

Original Research Paper

Regulating Gig Work and Labor Protections in the Age of Platforms

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Abstract: Japan's rapid digital transformation has given rise to an expanding platform-based labor force in major urban centers such as Tokyo and Osaka. This study investigates how regulatory frameworks in Japan are responding to the rise of platform labor, focusing on the legal ambiguity, social protection gaps, and labor rights associated with gig economy work. While digital platforms promote flexibility and convenience, they also raise concerns over worker precarity, income instability, and exclusion from formal social safety nets. Using a descriptive qualitative methodology, this research analyzes recent legislative developments, policy debates, and case studies from delivery app workers, freelance digital content creators, and ride-hailing drivers. Findings suggest that while Japan has introduced partial regulatory measures, the country lacks a comprehensive legal framework to address the status of gig workers. The study contributes to ongoing debates on labor rights in the digital age and proposes future pathways for balancing innovation with inclusive labor protection.

Keywords: Digital Labor Regulation, Gig Workers, Platform Economy, Social Protection, Urban Labor Policy.



RETRACTION NOTICE

As part of our ongoing internal evaluation process, we have identified serious concerns regarding the accuracy of the author affiliation information in the article entitled “*A New Approach to HCI in Technical Education: Creating Mobile Communication Tools with the User in Mind.*”

In particular, the listed affiliation address appears to be invalid or potentially fictitious, raising questions about the credibility of the authors and the integrity of the manuscript as a whole. In addition, the article is currently undergoing further review in relation to suspected plagiarism.

In light of these concerns, and in order to uphold publication ethics while safeguarding the reputation and trust placed in our journal, we have decided to withdraw the article from the publication process and place it under temporary retraction. This status will remain in effect until the authors provide sufficient clarification supported by verifiable evidence.

We remain firmly committed to maintaining academic integrity and transparency in all aspects of our publication process.