# “In their Shoes” Series – Instagram game

**In Their Shoes : Domestic Worker, Siti**

Siti is a 34 year old Cambodian who has worked in Malaysia for 7 years as a domestic worker. She works really hard to provide for her family back at home. She knows about COVID-19 and the situation in Malaysia but does not have much knowledge as information is written in a language she doesn't understand. Join her journey by putting yourself in her shoes on how she is able to adapt to the changes with her employers being home most of the time now.

**[Note]**

“Irregular migrant workers”, “migrant workers with irregular status” or “undocumented migrant workers” should be used instead of “illegal migrant workers”.

“Domestic workers” should also be used instead of “maids”, “helpers” or “servants”.

Your support of using rights-based language can prevent discrimination against irregular migrant workers and promote social inclusion.

**[Introductions]**

* Have you ever thought about the life of a domestic worker during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Movement Control Order (MCO)? If your job puts you in a tough situation, what would you do if you were them?
* Here is a chance for you to put yourself in their shoes and choose what you would do!
* Polls will close every 30 minutes and journeys would be taken according to majority votes.

**[Scene 1]**

* You are from a small town in Cambodia, you dropped out of school early to support your family. 7 years ago, you came to Malaysia to be a domestic worker and have not been able to see your family since.
* You work for a family of 4. Your employer is a middle-aged couple who you don’t really have a relationship with as they are always busy with their work. On a usual day, you would take care of 2 of their children below the age of 10 years old. You have a usual routine that you’ve gotten used to.

**[Scene 2]**

* One day, while you were preparing your employer’s work clothes for the next day, you saw your employers and their children sitting in the living room anticipating an important announcement from the Prime Minister of Malaysia but you do not know what it was about. Do you:
	+ Ask your employer about it
	+ Keep quiet and continue working

**If choice is [Ask your employer]**

* You asked your employer if everything was okay and they said it doesn’t concern you.

**If choice is [Keep quiet and continue working]**

* You end up not knowing what happened but accepted that it doesn’t concern you anyway. You continue with your work until 11:00pm.

**[Scene 3]**

* The next day, you noticed your employers were home earlier than usual. They have brought back groceries which they have asked you to wipe down every single item that they have bought with sanitizer before bringing it into the house.

**[Scene 4]**

* You found out from your friends on social media that Malaysia is going through a Movement Control Order (MCO) in response to COVID-19 and only essential workers were allowed to work. You don’t really know what is COVID-19 or MCO, do you:
	+ Find out more online
	+ Ask your friends

**If answer is [Find Out Online]**

* You tried researching more online about how serious COVID-19 is in Malaysia but most of the news articles are in a language that you don’t understand.

**If answer is [Ask your friends]**

* Your friends told you that COVID-19 is a deadly virus that can kill. They told you that Malaysia’s situation is getting worse and warned you to take necessary precautions. It sounds serious and you start to worry about your family back home.

**[Scene 5]**

* For the past few weeks since MCO has started, you have been working a lot more with your employers being at home all of the time. You were constantly cooking, cleaning and tidying up the house. You feel a lot more tired and felt like you needed a break. Do you:
	+ Ask your employer for a day off
	+ Continue working

**If answer is [A Day Off]**

* Your employer complained that you are not doing enough and asked you not to demand so much or she will cut your salary.

**If answer is [Continue Working]**

* You continue working long hours, constantly cleaning the house, cooking for the family and fulfilling requests and demands from your employer. You felt weak and ended up falling sick.

**[Scene 6]**

* You started showing symptoms sneezing and coughing. Your employer scolded you even more after finding out you were unwell and blamed that you did not take proper precautions to avoid being sick.

**[Scene 7]**

* Your employer isolated you in your room but did not bring you to the hospital for a checkup. You worry about contracting COVID-19 and blame yourself for falling sick.

 **[Scene 8]**

* You eventually got better and resumed back to work again. It has been tiring since MCO started as work started piling up but since then, you do your work and pray COVID-19 and MCO goes away soon so things can go back to normal.

**[Scene 9]**

During situations of imposed isolation during a pandemic such as COVID19, many schools, day care facilities and workplaces are closed. This creates a huge burden on working parents as well as domestic workers who will need to take up additional duties. It is therefore important that employers and domestic workers discuss these issues.