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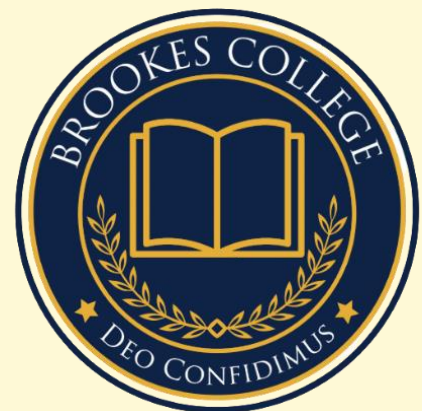
## **Fear and Fate: The Life Story of Jeepney Drivers dealing with Pandemic**

**Sophia Marie Gamboa, Cedar Christian Aban, Shanaia  
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**Fear and Fate: The Life Story of Jeepney Drivers dealing with Pandemic**

Sophia Marie Gamboa<sup>1</sup>, Cedar Christian Aban<sup>1</sup>, Shanaia Margareth Argueza<sup>1</sup>, Lira Angela Collado<sup>1</sup>, Kimberly Ann Garibay<sup>1</sup>, Reiza Chloe Maullion<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** A public transportation drivers in the Philippines namely Jeepney drivers are among those who are greatly affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Along with lockdown implementation, it became difficult for Jeepney drivers to get passengers. Moreover, when the transport was halted and people started staying inside their houses, it became hard for them to earn enough money to feed and support their families. Thus, affecting them financially, mentally, emotionally and other aspects. This study aims to determine the challenges that the Jeepney drivers had encountered during the pandemic, how they cope with those challenges and what government services are offered to Jeepney drivers. Furthermore, the researchers utilized descriptive qualitative research which methods are used to answer questions about their experiences, meaning and perspectives of Jeepney drivers. After gathering data, the researchers used thematization to analyze the data, it revealed that Jeepney drivers suffered a lot during the pandemic, concerning their income and well-being. Some Jeepney drivers struggled to live and make a living in this pandemic. Although, most of them found alternative jobs and said that they would not give up for the sake of their families. It is also shown that there are many different aids given by specific government agencies and these aids or assistance serves as a help to the unfortunate Jeepney drivers.

**Keywords:** Jeepney drivers, Income, Covid-19, Experiences

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

It's a struggle for all vulnerable Filipinos to live in a life as the number of cases are getting higher, there is no doubt that we live in fear and the hopes of Filipinos are on the line, leaving everything on their own fate. "One scratch, One peck" is a commonly heard idiom in the Philippines, representing the life of people who are desperately trying to hold on and live their life, which is not only being experienced here but all over the world. Even before the pandemic, many people have been struggling to meet their basic needs in everyday life and today, they have continued to suffer more. The vulnerable ones have been trying to find ways to provide the daily needs of their families— like trying to have multiple sidelines, exploring new jobs not related to their accustomed work, and some try to use the violence for sake for their loved ones. (Estremos, 2020)

Globally, what's happening to the public transit in Seattle, Washington is happening over the nation. Public transit utilization has dived across the nation as individuals work from domestic or avoid buses and subways for the fear of contracting COVID-19, resulting in less income from fares. Public transit system has endured an obliterating one-two punch. And with the economy flopping broadly, tax revenues that assistance subsidize transit systems have also taken an emotional hit. Numerous systems have been hesitant to cut benefit, which may result in unsafe overcrowding that seems compound. The CARES Act, a \$2.2 trillion stimulus bill that

was signed in march, included \$25 billion for public transportation relief, which secured a few years of subsidizing gaps. But as the COVID-19 emergency worsened in a lot of the country, it's getting clear that the nation's transit system will require more assistance from Congress. Any cuts in public transit service stand to excessively affect non-white Americans, who have as of now bearded the brunt of the widespread COVID-19 in numerous other ways. If transit systems are left to die, a few say, their cities will die together with them. But even if the system will recover, millions of Americans right now are depending on mass transit to go work or somewhere. (Alejandro De La Garza, 2020)

Following after, the study of Josephine Jellen and Heike Ohlbrecht from Germany in 2020 was all about the insights of parents, women and men during the lockdown period. The effects of pandemic in their emotional well-being, physical, and financial were also being studied as well as how the pandemic becomes an opportunity to a family in terms of time resources they're gaining.

According to the study, the stress and exhaustion was reduced compared to the days without the pandemic. However, the people who answered the survey felt twice lonely as often before pandemic. The amount of nervousness felt by mothers during the lockdown was greater than fathers who are worried about their livelihood. The difference between men and women about financial worries and burdens— women are not only bearing the

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burden of childcare but also they are affected by salary losses. In the survey, the majority of the mothers provided 73% of the care and 39% of the children's home schooling, whereas the fathers stated that they provided 51.5% and 13% of the children's care and home schooling respectively. The research was conducted during the lockdown in Germany through the use of social media, emails, and printed media. On the other hand, the research study also discussed how most families were able to use the lockdown as an opportunity to work and also take care of their children. Lockdown was not an obstacle for them to give up but a tool to spend more time with their family.

In United States, the questioning of race privilege is evident in recent protests against the current administration for its lack of success in protecting its citizens during the pandemic. In the Philippines, however, class insensitivities are reflected in present COVID-19 realities, critiques have not been applied on a practical level or examined thoroughly to a theoretical degree. The number of poor Filipinos is projected to increase by 1.5 million with more than 7.5 million unemployed. Lower classes' middle-class aspirations may even be delayed by 25 years. It seems that class oppression and out-of-touch class privilege play a huge part in this phenomenon. In the Philippine Context with approximately 400,000 cases and 7,647 COVID-19 related deaths as of November 9, 2020, one cannot help but wonder why so many lives have been lost to the pandemic in the Philippines. Filipinos declare that they are more horrified by the thought of dying from hunger than catching the virus. Like

most countries all over the world, the Philippine government enforced strict lockdowns to contain the outbreak. (Hazel T. Biana in De La Salle University-Manila, 2020)

A study by Tomasito Villarin in 2020 conducted about Social inclusion which is an European social policy that emerged as a concept to counter social exclusion. Social inclusion becomes a way for the government to combat the impact of disease on people especially on their health because the virus creates exclusion in terms of healthcare for poor people. The Elders, a group of independent global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela, believe that developing countries should address health inequities as a primary goal of development. They also stated that the way to prevent this and future catastrophes is to invest in health security capability. This means that all members of the society from the richest to the poorest should have access to healthcare. However, for everyone to have access to healthcare, the government should focus their public financing on meeting the needs of the poor and vulnerable first in a strategy called "progressive universalism"(Lancet Commission, 2013). Securing both the health and rights of citizens is the best approach in addressing the health emergencies. Improving the health of a population will stimulate economic growth, reduce poverty, and build social solidarity.

Talking about economic growth, during the first quarter, the sectors who were affected were industry and manufacturing, investments (construction and durable equipment) and the trade sector. But, a very important victim too was the huge decline in

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the growth of consumption from the demand side. All these give a big loss in confidence and spending from the consumers and business sectors. These are also very strong warnings of an economic collapse to come. Since then, people panicked and avoided going outside and crowded areas. Many stayed at home. This affected sales of manufactures, transportation, and services. Also, there was a sharp decline in air travel for tourists and businessmen all over the world due to the lockdowns abroad or voluntary cancellation of individuals afraid of getting infected by COVID-19 in other countries. (Joseph Anthony Lim in Ateneo De Manila University, 2020)

The pandemic has a voluminous effect on unemployment in the industry. In this current recession, unemployment rates dissimilarly increased in the country. The alteration in economic damage was due to a number of factors, including the jobs that provide non-essential services, the fear of individuals to be infected by COVID-19, and the implementation of stay-at-home orders and business shutdown policies. A lot of people lose their jobs and are now struggling to adjust to the new normal. Some companies also dismissed their employees which has greatly affected our manpower in our industry. According to one analysis, employment fell by 34% for workers with lower wages, compared with a 10% drop for workers with higher wages, (Kelsey Schaberg et. al, 2020). Low and irregular incomes and a lack of social support, many of them need to continue working, often in unsafe conditions.

Furthermore, some Jeepney drivers were arrested for protesting on their loss of livelihood. In "a bid to salvage an economy battered by unemployment and new signs of poverty," the lockdowns had to be lifted as stated. The poor Filipinos have been striving to speak of their woes during the outbreak. This has been one of the reasons some of the unemployed and jobless have been holding protests and getting arrested as a consequence. Despite the complaints of the middle class, none have been arrested so far. The most vulnerable poor sectors in highly urban areas were neglected- as testing appeared to be a privilege for the affluent. This move was in acknowledgment of the fact that even members of the middle class may have lost their means of income due to quarantine. Government actions such as silencing the poor's voices by arresting protesters, giving special benefits to the elite, and red tape in welfare/benefits/healthcare, all reinforce class distinctions. This type of organizing is not dependent on authorities but rather a change in the mindset of all classes. (Hazel T. Biana in De La Salle University-Manila, 2020)

With the situation in Manila, Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte's order to limit public transport, along with lockdown implementation. When the transport was halted and people started staying inside their houses, it became difficult for Jeepney drivers to get passengers. They can't go out to do their usual job as a Jeepney driver. It became hard for them to have enough money to feed and support their families and pay their rents for their respective accommodation. Lack of money to support

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their families pushed them to beg for money on streets. The alimony given by the government wasn't enough for them to meet their daily needs and it doesn't meet up their usual income for the day. Carrying plastic containers and placard signs around their necks to catch the attention and sympathy of the passing motorists on the highway. (Arab News "Philippine 'Jeepney' drivers hit by COVID-19 crisis", 2021)

In San Fernando City, La Union, Jeepney drivers have to make their vehicles virus-safe by installing plastic seat dividers and reducing capacity to comply with physical distancing regulations. Their fears added further when the government declared that smoke-belching Jeepneys that are 15 years or older can be phased out. Some Jeepney drivers couldn't fully return to the road but they are still fighting for their families just to support and feed them.

The significance of the study of our research is how this will benefit our respondent. Starting with the Jeepney drivers, they will have a voice to the public which will encourage them to reach out loudly to our government officials for their concerns and problems. They'll be able to express and address their side to other people, and we'll be able to know how to act and what to do for their situation. Next, the Government Officials. Hearing the side of Jeepney drivers can be the start to the government to prioritize also the public transportation drivers. They can know what to do to implement programs like giving them alimony and doing some seminars for them. This research could also benefit the commuters as it will give them a sense of

guidance and understanding that Jeepney drivers are doing everything they can to serve the public. Lastly, a family and a community will also be aware of the impact of what's happening right now not only on the physical aspect but also on the emotional aspect.

With the current situation we are all in, rich and poor become alike from no one will be exempted in this virus, the moment this pandemic escalated and became known through the media, according to Glenn L. Velmonte, J.D., Ph.D. from Cebu Normal University (2020).

With what is said, the researchers undergo their own analysis to examine over. This research is done to spread such stories of vulnerable Filipinos struggling to live and make a living in this pandemic and to share the perspective and opinions of Filipinos for them to be understood and hopefully inspire others on how they were able to overcome or are still overcoming this crisis. Primarily aimed at transportation drivers specifically, Jeepney drivers. This research would like to address how this pandemic had impacted them physically, emotionally and mostly, financially.

## 1.2. Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

1.) A Review of Self-Determination Theory's Basic Psychological Needs at Work (Anja Van den Broeck, D. Lance Ferris, Chu-Hsiang Chang, Christopher C. Rosen, 2016)

- Self-determination theory grew out of the work of psychologists Edward Deci and Richard Ryan, who first introduced their

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ideas in their 1985 book *Self-Determination and Intrinsic Motivation in Human Behavior*. The way how Self-Determination Theory works is that Ryan and Deci suggested that the tendency to be either passive or driven/proactive is greatly influenced by social status and condition. With this being said, we can relate this to our research study on how public transit drivers especially Jeepney drivers' willingness to continue their job in this pandemic were also being influenced by the society as they don't just think of themselves but others' sake as well. In Self-Determination theory, Jeepney drivers significantly deserve a social support in which they can feel motivated and prosper the relationship and interaction with the society.

## 2.) Economic Theory in the Time of Coronavirus (Oscar Perry Abello, 2020)

- In this study, Modern Monetary Theory was discussed which this theory suggests government spending can grow the economy to its full capacity, enrich the private sector, eliminate unemployment, and finance major programs such as universal healthcare, free college tuition, and green energy. Many economic studies in the past few months have explored the relationship between the spread of disease and economic activity. Relating this to our research, due to the lockdowns and strict health protocols, the pandemic affected the operation of Jeepney drivers as the Philippines is still suffering financially-- and worse, the country's debt soars during the pandemic, many people lost their jobs and sources of income, and one of the most affected by this are the Jeepney drivers.

## 3.) Child Maltreatment during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Consequences of Parental Job Loss on Psychological and Physical Abuse Towards Children (Monica Lawson, Megan H. Piel, Michaela Simon, 2020)

- This study included parental job loss and whether cognitive reframing moderated associations between job loss and child maltreatment. The research findings demonstrate that parental job loss due to the pandemic can have negative consequences on young children, including increased risk for psychological and physical abuse at the hands of their parents. Another research finding demonstrates, however, that among parents who lost their jobs, physical abuse toward children decreased as parents engaged in more positive coping strategies. That is, parents who view hardships as something they can overcome without becoming too discouraged were less likely to physically abuse their children during the pandemic, even if they lost their jobs.

In our research, one of the problems stated is all about parenthood, the study of Jellen and Ohlbrecht, which talks about how the pandemic hits all vulnerable parents mentally and emotionally that could affect the way of living of the rest of their family.

## 4.) Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of COVID-19 among income-poor households in the Philippines: A cross-sectional study. (Lincoln Lehang Lau, Natalee Hung, and Xiaolin Wei, 2020)

- This study is about how people have different knowledge about proper

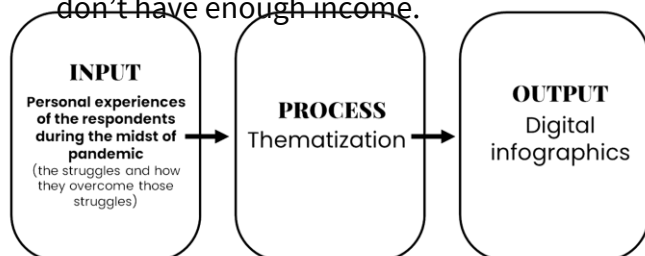


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preventive measures against COVID 19 which the majority of respondents knew about the virus that made the respondents think their daily lives had been disrupted. The study also discusses that many of the population has limited access to healthcare. And it shows that during this time of pandemic people who have limited resources and those who lose their jobs are the one who suffered the most.

We can relate this in our research as Jeepney drivers can't go out to do their usual job and it became hard for them to have enough money to support their family. During this pandemic, Jeepney drivers were one of those who suffered the most. It is hard for them to have medical attention since they don't have enough income.



**Figure 1. Research Paradigm**

## 1.3. Statement of Objectives

This study aims determine the underlying problem of Filipinos, specifically, Jeepney drivers dealing with pandemic:

1. What are the challenges the Jeepney drivers encountered during the pandemic?
2. How do Jeepney drivers cope with those challenges?
3. What government services that are offered to jeepney drivers?

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Research Design

Qualitative research comes in to explain the "why" of an occurrence. Qualitative methods are used to answer questions about experience, meaning and perspective, most often from the standpoint of the participant while Descriptive design is a scientific method which involves observing and describing the behavior of a subject without influencing it in any way. (Martyn Shuttleworth, 2008). We are using Purposive sampling as our tool which is a non-probability based on characteristics of a population and objective of the study, known as judgement or selective sampling (Ashley Crossman, 2020). This research design would help gain a profound understanding of the research subject based on their own experiences.

### 2.2 Population and Locale of the Study

The participants of the study are the Jeepney drivers residing in Nagsimbaanan, Bacnotan, La Union and in San Fernando City, La Union and the number of participants for the study will be ten to fifteen Jeepney drivers. The respondents selected for our study will be Jeepney drivers who have almost dropped out of the workforce as a result of this pandemic. They will be interviewed online to ensure the safety of the researchers and the respondents.

### 2.3 Data Gathering Tool

The researchers will gather their information by giving out questionnaire and through

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online interview to get the responses from our respective respondents which is a semi-structured interview. (Alison Doyle, 2020) The questionnaires will be sending out in the form of google forms. The researchers will also conduct an interview with the use of communication apps such as messenger or zoom.

## **2.4 Data Gathering Procedures and Ethical Consideration**

The researchers will seek the consent from the respective respondents for survey and questionnaires. Maintaining anonymity and confidentiality of the respondents will be respected and observe throughout the study, in order to protect privacy and welfare. Research data will be protected at all stages of the process from collection to publication. The respondents will also have the right to withdraw from the process at any point. The researchers will also present an approval letter to the school director of Lorma Colleges Basic Education to seek permission to conduct an interview. And for the validity of research questionnaire will be checked by the teacher or authorized personnel.

## **2.5. Analysis/Treatment of Data**

It is said that thematization involves clarifying the purpose of the study-the 'why' and the thematic understanding of the topic of the study-the 'what' will further influence the 'how' of the study: the many decisions on method that must be made" (Mareš, 2005) which means that the process of thematization is quite important in qualitative research as it clarifies parts of the

study and that knowing the thematic understanding of the study influences a lot of aspects as well as the path that the research will take. We, The researchers, could use thematization as a way to make our research more understandable and could serve as our guide as we are researching.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

After searching articles, news, and previous researches posted online about the different situations of transportation drivers locally and globally which the main focus of this study are the Jeepney drivers, the researchers were able to gather sufficient data.

This chapter presents the results of the data and information gathered and accumulated respectively by the researchers which they analyzed and categorized in order to answer the following research questions.

### **3.1 EFFECTS OF PANDEMIC ON THE INCOME OF THE JEEPNEY DRIVERS**

The impact of this pandemic on the income of the Jeepney drivers is very visible because Jeepney drivers are one of the great contributors in our economy. They are suffering not only because there is a limitation but also because the government planned to permanently remove Jeepneys as a mode of transportation. They are forced to find alternative job/s that can only support the needs of their family on a daily basis, which means that they don't have a chance to save up some money in case there is an emergency.

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## 3.1.a Meeting the daily needs of their family

Jeepney drivers are the ones who are greatly affected by this pandemic considering that their job is classified as a “low-income” job (Naomi Gregorio, 2018) .They are lacking support from the government which means that there will be an increase in the poverty rate of our country. Jeepney drivers and their families should not be left to starve. Our respondents are so worried about supporting the needs of their family. With their responses, they felt emotional as they can’t do anything but to be strong for their family.

It became hard for them to have enough money to feed and support their families and pay their rents for their respective accommodation. Lack of money to support their families pushed them to beg for money on streets. The alimony given by the government wasn’t enough for them to meet their daily needs and it doesn’t meet up their usual income for the day. (‘Arab News’ 2021). They were forced to find alternatives to support their families but their salary isn’t enough to meet the needs of their family. The word “Give Up” is not included in their vocabulary because this pandemic is unavoidable part of our lives and try our best to adjust in the new normal.

*“I have concerns and regrets about earning a living will stop. How can you afford to spend every day?”*

*“I was worried because I don't know where to get daily expenses to purchase food.”*

*“I thought about how I can now provide for my family.”*

*“I am very sad and worried because being a Jeepney driver is the only way for me to earn money for my family's livelihood.”*

*“It was a painful feeling, because there is no other job and I have no income”*

## 3.1.b Low income or no income at all

Jeepney drivers during this specific time are considered to be in a dire situation, as they are the ones who lack in terms of the financial aspect. As this pandemic has brought fear, which later on caused strengthened rules and regulations, the income of Jeepney drivers have lowered at a high percentage, it has taken a toll on them, as majority of the Jeepney drivers here in the the Philippines as shown in statistics, are not the ones who are privileged enough to be able to experience what is called "wealthy living.”

According to Anja Van den Broeck ,D. Lance Ferris ,Chu-Hsiang Chang ,Christopher C. Rosen (2016), a study about Self-Determination theory, Jeepney drivers significantly deserve social support in which they can feel motivated and prosper in the relationship and interaction with the society. The statements said by some of our respondents clearly shows that they have been affected massively, not only in anything regarding money, but also their health as they are willing to risk their lives on the line just to gain money to maintain their living.

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*“Because of the pandemic, we lost our source of income”*

*“It affected me a lot because it caused lack of income everyday”*

*“I was affected since people couldn't get out, I don't have/ I lost my job and there's no passengers so I didn't have any income.”*

*“It is a big impact, because when there are no passengers there is no income”*

*“I lost my income. Before, I used to earn 800 pesos, now it's only 300-400 pesos. It's half of it.”*

### **3.1.c Less passengers**

It is quite noticeable what this pandemic has brought to citizens of the Philippines, and it's primarily fear, this fear later on caused people to not opt for any public transportation that involves many people inside it, specifically jeepneys. The CoVid-19 is said to be multiple times more spreading than the common flu, and that is one of the main reasons as to why there is a huge decrease in the number of passengers.

Based on a study conducted by Joseph Anthony Lim in Ateneo De Manila University (2020), this pandemic made people panicked and avoided going outside, crowded areas and many stayed at home which affected sales of manufactures, transportation, and services. No matter what safety protocol do jeepney drivers have to follow, fear in the minds of people is still inevitable. Now, this sudden decrease of passengers due to fear of contracting the virus has obviously lowered

the income of the jeepney drivers, as seen through their statements.

*“It is difficult to make money from our work because very few people come out for fear of the pandemic.”*

*“It was hard because people seldom go outside of their house because of continuous prevalence of the Covid-19 until now, unlike before, the cycle and flow of passengers are normal”*

*“Yes because people were already used in riding tricycles. They allowed tricycles first before they allowed us. “*

*“Yes, we are still having a hard time because there are still protocols that we have to follow and people rarely come out.”*

### **3.2 THE COPING MECHANISMS OF THE JEEPNEY DRIVERS**

The Jeepney drivers have different coping mechanisms for them to continue striving in this pandemic. In the first statement of objectives, it was shown and discussed how much they had struggled or have been still struggling in this life and death situation which eventually leads us to the second statement of objectives. Here, it is being tackled how the Jeepney drivers were able to get the encouragement, support, motivation to continue making a living for themselves and their family. Their different ways of adjusting for their jobs due to health protocols were also being discussed.

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## 3.2.a Determination and willingness to live

During this pandemic, wherein people suffer and it is now more difficult to earn money. The respondents had to make different strategies in order for them to provide the needs of their families. Some of them actually had to stop their work because of their weak resistance and just relied with the help of our government to survive on a daily basis. Mostly, they were able to find an alternative as their work during the times they weren't allowed to work. With this, the respondents were able to overcome the challenges they went through with their determination and willingness to live.

Moreover, a study conducted by Monica Lawson, Megan H. Piel, Michaela Simon (2020), The research findings demonstrate that parental job loss due to the pandemic can have negative consequences on young children, including increased risk for psychological and physical abuse at the hands of their parents. This talks about how the pandemic hits all vulnerable parents mentally and emotionally that could affect the way of living of the rest of their family. Since most of our respondents are Jeepney drivers who are working for sake for their families, this study portrays how the parents should always engage in more positive coping strategies.

*“by planting and selling products. My wife's work which is tailoring/sewing is also a big help on our daily basis.”*

*“I didn't find/get other work because of my weak resistance.”*

*“I went to sell fish just to have daily expenses.”*

*“I didn't find a job because of the lock down, I'm still not allowed to go out and I also can't find any job. In God's mercy we are able to survive on our daily basis because of the help that comes from our government.”*

*“I just do construction as an extra”*

*“I wasn't able to find ways, but I asked for help from my other relatives.”*

## 3.2.b Encouragement and motivation from family

People are unsure where to begin and how to deal with the crisis as the pandemic continues to arouse. Fear of losing their job has caused some of the respondents to consider quitting. The majority of them said that they would not give up for the sake of their families. Some respondents said it occurred to them to give up, but they found inspiration to keep on for their families. The respondents considered the pandemic as a trial, just have faith and trust in God and everything will go back to normal.

A study conducted by Heike Ohlbrecht and Josephine Jellen (2020), the research findings was all about the insights of parents, women, and men during the lockdown period that affected their emotional well being, physical and financial. Most of our respondents are Jeepney drivers, the situation affected their emotional well being during the time when they're not yet allowed to go out. The study shows how the lockdown affected the livelihood of parents.

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*“I did not think of any negativity and my whole family helped each other to overcome this obstacle we are going through.”*

*“At the start of the pandemic, yes of course, but after some time, I realize that there's still hope that everything will be back to normal”*

*“Yes, I thought to just continue my life for the sake of my family.”*

*“I think of it as just a test of life. Just have faith and trust in God because as long as you're alive, there is always hope.”*

*“No! I did not give up, I became determined for my family”*

*“It seems like that because there is no income. I just told myself that “I’ll be able to overcome”. My wife and children are the ones who strengthened me”*

### **3.2.c Adjustments in a Jeepney due to health protocols**

The new normal impacted all public transportation, which was required to follow government-issued health guidelines. To pursue the physical distancing, the respondents would place plastic partitions between passengers, sanitize the car, and put alcohol inside the vehicle. They also mentioned that for the safety of those on board, they advise passengers to wear face shields and facemasks inside the vehicle.

The government public transport drivers need to put barriers to follow the protocols which are implemented throughout the

country. The respondents strictly obey the protocols implemented by the government officials which ensures the safety of every passenger. They also make sure that every passenger is following the health protocols like wearing a face mask and face shield inside a public utility.

*“We put barriers in between the passenger seats”*

*“Putting alcohol and all passengers should wear face shield and face mask”*

*“I always keep the inside clean and all the passengers are always wearing face masks and face shields and there is also social distancing.”*

*“By putting/ installing plastic barriers, wearing face masks and face shields, and sanitizing the inside of the vehicle.”*

*“We use facemask, alcohol, face shields etc. Moreover you will not be allowed to drive without this”*

*“I tell my passengers to wear face masks and face shield.”*

### **3.3 GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSES DURING THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19**

The government executes different assistance as a succorer to Jeepney drivers in order for them to overcome hindrances. It is shown that there are many different aids given by specific government agencies.

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These aids or assistance serves as a help to the needy Jeepney drivers.

### **3.3.a National Government programs that provide assistance and cash grants.**

Although we are in the middle of a pandemic, the government specifically the LGU's come up with solutions and programs that may ease the hindrances the jeepney driver/operator experience, programs such as the social amelioration program, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, and Pantawid Pasada Grant. Basically jeepney drivers and operators depend on the aid and financial support that the government provides.

A study by Tomasito Villarin (2020), who conducted Social inclusion which is a concept to counter social exclusion. Social inclusion becomes a way for the government to combat the impact of disease on people especially on their health. The Social Amelioration Program, a program to support the families that grants a P5000 to P8000 monthly cash subsidy. These subsidies provide marginalized sectors of society the means to afford basic needs during the pandemic (Ameliorating the Social Amelioration Program- Business World). With the family or jeepney drivers/ operators budget that does not exceed P15 000, hardly cope up with the raise of price of goods to support their respective family and their life.

*"Pantawid Pasada Grant"*

*"Through SAP (Social Amelioration Program)"*

*"Interviewed and signed SAP (Social Amelioration Program) in order to get the help from our government"*

*"There's someone/member from the LGU who comes and gives relief goods in every house."*

*"We are a member of 4P's. (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program)"*

### **3.3.b Effectual and ineffectual of Government Agencies**

There are numerous government agencies that provide support to all Jeepney operators. On the one hand, these agencies that provide assistance are truly doing their duty in order to accomplish their job in helping the Jeepney drivers, especially in this current condition. On the other hand, some of the assistance provided by the government agencies fluctuates somewhat and sometimes; they may execute it, but they are imprecise.

Once again, a study by Tomasito Villarin (2020), who conducted Social inclusion which discussed how the government should focus their public financing on meeting the needs of the poor and vulnerable first in a strategy called "progressive universalism"(Lancet Commission, 2013). Withal, there are still many Jeepney drivers who are not given the promised assistance. The drastic condition of the Jeepney drivers must be and it should be acted upon immediately. The government agencies must strictly implement and execute their jobs in order for the Jeepney drivers to ameliorate their situation.

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*“Probably, because only a reduced number of PUJs and PUVs are allowed to drive and there is also a limit to the number of drivers who must come out. Those with illnesses like me are also prohibited pre-existing cases. We, members of a cooperative, have a big problem, especially concerning paying our monthly dues of our vehicles because we do not have income. BIR is also continuously paid even without a transaction, especially renewal. So I can't say either, Thank you”*

*“They do their jobs well”*

*“Yes, only LTFRB (Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board) provided us with assistance and no other agency provided assistance”*

*“Only from Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)”*

## **4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **4.1 CONCLUSIONS**

After the data have been gathered and analyzed, the following conclusions were validated: the researcher concluded that Jeepney drivers are greatly affected by this pandemic. Jeepney drivers face financial problems as a result of the loss of their primary source of income, forcing them to seek alternative jobs. However, their income was insufficient to feed and support their families, as well as to cover their living expenses. The jeepney drivers suffered not only financially, but also emotionally and psychologically as they thought of present hurdles of life. However, with the love,

encouragement, and inspiration from their families, they continued to fight and devise new strategies to meet their family's basic needs. Despite the challenges they have faced during the pandemic, they refuse to give up and are willing to put their life on the line to provide income for their families. The researchers also conclude that since Jeepney drivers do not have enough money to meet their basic needs, they depend on the government for assistance and financial support. The government helped them through subsidies and programs such as the social amelioration program, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino, and the Pantawid Pasada grant, and government agencies also did their jobs and duties to support and assist the Jeepney drivers. When Jeepney drivers are permitted to return to work, they must make certain changes and follow the government's health protocols, such as installing plastic barriers to comply with physical distancing regulations and wearing face masks and face shields at all times.

Thus, the Jeepney drivers indeed struggled and are still struggling despite the fact that they are now permitted to do their job and regardless of how closely they adhere to the health guidelines, it is still difficult for them because people are still afraid to go out, and their fear of catching the virus reduces the jeepney drivers' daily earnings.

### **4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The researchers recommend that future researchers should enhance the analysis of how Jeepney drivers cope with the pandemic. In this way, we can thoroughly



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comprehend the difficulties faced by Jeepney drivers. Moreover, it can be beneficial for Jeepney drivers to get their voices heard by the government, which may result in the implementation of a policy that benefits not only Jeepney drivers but also for the community.

Furthermore, the researchers suggest that more studies be conducted in order to obtain a larger number of respondents and to produce more studies to emphasize the relevance of this subject.

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