

Unravelling Occupational Risk Factors of Malaysia's Gig Riders: Theoretical and Methodological Considerations

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Abstract: Motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable groups to road fatalities or injuries in low- and medium-income countries (LMICs), including Malaysia. Within those countries, motorcycles are the preferred means of transport, especially for commuting and working "on the road" within highly mixed traffic conditions. Workers who spend more time on the road have a higher probability of being in an accident than occasional road users. This study will focus on the gig riders, who are motorcycle couriers that deliver items using a motorcycle within the gig economy sectors. They are known as "self-employed" workers or "delivery partners" by platform providers and are paid based on the delivery tasks that they can complete within a specific time frame. In the past few years, gig delivery riders have become a significant occupation around the globe, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. People stay at home while their food or other necessities are being delivered to them. In Malaysia, their numbers keep on growing along with the number of accidents involving them. More research on gig riders should be done as the existing literature is insufficient to determine the safety and health risks of these workers. Moreover, existing research was mostly conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and in different countries settings. This research would like to unravel the occupational risk factors that lead to near-misses or accidents among gig riders in Malaysia. The Sociotechnical System Theory and Multiple Causation Theory form the basis of this study. This study involves the development of a job-specific instrument for identifying the safety risk factors that would significantly influence gig riders' safety. It is expected that this study will provide empirical results for the development of Malaysia's rules or regulations for gig riders.

Keywords: Occupational safety risks, Gig Riders, Malaysia, Theoretical, Methodological Considerations