Exploring the Jeepney Drivers' Well-Being: A Phenomenological Study

Austero, Aliyah Joy M.
Condemillicor, Mikaela Louise R.
Salugsugan, Chariane Aeriel C.
https://orcid.org/0009-0003-0892-5702
mkl.cndmlcr@gmail.com
Adventist University of the Philippines
Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite, Philippines

Abstract

The Philippines' iconic passenger jeepney is one of the most affected livelihoods of the country's coronavirus outbreak, with the government ordering a strict lockdown that effectively shut down Manila's "king of the road" and its hundreds of drivers. The purpose of this phenomenological study was to explore the jeepney drivers' well-being during and prior to the pandemic. Thus, this paper focused on the meaning of the jeepney drivers' well-being and their coping mechanisms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, this study sought to explore jeepney drivers before and during the pandemic and their coping mechanisms in dealing with their challenges. Purposive sampling and snowball sampling were used in selecting the participants. The six (6) chosen participants were selected from Cavite and semi-structured one-on-one interviews were used in gathering the data. Before the pandemic, the jeepney drivers were financially stable and has active social life. However, during the pandemic they become financially insecure and emotionally stressed. Nonetheless, the jeepney drivers found ways to survive during the pandemic such as getting part time jobs, maintaining good health, being optimistic, praying, and strengthening family ties.

Keywords: Jeepney drivers, well-being, COVID-19, coping mechanism