

COVID-19 Crisis Implications for the RMG Sector: Trade Union Responses

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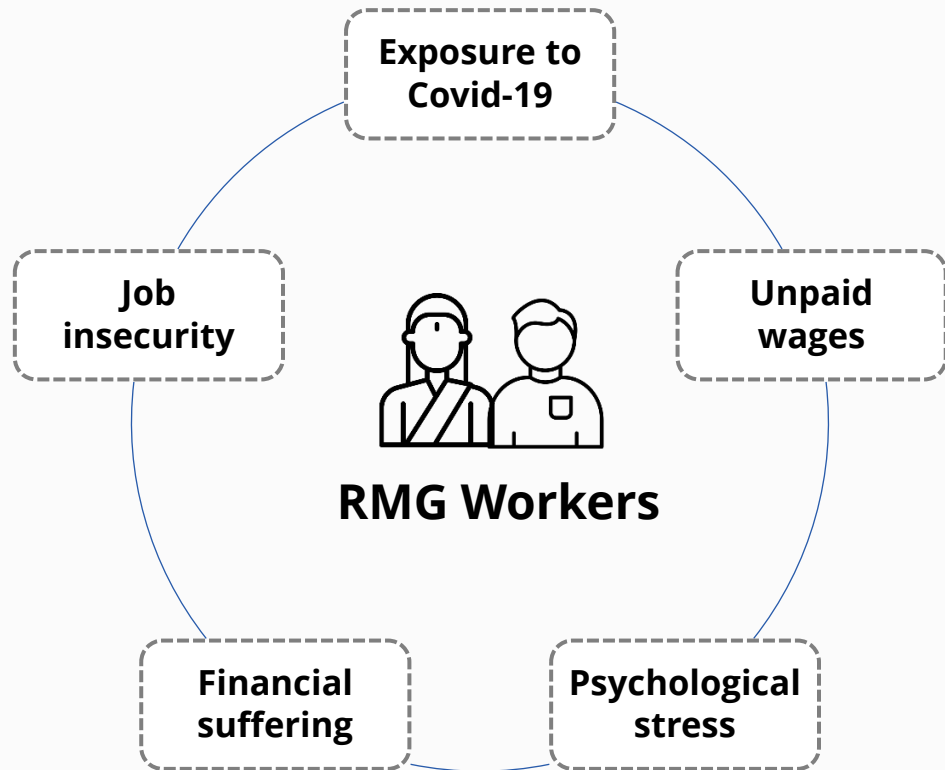
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TU Assessment of Covid-19 Crisis and their role

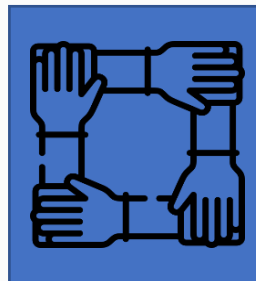
TU Perceptions of high risk for RMG workers



Who will ensure accountability of owners? If we don't do that there is no point in demanding workers rights



TU played an active role in negotiating with owners, associations, and the government to ensure workers' salaries and job security and OHS.



Experiencing difficulties in communicating, mobilising and carrying out protests in lockdown circumstance but adjusting to mobilising digitally

TU's Assessment of Stimulus Package and Possible Loopholes in Implementation



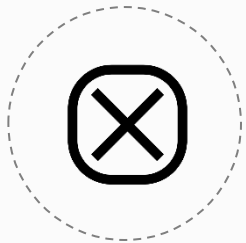
Certain categories of workers may be left out

- Contractual workers or workers on probation
- workers without bank or MFS accounts
- workers at small factories & at bankrupt owners' factories



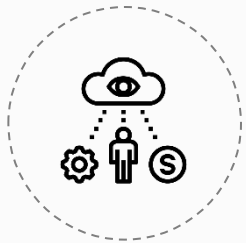
Lack of Transparency

- Non-disclosure of information about receipt of stimulus by owners and workers



Possibility of using stimulus package funding for non-intended purposes

- include factory staff as workers; overstate number of workers, creating fake workers' lists and fake MFS accounts



Lack of an oversight and monitoring mechanism

- No formal role kept for TUs in implementation of package. But, TUs argue that they can play a watchdog role in informing Govt in case of abuse or misuse.

Strong business-state relations

RMG factory owners are a powerful interest group in national politics and decision making

- importance of the sector
- the fact that they are also within the government.
- can mobilize the state very effectively

There was rapid response by the government and government authorities to employers' demands => stimulus packages and support

Although the government response of COVID to the RMG sector explicitly targeted the workers but it essentially favoured owners.

Weak labour –State – business relations

RMG workers have struggled to achieve even basic rights and have limited but perhaps growing traction with the political elite

Trade unions were not united or strong enough to negotiate better outcomes for workers from employers or government

Have had to compromise on multiple fronts: factory closures, wage cuts, health safety.

RMG workers have had to suffer uncertainty about employment, wage cuts, continue working under unsafe condition, face job losses without any social protection.