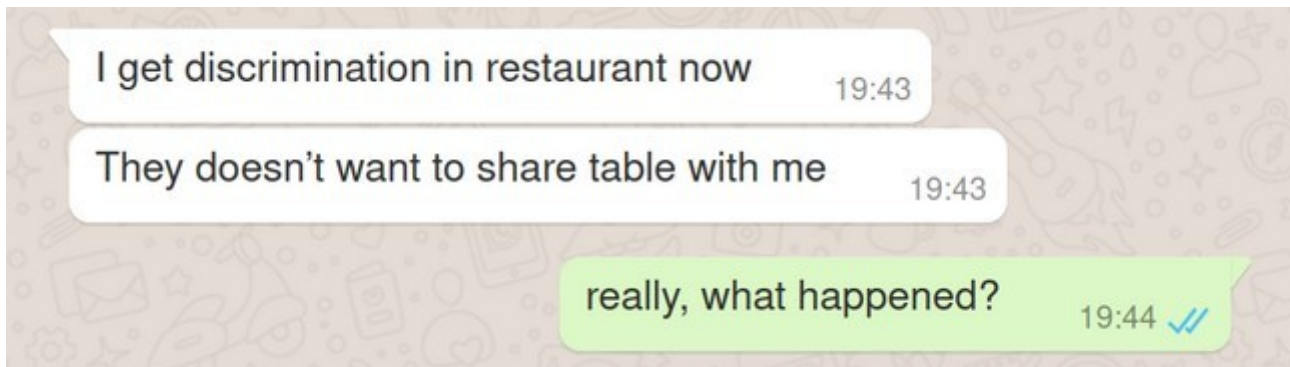


it's crazy, it's discrimination, it's discrimination craze, it's the plague of discrimination

after the Hong Kong Government held a press conference and announced the compulsory CoViD testing requirement for the Migrant Domestic Workers (MDW) after 5:00 p.m. yesterday (30/April) [1], i received a message from a mdw friend telling the situation that she was in and experiencing at about 7:00 p.m.:



[19:43, 4/30/2021] MDW: I get discrimination in restaurant now
[19:43, 4/30/2021] MDW: They doesn't want to share table with me
[19:44, 4/30/2021] me: really, what happened?
[19:44, 4/30/2021] MDW: And when o choose to other tables, they are covering all the table with the plastic border
[19:44, 4/30/2021] MDW: I just want to eat noodle
[19:44, 4/30/2021] MDW: They look as so strange
[19:44, 4/30/2021] MDW: So I decide to take away the food
[19:45, 4/30/2021] me: where? which restaurant?
[19:45, 4/30/2021] me: that's really bad.
[19:45, 4/30/2021] MDW: Xxx Xxx Xxx Xxx
[19:45, 4/30/2021] me: in Jordan?
[19:45, 4/30/2021] MDW: The waitress is okay but they others Peoples who sit there
[19:46, 4/30/2021] MDW: Yes
[19:46, 4/30/2021] me: i see. so it's the other customers, rather than the shop itself.
[19:46, 4/30/2021] MDW: Yes
[19:47, 4/30/2021] me: but that's even worst. because that means it had become a general feeling among the people, not just some shops.
[19:51, 4/30/2021] MDW: Yes
[19:51, 4/30/2021] me:

crazy, the Government is really very crazy.



processing the tests for 370,000 people in 9 days. Calculating with 9 days, the 21 Community Testing Centres, operation hours from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily for all the centres, a total of 12 hours, i.e. 24 30 min. slots [2], each of the centres will have to handle 82 tests for every 30 min., i.e. 2.7 people every 1 min. taking this averaged calculation, if every centre will have more than 3 testing counters operating simultaneously, it seems to be a mission possible.

but is this really feasible?



for those who have some understanding about the working and living condition of MDW in Hong Kong would know, going out during rest days or leaving the employers' home on work days is not a simple matter for most of the MDWs. and today (1/May), i learnt about the followings at the mobile testing station in Victoria Park:

- (1) there was a MDW whom started queueing for the test from 11:00 a.m., and there were still a lot of people in front of her at 5:00 p.m., still far from her turn yet, but it was about time that she had to take off and return to her employer's home, just could not wait on, because her employer required her to arrive at her employer's home on time, and then she had to give up and left.
- (2) there was a MDW whose situation is more or less the same with the one above, but even more, she cannot have a day off tomorrow (Sunday), her look showed her helplessness and did not know what could she do. learnt that after asking further, her employer only allowed her to have a day off today, and she have to work on the stipulated 1 rest day within 7 working days tomorrow. and also learnt that after talking further, about the suggestion that she could go back and tell her employer about the situation, and make arrangement to leave the employer's home tomorrow or next week, to make appointment to have the test at the Community Testing Centres, she was undecisive and was responding evasively, with a reluctant look. it is not hard to understand with some thought, asking a MDW to talk and communicate with her employer as equal parties, to discuss and making demands, is not something that just any MDW could do easily in real life situations, or it is not something that just any employer of MDW would allow it to happen.
- (3) there was an employer who came with the MDW who is serving him at about 7:00 p.m. to the testing station, and discovered that there was still a long queue of people queueing up for the testing. also, the staff of the testing station had cut and stopped the queue, and advising those who had just arrived to come back tomorrow, or try to make appointment for testing at the Community Testing Centres next week. that elderly man said immediately on the side that, the booking slots were all fully booked already until 11/May, but the deadline for the test announced by the Government is just 9/May, that what should they do? the staff of the testing station could only find the excuse of having to respond to the questions raised by the other MDWs also at the spot, to skip away from the question raised by the elderly man. but frankly, what could be done by these frontline working people? what could be done?
- (4) and the operation of the testing stations was originally set to operate from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at after 4:00 p.m., i was seeing that there were still many MDWs queueing up and waiting to be tested, it was simply impossible to do the testings for all the queueing MDWs at 5:00 p.m. also, there was still quite some MDWs joining in, and the queue was continuously extending. then i went over to the staff of the testing station and tried to learn whether they will only be operating until 5:00 p.m. at that time, the staff responded that they were also aware of the situation, and would continue the operation until all the tests were done. then i followed up and asked that, there was already a long queue, and more MDWs were joining in continuously, could they really manage to do all the required testings? at the same time, there were also MDWs asking and wanted to learn that, if they join the queue now, how long should they expected to wait. at that time, the response from the staff was, they were not planning to cut and stop the queue, and was prepared to complete all the required, and if the MDWs join the queue, they would probably expect to wait until 10:00 p.m. later, when i returned to the testing station at about 7:00 p.m. to get an update on the situation, i saw that the staff of the testing station had already cut and stop the queue, and the MDWs who had queued up and were still waiting to be tested, amounted to about 200 people with my brief observation. here, i am not trying to say that the staff of the testing station did not act up to what they said themselves. frankly, the staff of the testing station had been working all the way since 10:00 a.m., doing tests for the MDWs continuously. it is just that, the Government had such a requirement, with such an arrangement, what could they have done?



also, if that is the situation, does it mean that the other people should not be going to the Community Testing Centres to disturb their operations? then for all those other workers who are having jobs, that were required by the Government to have to be tested in accordance with the relaxation of the social gathering ban of “Vaccination Bubble”, and those who have been issued with compulsory testing order by the Government, what could they do? maybe precisely because of this, the Government did not issue any appeal to request the others, other than the MDWs, to not go to disturb the Community Testing Centres.

on the other hand, with the testing mistakes happened with BGI, in the reports by the media, Yeun Kwok Yung mentioned that one of the reasons that could have caused the mistake was, the staff of the Laboratory were working too hard, Their workload should be redistributed”, because they were processing 800 collected samples everyday, and that could have caused fatigue [3]. if calculating with the required testing of 370,000 people in 9 days, an average of 41,000 people will have to be tested everyday. then, does Hong Kong have more than 51 laboratories to handle the daily tests? just find it hard to imagine, how “hard” would the staff of the laboratories have to work to be able to bear this sudden responsibility.

furthermore, because there were two separated cases, then the whole class and community have to be compelled, then does it mean that, if any one Government department would be in a similar situation, that is having two separated cases, the whole staff of that department will have to be compulsorily tested? also if any enterprise would be in a similar situation, then all staff of the enterprise will have to be compulsorily test?

actually, could we have some common senses? how is it possible for MDWs working/living in different districts and different workplaces, who did not know each others and had never met, to be able to infect each others with viruses? of course, after these two days of queueing up for a long time, which was impossible to maintain social distancing, maybe these infections originally impossible could have became possible.



if this is not a biased discrimination on a class and community of people, and a indifference to their well being, what could it be? of course, these policies and regulations were all the final says of the Government, what could you do!

but still, this is crazy, really crazy.

but what is more crazy is, it is not beyond our knowledge on how the Government operates, then why would the working people mentioned in the beginning of this article, would have such responses? do we really do not use common senses. and just allow panic rules? executive lead is not enough? and have to have panic lead??? this is really a plague!

while we are being attacked on all sides by the plague, could we fight the plague together



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- [1] press conference on compulsory testing and consideration of mandatory vaccination arrangement
<https://isd.wecast.hk/vod/?id=12029>
[\[return to text\]](#)
- [2] Community Testing Centres
<https://www.communitytest.gov.hk/en/info>
[\[return to text\]](#)
- [3] Coronavirus: sample contamination at Hong Kong Covid-19 testing lab could explain high number of positive results in single day, expert says
<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3130596/coronavirus-hong-kong-local-tours-resume-without>
[\[return to text\]](#)