

HELP OUR HELPERS

Project for PHY 1999 Introduction to Innovative Project

**Submitted by
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project work entitled “HELP OUR HELPERS” that is being submitted by GROUP 6 .For Introduction to innovative project is a record of bonafide work done under my supervision. The contents of this Project work, in full or in parts, have neither been taken from any other source nor have been submitted for any other CAL course.

Place : Vellore

Date: 24th September 2019

Signature of faculty : Malathi M

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We express our deep sense of gratitude to our respected and learned guide, **Prof. MALTHI M** for her valuable help and guidance, we are thankful to her for the encouragement he had given us to completing the project. We are also thankful to all the helpers of our department for their kind co- operation and help. We also sincerely thank all the Akkas and Annas for not just participating in our project interviews, but also for inspiring us to do anything to succeed and get things done.

ABSTRACT

This report contains the work done by the afore mentioned people in finding out about the life of the helpers. It contains information about the interviews conducted on the helpers, both female and male across a wide range of profession. Surveys were also conducted among the people to find out about how much they knew about the helpers. The data was filed and analyzed.

AIM

- To analyze and study about the working condition and lifestyle of the workers working here in Vellore
- To find out about their life and how they got here
- To check out whether their current conditions are satisfactory
- To make people aware of those who help us
- To bring out the importance of the all workers to everyone

METHODOLOGY

- First we have collected the information about the different type of workers working here (in Vellore)
- Then, we have interviewed many workers about their living conditions and about their lifestyle here.
- We have created Google forms and collected record about what people know and think about the workers working here.
- We have also created awareness about the workers to everyone.

DATA COLLECTED

A series of interviews were conducted on the helpers. Different professions were covered, from securities, to mess workers, to cleaners. The main questions asked were

1. Name and age
2. Profession
3. Place of origin
4. When and why they came here
5. Income
6. Dependent members' and other earning family members' status
7. Accommodation standards
8. Educational qualification
9. Future plans
10. Happiness index
11. Working condition and hours

Certain people were reluctant to share some details. Nevertheless, maximum information has been obtained from them.

A public survey was also circulated among the student crowd . This was done in order to find out how much they know about these people.

INTERVIEWS

Person 1

- Name: Mahi
- Age: 40
- Present work: Now works as a sweeper and cleaner in hotel
- Family members: 4(including him)
- Education: nil
- Family's education: Son (11th), daughter(9th)
- Total income of the family: 8000
- His salary: 4000
- His wife's salary: 2000
- Expenditure: 6000
- He worked as coolie
- Work happiness index: 4
- Working hours 9 to 5.30 daily (no leave)

Person 2

- Name: Manikantan
- Age: 25
- Present work: Cleaner in the hotel. He works alternates day and night shifts every week.
- Place: Latteri
- Family Members: 6 (he has 2 sisters and 1 brother)

- Education: 10thstd
- Previous work: He was a painter, and after that he worked in a canteen.
- Work happiness index: 3 (salary is too low for so much of work)
- Future plans: To marry off his sisters.

Person 3

- Name: Devi
- Age: 42
- Place: Senoor
- Present occupation: Cleaner
- Salary: Was not allowed to disclose it
- Family: 2 boys
- Family Income: Not disclosed but she is the only earning member.
- Education: nil
- Future plans: To make sure her kids grow up properly • Previous occupation: Daily wage laborer
- Happiness index: 9
- Working hours: 9. Once a week night shift

Person 4

- Name: Lakshmi
- Age: 50
- Place: Vellore (outskirts)
- Present Occupation: Sweeper and gardener
- Salary: not disclosed

- Family: 4. She herself, her husband and 1 daughter and 1 son
- Family income: Not disclosed but her entire family is working. Her daughter has been married off.
- Previous occupation: Construction site worker • Working hours: 10 (8 AM to 4 PM) • Education: 5th standard • Happiness Index: 10

Person 5

- Name: Surya
- Age: 32
- Place: outskirts of VIT
- Salary: 8000 per month
- Family: 4. He himself, his wife and their son.
- Qualification: 10th
- Future plans: To keep his family happy
- Profession: Cab driver
- Working hours: 8 hours
- Happiness index: 7

Person 6

- Name: Dhanya
- Age: 32
- Place: Chittore
- Salary: 8000 per month
- Profession: worker in food park
- Family: She is married and having 1 son.
- Education: 11std, discontinued due to family problems.

- Previous work: worked in a hotel
- Working hours: 9 hours
- Happiness index: 8

Person 7

- Name: Kumeresan
- Age: 31
- Place: Chittore
- Profession: Cleaner in Hotel
- Family: He is married.
- Education: He studied till 10th.
- Salary: 4000 per month
- Previous work: Construction site worker.

Person 8

- Name: Leena
- Age: 36
- Place: Vellore
- Salary: 4500
- Profession: Laundry in ladies hotel
- Education: 10th
- Previous work: Construction site worker
- Family: She is married.
- Working hours: 8 hours per day
- Happiness index: 8

NOTE:

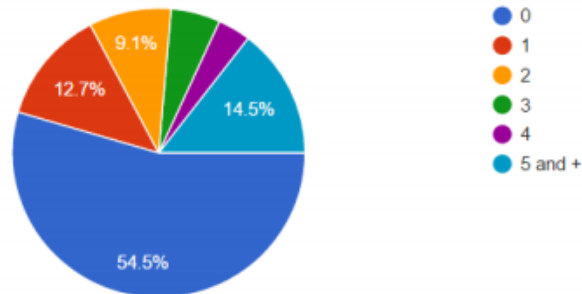
We have interviewed many helpers in Vellore, and only few were presented here. Also the names of the helpers mentioned above are not the real names for their safety purposes

STUDENT SURVEY

Student Survey	
Survey regarding student knowledge about workers in VIT	
How many 'akkas' or 'annas' names do you know?	Have you ever talked to them or tried to find out about their lives ?
<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> No
<input type="radio"/> 2	
<input type="radio"/> 3	On a scale of 1-10 how important are they in your daily life ?
<input type="radio"/> 4	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
<input type="radio"/> 5 and more	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	On a scale of 1-10 , how important do you think they are to your University's functioning ?
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	On a scale of 1-10 , how important do you think they are to your University's functioning ?

RESULTS

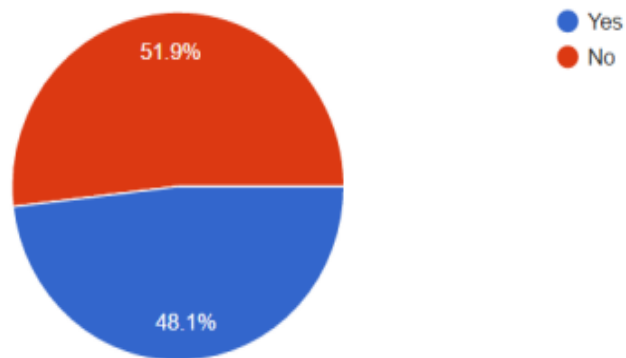
How many of the 'akkas' or 'annas' names do you know? (55 responses)



It can be noted that more than half the population in VIT don't know the names of any of the helpers. This shows that most of the people don't exactly bother to mingle with them much. When asked about it the people gave the following reasons:

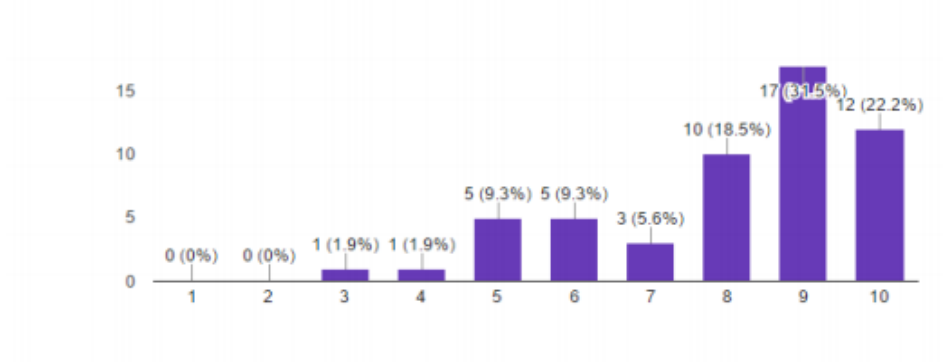
1. Language issues- Most of the people have a problem communicating with the helpers because they do not speak a common language.
2. Varying working schedule
3. No interest

Have you ever talked to them or tried to find out about their lives?

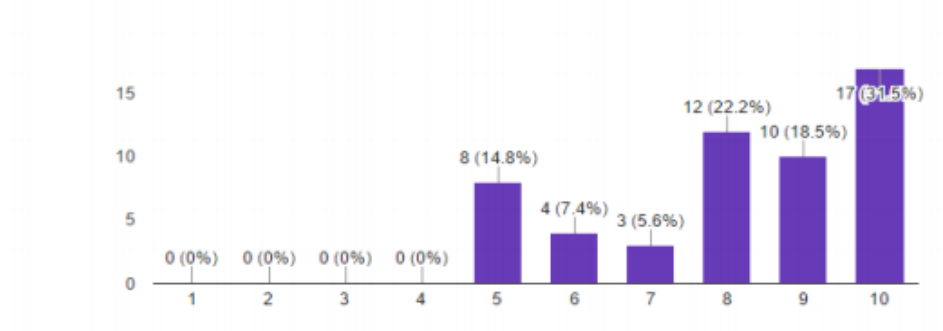


A higher percentage showing no, but a good percentage has. This is a positive sign.

On a scale of 1-10 how important are they too your daily life? (54 responses)



On a scale of 1-10 how important do you think they are to the universitie functioning?
(54 responses)



People do seem to realize the importance of the helpers in the functioning of the country. With the present work load, the helpers make the common man's life much easier .

CONCLUSIONS

Salary and Working Hours

Type of Work	Salary	Working Hours
MESS WORKER	Rs 7000/-	9 HOURS with break after lunch time
CLEANER (HOSTEL)	Rs 4000/-	9 HOURS (alternate day and night shift, every week)
CAB DRIVER	Rs 9000/-	13 HOURS with Lunch Break (8AM-9PM)
SWEEPER (CAMPUS)		8 HOURS (830AM-430PM)
SECURITY	Rs 8000-10000/-	8 HOURS (3 SHIFTS A DAY, 1 WEEK ONE SHIFT)
QB WORKER (Private)	Rs 7000-11000/- (plus daily bonuses)	8 HOURS (10AM-9PM)

Education

- Majority have discontinued their education after 10th standard
- Reasons to withdraw were mainly due to financial problems
- Some have never gone to school

Previous Work

- Painters
- Gardeners
- Coolies
- Construction Workers

- Office Peons

Family and Plans

- Sons and daughters work
- Primary goal to get their children married off
- A small portion were very concerned about their children's education
- Salary is quite low
- Surprisingly most are happy with their current jobs

It is safe to say that the workers lead inspiring lives. Sometimes a caring parent, other times a concerned brother, and the rest of it as daily wage workers. They work their socks off trying to make a living for themselves and their family. Certain solutions that we have come up to improve their lives are

1. Inform them about the importance of educating their children.
2. Spreading awareness about them among the student and staff so that the helpers' job becomes easier and appreciated.
3. We need to recognize them not as workers, but as helpers who play a very crucial role in our lives as a student in this beautiful campus.
4. The people can be a great help in improving their lives. They can lend out old books and clothes to them

for their as well as their children's use. They can try to be more interactive with them and show some interest in their lives.

5. Our college can aid in the education of the children of these helpers. This can be done by providing primary education at a subsidized fees to these children which would encourage more of the helpers to send their kids to school .

6. The people should be encouraged to be a part of some NGO where they teach some of the children of these workers.

Contributions:

Harini Ragu – Interviews, Documentation, Suggestions

Valerie David - Interviews, Documentation, Suggestions

Unmesh Sengupta – Surveying, Analysis of responses, Suggestions

Nirmal Harikrishnan – Creation of Google form, Documentation, Suggestions

Mrinmay Date - Interviews, Analysis of responses, Suggestions

Bharath M - Interviews, Analysis of responses, Suggestions

Sanjay Nanda – Surveying, Documentation, Suggestions

Vinayak Joshi - Surveying, Analysis of responses, Suggestions

Arun Nambiar - Interviews, Documentation, Suggestions

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