

## Technology and Urban Livelihoods: Understanding the Influence of Ride-Hailing Application in Developing Economies

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**Abstract :** In recent years, as the nature of work and employment relations continue to evolve, the gig economy has experienced rapid growth in various parts of the world. A notable example is ride-hailing services, which offer new sources of livelihood and work for drivers and transform urban mobility. While Kate Meagher contributes to the global discourse on the need to review the social contracts of digital works in Lagos State, it is essential to investigate the influence on urban livelihoods as more organizations, governments, and policymakers integrate this as a tool for economic development. Using the snowball sampling method, this exploratory study provides data on the factors that influence the transition of workers to digital platforms (like Uber and Taxify (Bolt)), satisfaction with working conditions, and the perception as a long-term source of livelihood or a means to an end from fifty respondents in Lagos State. Although the results show the beneficial factors of operating on the platforms, the ripple effects on the livelihoods of digital and traditional transport workers are also evident in the study. A mall intercept survey also shows the level of patronage amongst users/commuters across five (5) shopping malls in Lagos State. The results indicate the role of technology in influencing the choice of commuters to use either the public transportation system or digital platforms. It is essential to promote development policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, and innovation, encourage the formalization and growth of all enterprises, ensure access to financial services, and achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all.

**Keywords :** informal economies, digital technology, transportation policy, economic development

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