# Article information:

Full article: Riders on the Storm: Amplified Platform Precarity and the Impact of COVID-19 on Online Food-delivery Drivers in China
[https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10670564.2021.1966895?scroll=top=true=tab](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10670564.2021.1966895?scroll=top&needAccess=true&role=tab)

# Article summary:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the precarious working conditions and struggles faced by online food-delivery drivers in China, who are predominantly middle-aged, ex-factory workers from rural areas.

2. The platform food-delivery industry in China is dominated by two large start-ups, Meituan Waimai and Ele.me, which together employ millions of drivers.

3. There is a lack of research on the precarity of platform food-delivery work, particularly in developing countries like China. This article aims to fill that gap by examining the labor conditions of drivers during the pandemic.

# Article rating:

Appears strongly imbalanced: The article is written in a biased or one-sided way, and the information it provides is not trustworthy enough to be considered a reliable source. You should consult other sources to find reliable information on the presented issues.

# Article analysis:

The article titled Riders on the Storm: Amplified Platform Precarity and the Impact of COVID-19 on Online Food-delivery Drivers in China provides an overview of the labor conditions and challenges faced by online food-delivery drivers in China, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the article offers valuable insights into the experiences of these drivers, there are several potential biases and limitations that need to be considered.

One potential bias in the article is its focus on highlighting the negative aspects of platform food-delivery work. The author emphasizes issues such as dangerous working conditions, low wages, and labor exploitation without providing a balanced perspective. While it is important to shed light on these problems, it would have been beneficial to also explore any positive aspects or benefits that drivers may experience from this type of work.

Additionally, the article relies heavily on anecdotal evidence and personal stories to support its claims. While these stories provide a human element to the discussion, they do not necessarily represent the experiences of all online food-delivery drivers in China. The lack of quantitative data or broader research studies limits the generalizability of the findings presented.

Furthermore, there is a lack of exploration of counterarguments or alternative perspectives. The article primarily focuses on portraying online food-delivery work as precarious and exploitative without considering potential reasons why individuals choose this type of employment or any benefits they may derive from it. This one-sided reporting undermines the objectivity and balance of the article.

Another limitation is that the article does not provide sufficient evidence for some of its claims. For example, it states that platform food-delivery work leads to income instability and job insecurity but does not present any data or research findings to support this assertion. Without empirical evidence, these claims remain unsubstantiated.

Moreover, while the article acknowledges that precarity is not unique to platform food-delivery work and has been studied in other contexts, it fails to adequately situate its analysis within the broader literature on precarity. This omission limits the article's contribution to existing knowledge and makes it difficult to assess the novelty or significance of its findings.

Additionally, the article does not thoroughly address potential risks or challenges faced by online food-delivery platforms themselves. It primarily focuses on the drivers' experiences without considering the operational difficulties and financial pressures that these platforms may face, especially during a pandemic. A more comprehensive analysis would have explored both sides of the equation.

In conclusion, while the article provides valuable insights into the labor conditions of online food-delivery drivers in China, it is important to approach its content with caution due to potential biases, one-sided reporting, unsupported claims, missing evidence, and unexplored counterarguments. To gain a more comprehensive understanding of this topic, further research incorporating diverse perspectives and empirical data is necessary.

# Topics for further research:

* Benefits of online food-delivery work in China
* Positive aspects of platform food-delivery jobs
* Research on income stability and job security in platform food-delivery work
* Counterarguments to the portrayal of online food-delivery work as precarious and exploitative
* Operational difficulties and financial pressures faced by online food-delivery platforms in China
* Literature on precarity in different employment contexts

# Report location:

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