

The New Generation of Jobs

Gone are the days in society where if it's broken we fix it. Now, if it's broken we throw it out and get something better, more likely than not to save on money. We no longer hold on to value. We no longer use the word 'forever'. We are no longer necessary.

As a graduating student from environmental program I was on the hunt for a job that could launch into a promising career. What I noticed as I scrolled through the hundreds of posted jobs were almost 80% were "contracted" jobs. Most lasting from February to November – peak time when working with crops or any species. Precarious work, the name that associates too many people who are having the same issue as me, disposable.

My mother who is a union representative for Canada Post in our home town, pushed many times the importance of being in union. Until now I never truly understood. According to study done in 2013 by United Way and McMaster University, an unsettling amount of statistics were presented. "Precarious workers are twice as likely as those in stable jobs to report having mental health problems. They are six times more likely to delay starting a relationship because of job uncertainty. They are three times more likely to delay having kids. And almost half of precarious workers say their employment situation disrupts their family life (S. & L., 2015)". As someone who has dealt with mental health issues before I related to why being a "disposable worker" can cause so much anxiety and stress.

One or two precarious jobs are not detrimental but as time goes on you lose the opportunity to gain hands on training needed to build a career. With no "experience" to move forward you find yourself stuck doing more precarious jobs, no benefits, no pension and in a continuous cycle. With the price of living becoming unaffordable some are even found doing multiple jobs just to keep afloat. And lastly, with the limited amount of sick days given in temporary jobs most are forced to ignore injuries or seek medical attention causing strain on the employee and possibly long term health problems from neglect.

Unfortunately for most, precarious work is going to be the future for graduates like me. I can only hope that in the future our society is able to become more stable. To regain value. To see the need for 'forever'. To become necessary again.

Works Cited

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