as men. Some men even think that women are tools for reproduction. And these are ideas that have been around for at least a thousand years. Those women may be abused by the opposite sex because of their unequal human rights. Even some families that look down on women will force their girls to marry bad families to fend off disasters. But now, there are many excellent women standing in this world, and they prove that they are worthy of equal rights with others. Therefore, if people see such discriminatory remarks against women on the Internet, the best way is to bring them back to reality. It is not suitable to let their ideas to remain in the feudal period. Netizens can introduce excellent women to them, which is enough to refute and warn them that women have enough freedom to do anything that does not exceed the law at any time since they have the ability to protect themselves.

As for the second result, the netizens who say these words are discriminating against women. But the theme of discrimination is based on morality. From childhood to adulthood, people have been taught that it is wrong to smoke and drink, and that it is not allowed to stay at night. Therefore, netizens saw that the victims came out to drink in the middle of the night and were beaten for their own fault. But in today's world, many men have made the same "mistakes" as these victims many times. They are not only not criticized, but even praised sometimes. This is to restrict women's freedom and rights. In today's enlightened society, women should not be accused of doing anything that does not exceed the law. This is to restrict women's freedom and rights. In today's enlightened
society, women should not be accused of doing anything that does not exceed the law. Netizens can compare the same thing that men and women do and put it into public service advertisements. This will help netizens correct the attitude that men and women are equal.

Some people think that the girls are not fighting back the right way. It is normal for comments like this to appear on the Internet. These netizens never think from their own point of view. In the video, for example, it is the victim's natural instinct to fight back and swear because they are being harassed. These netizens are not thinking from their point of view. Therefore, they only condemn others from God's point of view. The worst effect of this problem is that netizens will gradually ignore the acute reactions and feelings of others. In this way, more people's acute responses to a crisis will only be seen as bad practices that are offensive to others. This has led to netizens gradually finding something wrong with what the victim has done. As a result, there will no longer be a majority of online voices and advocates for victims. For this kind of problem, this paper thinks that the same as the other people can be a little bit. Netizens can remind these people to put themselves in the place of the victim.

The change comes as the incident reinforces gender stereotypes. More and more people trust that men are physically superior to women, so they can do whatever they want to women in fights. But this recognition is backward, and it will hinder the process of modernization in civilized society. This threat from the real life will make the conflict between the sexes more and more serious. From this point of view, the impact of the Tangshan beating incident is irreversible. To make up for the impact of the Tangshan beating incident, the government should publicize the punishment of prisoners to the public through the law, so as to correct the negative effect of the event on public perception.

6. Conclusion

In general, this paper uses the violent beating of women in Tangshan to carefully study the unfair comments of some extreme netizens on women on the Internet. Through investigation and research, researchers have summarized the reasons why 4-5 netizens have unequal ideas about women. This paper hopes to solve the problem by studying the causes and giving methods. This will bring a more equal and friendly Internet environment. Among many survey results, it is common to see that men have an inherent image of women. If what women do in reality is not consistent with their impression, it is that they are doing something wrong. For example, in the eyes of most men, women should dress conservatively, stay at home every day to take care of children and do housework, so that their husbands can work seriously without worries. But most modern women are no longer the same as before. They all have independent ideas of the new era. Women can also work outside with men. They do not have to rely on men anymore. Therefore, they should not be attacked by unfair opinions on the Internet. There are many ways to solve this concept. The government can do some public service advertisements about stopping gender discrimination. In this way, more people can understand the concept of gender discrimination. Such extreme comments will be greatly reduced in the future.

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