

Tamsang-Tamsong: Social Distancing promotion and Job security for motorcycle taxi and food vendors during the Covid-19 crisis

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Abstract

The social-distancing measures that were implemented due to the outbreak of COVID-19 had drastic economic consequences to food vendors and motorcycle taxi drivers. Prohibited from dining-in, customers in quarantine can only order food through food delivery platforms that make a profit through charging fees from the vendors. To compensate, vendors are pressured to raise their prices. As a result, customers who are also struggling economically have to spend more. Motorcycle taxi drivers are heavily impacted by the reduced need for transportation as regular passengers now work from home. These challenges are the context that gave way to our action research, which links these three stakeholders together under the framework of solidarity economy.

Tamsang-Tamsong (Food Ordered, Passengers Delivered) is a community-based food delivery and ride-hailing platform. Operating in the Ladprao 101 area, Tamsang-Tamsong strengthens the wellbeing of the community by assisting food vendors, motorcycle taxi drivers, and customers in transitioning to a platform economy. Currently, it works with over 60 food vendors and 50 motorcycle taxi drivers. The model based on solidarity economy that Tamsang-Tamsong uses can serve as a prototype for other areas in the country to increase job security and empower communities, even when social-distancing measures are no longer in effect.