

**English summary of the report "Varför gigga som matkurir? Förutsättningar och förväntningar bakom okvalificerat gig-arbete" by Weidenstedt et al. 2020**

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This study aims to give insights into individuals' choice to work in the unqualified gig sector in Sweden, where work is mediated via platforms or apps but performed offline. The question is investigated by letting the gig workers themselves speak about their perceptions and experiences of gig work; qualitative interviews have been conducted with 34 so-called food couriers, i.e. individuals providing delivery services for restaurants. Delivery tasks are mediated through digital platforms and apps (Uber Eats, Wolt and Foodora). The respondents were asked about their background, the reasons for choosing platform-based work, the motivation behind continuing to work in the gig economy, their satisfaction levels with this way of working, problems they experience while working and their future plans.

The results show similarities in the respondents' background in terms of origin, level of education and opportunities in the Swedish labor market, while age varies. For example, the age range among the respondents was 19–48 years; the background varied from primary school to university education but more than half of the interviewees had at least three years of university education with many of them having completed Master degrees in IT, engineering or finances; and more than half of the interviewees came from Asian countries such as Pakistan and India. Furthermore, the analysis of the interview material showed that many respondents were generally satisfied with the gig work, despite the fact that they complained about problems with the platforms' management, the platforms' transparency and the lack of commitment and care on the part of the companies.

The report shows that identity and cultural background, the social context in Sweden, the gig workers' ambitions and visions, their embedding in the social environment, and their handling of the gig work play a crucial role in how they experience their everyday lives. Most respondents discussed the difficulty of finding a high-skilled job that matches their skills and that they use the gig job as a kind of buffer until other job opportunities arise. For others, gig-work complements studies, other (part-time) jobs, or the parallel development of their own business. Most respondents in the study see gig-work as a temporary solution on the way to another future working life.

From these results it has been concluded: Gig workers' decisions to work and continue working in the gig economy have several driving forces such as an internal motivation, the gig economy as a transitional solution, and the flexibility and self-management that gig work enables. Conclusions regarding the future development of the gig economy concern, on the one hand, the need for gig companies to take responsibility and increase transparency, for example by developing wage predictability for delivery tasks. On the other hand, we believe that regulation of the food delivery industry needs to be done with caution. The heterogeneity of the gig economy contributes to a variety of functions for gig-workers, from transitional and side jobs to full-time jobs, and its accessibility and openness should therefore be preserved and supported. At the same time, food couriers' work environment and conditions need to be discussed.