The Importance of Citizen Journalism for Youth

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Abstract—**Citizen Journalism is a new breakthrough in the field of journalism, which is growing rapidly and its existence is felt thanks to advances in information and communication technology called the internet. The internet is able to present a sharing space in cyberspace. For example, through weblogs (commonly abbreviated as blogs), a type of web that can contain many things ranging from writings, diaries, videos, comments, or information on certain topics, such as politics, criticizing government policies, regional news, hobbies, invitations, stories. Everyday life, and so on. Not only through blogs, but also various social media. Not only web blogs and social media, other media also take advantage of citizen journalism to complement their news. Radio, television, and print media also get information from listeners, viewers and their readers through audio recordings of residents, amateur videos captured from simple cellphones, or comments and descriptions of the scene around residents like a reporter or journalist. Moreover, now the number of online mass media has also increased in addition to the existence of conventional print media which also converts to online print media. In essence, citizen journalism causes citizens to become people who actively participate in sharing public information that deserves to be known by many people.**

Keywords—youth, citizen journalism

I. INTRODUCTION

"Deretan Spanduk Jualan Super Kocak" is one of the news titles sent by citizen to liputan6.com. In this news, it tells that every trader has their own way to promote their wares. One of the most common ways is to make banners. With super sale banner. It is hoped that the ending will attack potential buyer's curiosity. Like one bellow.

Fig. 1. The amusing banner.

This amusing banner is something that is considered interesting to be conveyed or informed to many parties. Therefore, Camelia, one of the residents, managed to capture these banners and then wrote a news report accompanied by a picture to prove that the banners existed. Camelia chose liputan6.com to load her story. This news even was awarded as top3 citizen6 that day [1].

Not only online news portals but also, one of the programs on TV 7 also featured similar program entitled "Warga +62". This event accommodates various forms of humorous activities typical of the Indonesian population as well as the creativity of Indonesian netizens. "Warga +62" also compiles direct material submitted by viewers, accommodates various forms of humorous activities typical of the Indonesian population, as well as the creativity of Indonesian netizens. "Warga +62" in addition to compiling audience-submitted material, it also obtains material from trending content on social media. Viewers can be made to laugh with various funny events that can happen around us and have never been known before.

Those above are some examples of the results of citizen journalism which have been increasingly used to tell what is happening around them. The increasing number of mass and non-mass media provides opportunities for non-journalists to fill out or participate in sharing information.

The development of internet technology in human life has made very fast changes. Internet technology is able to present abundant information both in terms of quantity, delivery format, and variety of sources. Especially now that it is easier for people to access the internet. Of course, this condition is very beneficial for internet users, because they can choose the desired source of information. Finally, the way people consume information changes.

People can take advantage of the abundance of information in different ways. There are those who seek various sources of information so that the desired information becomes more complete, there are those whose curiosity is increasing and they try various formats of delivery. Finally, more and more people want to try to enter the world of journalism, by sharing whatever they know through the internet. With the help of the internet and the existence of media that can support their wishes, they began to share information in various online media. This became known as citizen journalism.

In Indonesia, citizen journalism has developed in various forms. Citizen Journalism can exist on TV, radio, print media and online media. For television media, for example, citizen Journalism, which is considered the earliest and greatest when the tsunami disaster in Aceh on December 26, 2004 was successfully captured by the residents there. This incident is then considered to be the beginning of Citizen Journalism growing. Amateur videos have succeeded in describing the situation and conditions at the beginning of the tsunami disaster in Aceh, because the tsunami was not recorded by professional journalists' cameras. In addition to videos that capture disasters, now various interesting events can be photographed or recorded and then shared by residents through various media. This includes several TV shows that collect various citizen videos to be broadcast, such as "Warga +62" program on transTV.

Not only through television, radio, we can also meet people who suddenly become "impromptu" reporters for other media platforms. All listeners can report events happening around them. One of them is a citizen journalism program on Elshinta radio or PR FM Bandung radio while in print media, one of citizen journalism can be found in well-known daily newspapers such as one of the daily newspapers in Bandung which provides a place to accommodate articles written by practitioners or ordinary citizens.

The development of citizen journalism in Indonesia has attracted the attention of the community service team Faculty communication science to develop youth, journalism skills. Teenagers are an asset for the future of the nation, they should have the ability to write, gather correct information and sort out facts that are worth sharing. Especially nowadays where the internet allows everyone to share information. Therefore, this "training" was carried out.

II. METHODS

Community service activities were carried out at Youth Organizations "Karang Taruna" in Desa Lamajang, kecamatan Pangalengan, Kabupaten Bandung, Province Jawa Barat, and Indonesia to 28 youth who are interested in citizen journalism. Then 8 creative media groups were formed for continued assistance. The series of activities provided related to this citizen journalism training are:

- Delivery of material by resource persons. The material relates to understanding communication and mass communication as an industry, understanding citizen journalism, and photojournalism. From this material, participants are expected to understand that communication using mass media or online media that can be consumed by many people has a greater effect than interpersonal communication or communication between humans that runs directly and is limited. So they should be able to consider what they write is good communication, correct and suitable for consumption by many people.

- The next activity is a discussion conducted to develop the participants' abilities, deepen their understanding of the training material. An open discussion and equipped with practical examples are expected to facilitate participants' understanding.

- The practice of citizen journalism was the most enthusiastic activity that the participants participated in. practical activities provide participants with direct experience in carrying out journalism activities in the form of collecting news and photos. Practice is carried out with guidance from the community service team.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned in the introduction that Citizen Journalism is increasingly practiced worldwide due to the expansion of the Internet, new media technologies, and social media platforms [2]. To understand citizen journalism, first understand what journalism is.

A. *The Existence of Citizens Journalism in Various Countries*

Not only in Indonesia, Citizen Journalism in some countries grow fast too. For example, people express concern about various events that are around them, such as disputes in the South China Sea, hostilities in Saudi Arabia and others. In the United States, since the September 11 WTC explosion case, Citizen Journalism has been increasingly felt. More and more people feel the need to show concerns, express opinions and share various events that need to be known by many people who cannot use mainstream media or conventional media, so they need other media to channel them. The following are some community journalism websites (the result of Citizen Journalism) where they contain trusted information from citizens outside the mainstream media or conventional media. The results of the writings of citizens outside of professional journalists. They can share information with the whole world. For example the citizen journalism web site CNN iReport. CNN iReport may sound mainstream because of its name, and yes, it is a mainstream platform, but it is a community that allows an ordinary citizen to join discussions. The contents contributed by citizen journalists remain unedited when published, and the advantage of this platform is that CNN is still monitoring the materials that's why there is a chance that they may feature them on mainstream media). In addition there is also Wikinews. Wikinews is from the famous Wikipedia. It encourages content from citizen journalists, treating each one as a news story rather than an article. There is also a public Now web. Now Public is another successful citizen journalism website with about 5 million readers per month. It encourages content contributions from all over the world, covering issues about technology, nature, health, and many more [3].

South Korea also has a Web site that accommodates many articles from citizen journalism, namely the website OhmyNews. Starting from looking at the influence of participatory media on the OhmyNews Web site during the 2002 presidential election, which came from citizen

discussions. This discussion shows the many phenomena of citizen journalism and the importance of an independent media to democracy. Finally it continues until now. The OhmyNews web site is a pioneer in South Korea for this type of online journalism, which involves ordinary citizens as unpaid reporters, with technology that allows citizens to participate not only as reporters but also to comment on news, debate and discuss issues that are impossible in the mass media traditional. Not only that, even the OhmyNews Web site for creating a successful model with citizens as journalists and involving them like professional editors to filter the content on the website [4].

Those are some depictions of citizen journalism in Indonesia and several other countries, to see more deeply what citizen journalism is, we must first understand what journalism is.

B. Journalism

The term journalism also contains the meaning as an art and/or skill in finding, collecting, processing, and presenting information in the form of news beautifully so that it can be interested and enjoyed, so that it is useful for all the needs of the public's social life [5].

Furthermore, the definition or definition of journalism will be presented, firstly the definition of journalism according to Kustadi Suhandang is the art and skill of searching, collecting, processing, compiling, and presenting news about events that occur a day. A beautiful day, in order to fulfill all the needs of the conscience of the audience, so that there is a change in the attitudes, nature, opinions, and behavior of the audience in accordance with the wishes of the journalists [6]. While the second definition is conveyed by AW Widjaja which states that journalism is a communication activity carried out by broadcasting news or reviews about various actual and factual daily events or events in the shortest possible time [7].

Journalism is an applied science that is dynamic and continues to develop in accordance with the development of information technology, communication and the dynamics of society itself. Practically, journalism is the process of making news (news processing) and disseminating it through mass media [5].

Regarding news as a journalistic product, it can be classified into three major groups, namely: news, non-news, and photojournalism. Those included in the news group are straight news, interpreted news, in-depth news, and so on. The non-news group consists of articles, features, editorials, corners, caricatures, and letters from readers. Meanwhile, photojournalism is divided into news photos and human interest photos [8].

Furthermore, in his book Wahjuwibowo explains the difference between news and non-news. The difference between the two lies in how to express the facts. On the news, facts are expressed as they are because they are holy and pure. Even if there is an opinion, then there needs to be a clear

distinction between fact and opinion in the news that is made. Meanwhile, in non-news, the facts are delivered after being processed by the mind of the writer. So, what is contained in a non-news product is actually the author's opinion on the facts.

News is an event report that has news values – actual, factual, important, and interesting. The value of this news should be understood by people who will process, compile and present the news. The following is an explanation of news values, namely: 1. Fast, or actual or timely. This means that the events or information to be presented as news are actual events. News is an event report that makes people who did not know the event. 2. Real (factual), namely information about a fact (fact), not fiction or essay. Facts can consist of real events, real opinions, and real statements from news sources. 3. Important, meaning that it concerns the interests of many people. For example, events that will affect people's lives at large, or are considered necessary to be known and informed to the public such as new government policies, price increases, and so on. 4. Interesting, meaning to invite people to read the news that we write. News that usually attracts the attention of readers, besides being actual and factual and involving the interests of many people, news can also be entertaining, containing oddities or oddities, or "human interest" news (touching emotions, stirring feelings). With this explanation, a person who wants to write news must be able to distinguish which events have news value and which do not contain news value elements [9].

C. Citizen Journalism

The development of online journalism is currently very rapid due to the development and advancement of internet technology. The characteristics of online journalism include the speed of presentation, real time -- published immediately when the event is taking place, interactive, and enriched with links or links to related information. Online journalism and conventional journalism are indeed journalism that has very basic differences, both from the media used, the actors or workers in it, to the preparation and appearance of the messages which are also different, but both have their own advantages and disadvantages. This progress then gave rise to the latest breakthrough in the realm of journalism, namely citizen journalism. Citizen journalism is a type of online journalism characterized by the use of ordinary citizens as reporters, usually unpaid, to replace professional journalists [4].

Citizen journalism (participatory) is the collection, reporting, analysis in the dissemination of news and information by ordinary non-professional journalists. In principle, citizen journalism is a journalistic activity in the form of active participation carried out by the community in collecting, reporting, analyzing and delivering information and news [10]. So that it can be said that citizen journalism is a special form of citizen media whose information comes from the citizens themselves [11].

The recent popularity of citizen journalism has been fueled by new technology media, which can increase the accessibility

of information for the general public. Now everyone can access a variety of information without having to bother looking for or buying it. Until there is a revolutionary change in people's behavior in accessing information. Not only changes in the behavior of accessing information, but also changes in conveying or sharing information. This change caused the popularity of citizen journalism to rise. Through citizen journalism, they can share information, comment on stories, can debate and discuss issues in a way that is not possible through conventional mass media.

Unlike conventional journalism, citizen journalism does not have to be carried out by individuals with professional education or training in the field. However, citizen journalism can be done by anyone including ordinary "citizens" who have no relationship with traditional media or new media. Because of this separation from conventional media, citizen journalism appeals to many people. Moreover, the general belief considers conventional media to be biased, untouchable, siding with the authorities, ignoring important issues or offering irrelevant news.

According to Quinn and Lamble there are two forms of citizen journalism, the first is when members of the public, who are not professional journalists, contribute content published in traditional media (conventional media), such as amateur videos posted by citizens during the tsunami disaster [12]. The results of this amateur video adorn the television screen at that time (metroTV). Aftermath of the Tsunami of 26 December 2004, the term 'citizen journalism' swiftly gained currency with global news organization [13].

The second form of citizen journalism occurs when community members create blogs, community sites, through social media or publication media for certain purposes. In other words, citizens act as journalists in their own media.

With citizen journalism anyone can become a citizen journalist, and the Internet offers unlimited opportunities for anyone to upload various content (such as blogs, videos, etc.) for public consumption.

The community has great potential to carry out Citizen Journalism in Indonesia, Internet data from APJII user penetration in 2019 was 73.7%, of the total population of Indonesia, up from 64.8% from 2018 [14]. This data is believed to have increased significantly because during the pandemic, more and more people rely on the internet to support various activities. Meanwhile, data from the Ministry of Communication and Information (Kemkominfo) found that 98 percent of children and adolescents know about the internet and 79.5 percent of them are internet users. There are only 20 percent who do not use the internet. Not because they don't know the internet, but because the average reason for not using the internet is because they don't have the tools or infrastructure to access the internet or because their parents are prohibited from accessing the internet [15]. From this data, it can be seen that teenagers can have great potential to become citizen journalists.

D. Photo Journalism

Photo journalism is a type of photo that is classified as a photo that is intended to be photographed because of the desire to tell other people. Photographs of this type have the main interest in conveying messages to other people with the intention that other people do something psychological or psychological action.

Related to the understanding of photojournalism, quoting Oscar I Motuloh said that photojournalism is a medium of presentation to convey a variety of visual evidence of various events to the wider community, even to the crust behind the event, in the shortest possible time [9].

Photography is becoming an increasingly populist and inclusive world. The rise of social networking on the Internet which is increasingly accessible from mobile phones also supports this. A digital photo product so quickly and easily disseminated among the public, either through Facebook, Twitter and others. Exactly how journalism works, sometimes even faster.

Richard Gray observed in The Guardian. "If something dramatic happens on the street … sorry, someone's already there taking a photo of it." Speaking as a professional photographer himself, he knew the act of witnessing was critical: "Your average citizen photojournalist won't compose as well as a professional, but they will be on the spot to capture the moment and be able to publish immediately [16].

This is one of the rapid developments in the world of photojournalism. The presence of eyewitnesses at the scene, by utilizing existing tools, can quickly catch the incident and quickly spread it.

E. Citizen Journalism for Youth

Citizen journalism for teenagers needs to be trained because many teenagers are internet users. Teenagers have the opportunity to become citizen journalists. From BPS data, the number of adolescents (generation Z aged 8-23 years) reached 27.94% or about 75.5 million people. Teenagers as a group whose daily lives are close to the internet and have a great sense of curiosity are expected to take advantage of this condition for something positive. Therefore this community service is carried out.

Teenagers have the opportunity to play an active role as citizen journalists. As one of the positive activities that can be carried out by teenagers in citizen journalism, for example, raising the potential of their village, so that it is increasingly known by the wider community.

Including youth who have joined the youth group (karang Taruna). They can individually or collectively publish their own village potential or publish various positive activities through blogs, online print media, websites or other social media.

Thanks to the various conveniences and the availability of various news channels that accommodate the work of citizen

journalists, ordinary citizens can join forces to become information carriers. Until the internet era was described by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel as an era of information flooding, which resulted in people feeling confused about which information was correct [17].

Concerns if the news from these sources is not accurate or authentic, wrong motives, or other ethical issues. This concern arises because anyone can become a citizen journalist, and the Internet offers unlimited opportunities for anyone to upload content (such as blogs, video sharing, and more) for public consumption. With the ease of creating and distributing content in various online media, it is impossible to ensure and check that all of it is true (accurate) or original (authentic). Therefore, the ethical standards and credibility of citizen journalism are sometimes questioned.

It is challenge for teenagers and citizen journalists to maintain the credibility of the news produced by citizen journalism. Because they do not have a background of expertise like journalists in general, so they often do not consider the value of news and their accuracy is questioned. Citizen Journalists are often considered to only rely on what is happening around them and hope that their content or information will get the attention of many parties.

IV. CONCLUSION

There are several factors that support citizen journalism. First, the training provided is one of the efforts to help understand and improve journalistic skills, especially the ability to write information for online media. Second, with the journalistic skills which are later acquired after the training, it can increase the creativity of the youth to work and empower themselves as well as optimize the role of youth in contributing to become a smart young generation and the younger generation who are able to use media for something positive. Third, the material provided is very interesting to follow so that participants who attend are stimulated to start writing and do citizen journalism to inform the wider community of the potential of their area. There are several factors that support citizen journalism. First, the training provided is an effort to help understand and improve journalistic skills, especially the ability to write information for online media. Second, with journalistic skills which are then obtained after training, it can increase youth creativity to work and empower themselves and optimize the role of youth in creating smart and capable young people. Use the media for something positive. Third, the material provided was very interesting to be followed by the participants who were present and stimulated to start writing and doing citizen journalism to inform the wider community about the potential of their area. With the opening of various opportunities and factors that support citizen journalism, it is important to get the attention of journalists from various parties.

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