



Young Platform Workers' Attitudes towards Basic Income and Its Influence Factor

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Platform Work and Labor Process

- **Cutthroat competition: extremely low barriers to entry**
- **Controlled by algorithms, but platform workers feel they are in charge (algorithms lack transparency)**
- **Precarious work and unpredictable income**
- **Boundaries of working and non-working hours are blurred**
- **“Be your own boss!” mentality**

Platform Work and Social Protection

- **Currently, platform is not legally presumed to be an employer**
- **Not entitled to national minimum wage, etc.**
- **Limited access to social insurance**
 - 👉 **Industrial accident insurance (only 19 occupations)**
 - 👉 **Unemployment insurance (selected occupations with upper income limits)**
 - 👉 **National pension**
 - 👉 **Health insurance (regarded as self-employed)**

Platform Work and Basic Income

- **The employment-centered arrangements of social security and welfare only help those enjoying stable employments and their families (Offe, Claus. 1992)**
- **There seem to be selective affinity between platform work and basic income (Standing, Guy. 2011, *The Precariat*)**

Research Methods

In-depth interviews with twelve young platform workers who are between 19 and 34 years of age.

	Sex/ Age	Marital Status	Education	Platform Work	Work experience	Monthly income (KRW)
1	M/22	Not married	High school degree	Parcel service	3 years	5~6 million
2	M/33	Not married	University degree	Videographer	2 years	2~2.5 million
3	F/31	Married	University degree and more	Lecturer	5 years	7 million
4	M/25	Not married	University	Voice actor	1 years+	0.6~1.5 million
5	F/20	Not married	University	Private lesson etc.	2 years	0.6 million
6	F/21	Not married	University	Private lesson	3 years	0.6 million
7	F/33	Married	University degree	Webtoon writer	3 years	2.5 million
8	F/33	Married	University degree	Personal trainer	8 years	1.5~2 million
9	F/22	Not married	University degree	Baby sitter	3 years	1 million
10	M/25	Not married	High school degree	Food delivery	3 years	4~6 million
11	M/23	Not married	University degree	Food delivery	2 years	6~7 million
12	M/29	Not married	University degree	Food delivery	3 years	3~4 million

Youth Platform Workers' Labor Process

- **Possibly due to cutthroat competition among platform workers, participants demonstrated liberal principles such as meritocracy and individualism.**
- **The non-transparency of the algorithmic management system severely restricted autonomy of young platform workers. Algorithms control platform workers to work long hours (ex. Cases 1, 10, 11, 12 all work more than 10 hours per day), but most of them feel that they can choose when and how to work.**
- **In order to resolve the tension between the promised autonomy and tight technical control, respondents seemed to develop **entrepreneurial** selves.**

What young platform workers really think about basic income

Respondents who support basic income

#3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12

#8

#1, 2, 6, 10, 11

Respondents who are opposed to basic income

Respondents who are opposed to basic income

- **Embrace meritocracy and individualism as ideal principles**
- **Tend to think that the Korean society is unfair or lacks opportunities**
- **Believe that people are poor mostly because of their personal inability**
- **Distrust the state and state provision of welfare, so they are against paying taxes**
- **Do not know well or trust social insurance**

Respondents who support basic income

- **Embrace meritocracy, but they are concerned about large income gap**
- **Tend to think that the Korean society is rather fair (however, non-unanimous)**
- **Believe that people are poor mostly because of structural factors**
- **Trust the state and state provision of welfare, so they are favorable to increasing taxes**
- **Demonstrate the need for social insurance**
- **Worry that the Fourth Industrial Revolution will cause the loss of jobs**

Conclusions

- **Concrete plans for regulating platform work (especially regarding misclassification)**
- **Transparency in the use of algorithms**
- **Social insurance and basic income are not mutually exclusive (can be complementary)**
- **Despite the labor process that diminished the importance of labor and social rights, respondents demonstrated support for basic income.**

Thank You

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