CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. Conclusion

Social media is one of the most influential products that the Internet has produced in the era of globalization. Social media has been shown to influence many people lives. It changes many dimensions of their lives, including how they interact with other people, seek information and express themselves.

In view of the first research question, which inquired into the students' engagement on social media, this study revealed that all of the participants are active users of social media, though displaying varying degrees. They spend time every day on social media, whether for knowledge and information purposes, entertainment purposes, social networking purposes or career-related purposes. Among the most common social media platforms used by the participants are Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Each of these platforms are indicated to serve different purposes. Social media has been used by the participants as both 'frontstage' and 'backstage'.

As for the second research questions, which sought to find out students' perceptions towards social media use, the study pointed to both positive and negative impacts. The positive aspects mentioned by the participants are the uses of social media as a tool that facilitates ease of communication, expansion of knowledge and self-development, as well as a tool that provides entertainment, relieves stress and that allows for self-expression. On the negative side, social media is thought to contribute to reducing real communication, productivity and to creating a busybody culture, triggering confusion, ambivalence and inner conflict caused by the bombardment of differing ideas, values and beliefs. As the participants confirmed, social media has the power to influence perceptions towards self and others.

5.2. Recommendation

This research focuses on students' experiences on social media and its effects on their sense of self. Future studies can focus on the identities that students display on

particular platforms such as Instagram and Twitter and conduct a comparative study using these platforms. The study can also focus on particular dimensions of users' identities, such as religious identity, gender identity or cultural identity. Similar studies can also employ mixed methods to 'measure' the extent to which social media affects identity construction.