Title: Digital Labour Platforms and Future of Work: A Study of Gig Worker's 'Insecurity, Inequality, and Precarity'

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Overview of the project:

The project "**Digital Labour Platforms and Future of Work: A Study of Gig Worker's 'Insecurity, Inequality, and Precarity'** aims to understand and examine gig worker's situation in regards to insecurity, inequality, and precarity that exist in digital labour platforms and gig economy; and its influence on future of work. Though digital labour platforms and the gig economy have become one of the major sectors to provide 'on-demand work' in India but its precarious and informal nature excludes gig workers from social security provisions. They experience vulnerabilities related to their employment, residency status, and unfamiliarity with local frameworks–labour law, health and safety hazards at work. Therefore, the project examines the role of social identity and 'algorithms' to reproduce discrimination and exclusion in work and beyond work. In addition to that, the project also tries to explore possible negotiation and navigation strategies of gig workers to overcome their everyday issues and challenges at work; and their mobilization and resistance against the exploitative nature of digital platforms.

Research Methodology:

The project uses mixed method approach to examine 'insecurity, inequality, and precarity' and its influence on the future of work. Multi-sited case studies, surveys, and qualitative interviews with all concerned stakeholders are being conducted in selected locations. This is being supported by collecting and analysing secondary data in the form of government statistics, government reports, NGO actions, policy papers and interventions around the digital labour platform and gig economy. Selection of locations within Mumbai and Hyderabad is randomly, however, participants is being recruited based on exclusion and inclusion criteria. To address the challenges of reaching out to gig workers with their unpredictable schedules, the researcher may leverage gig service platforms for establishing preliminary contacts.

Deliverables:

Upon the completion of this project, several key outputs are anticipated that will contribute significantly to both academic and policy arenas. The academic cornerstone of this study will be the publication of journal articles. We aim to produce a minimum of three rigorous articles for peer-reviewed journals. Beyond the academic realm, the project will culminate in the formulation of a comprehensive policy report. This document will be meticulously crafted to resonate with organizations and governmental bodies responsible for labour welfare in general and gig workers in particular.