



*"The invisible builders of  
Singapore"*  
Sourav S Bhowmick

# The Smart Nation, surveillance and migrant workers in Singapore

By

Monamie Bhadra Haines

Technical University of Denmark

Department of Technology, Management and  
Economics

Responsible Innovation and Design Division

CMIO

region, quota and levy.

These requirements are additional and specific to the **construction sector**. You should refer to the more general [conditions and requirements for Work Permit](#) as well.

## Foreign worker eligibility

You can only hire foreign workers who satisfy the conditions for source countries or regions, age when applying and maximum period of employment.

### Source countries or regions

You can employ foreign workers from these countries or regions:


- Malaysia
- People's Republic of China (PRC)
- Non-traditional sources (NTS):
  - India
  - Sri Lanka
  - Thailand
  - Bangladesh
  - Myanmar
  - Philippines
- North Asian sources (NAS):
  - Hong Kong (HK SAR passport)
  - Macau
  - South Korea
  - Taiwan

Low-income  
migrant  
labor

# Cheap Labour




# Moral threats, Medical threats

 Hopefully the workers will also know how to clean up after themselves


Like · Reply · 3d

19

 Why the workers , they themselves cannot keep clean? They are the one stay at the place , use the place why cannot be response for their own hygiene? They are adult right , need to teach them to be clean??  
If they have a proper room n bed to stay, with a heart of appreciation, they need to responsible for their cleanness..


Like · Reply · 5d · Edited

8

 thank you! finally someone who speak sense. 😊


Like · Reply · 5d

1

 , i think everyone need to responsible for the cleanliness in our own daily stay place or any where, right.

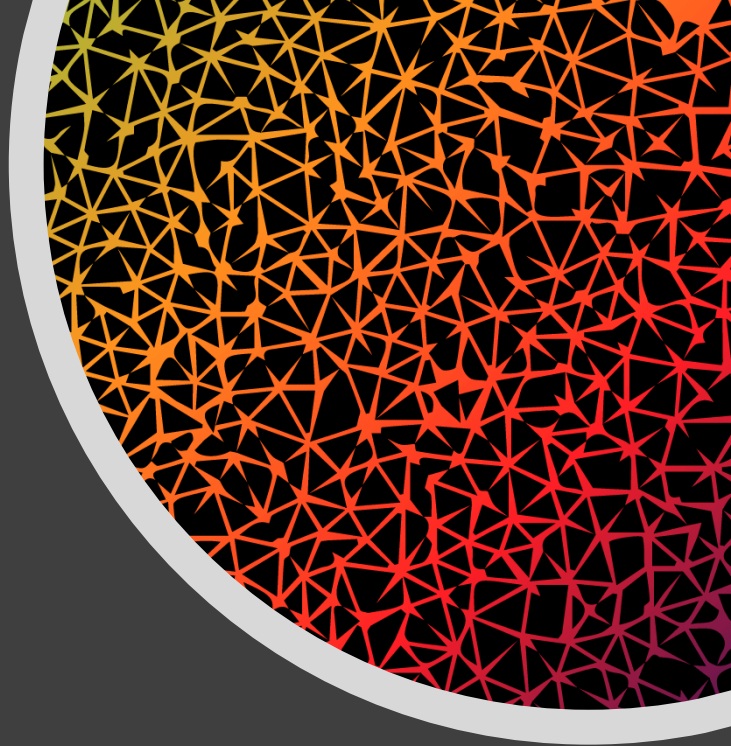
Like · Reply · 5d

3

 fully agree with you! Everyone who stays under the same roof has a part to play in keeping their own living conditions clean and tidy, and observe proper personal hygiene.

Like · Reply · 5d

1



# “Surveillant Assemblages”



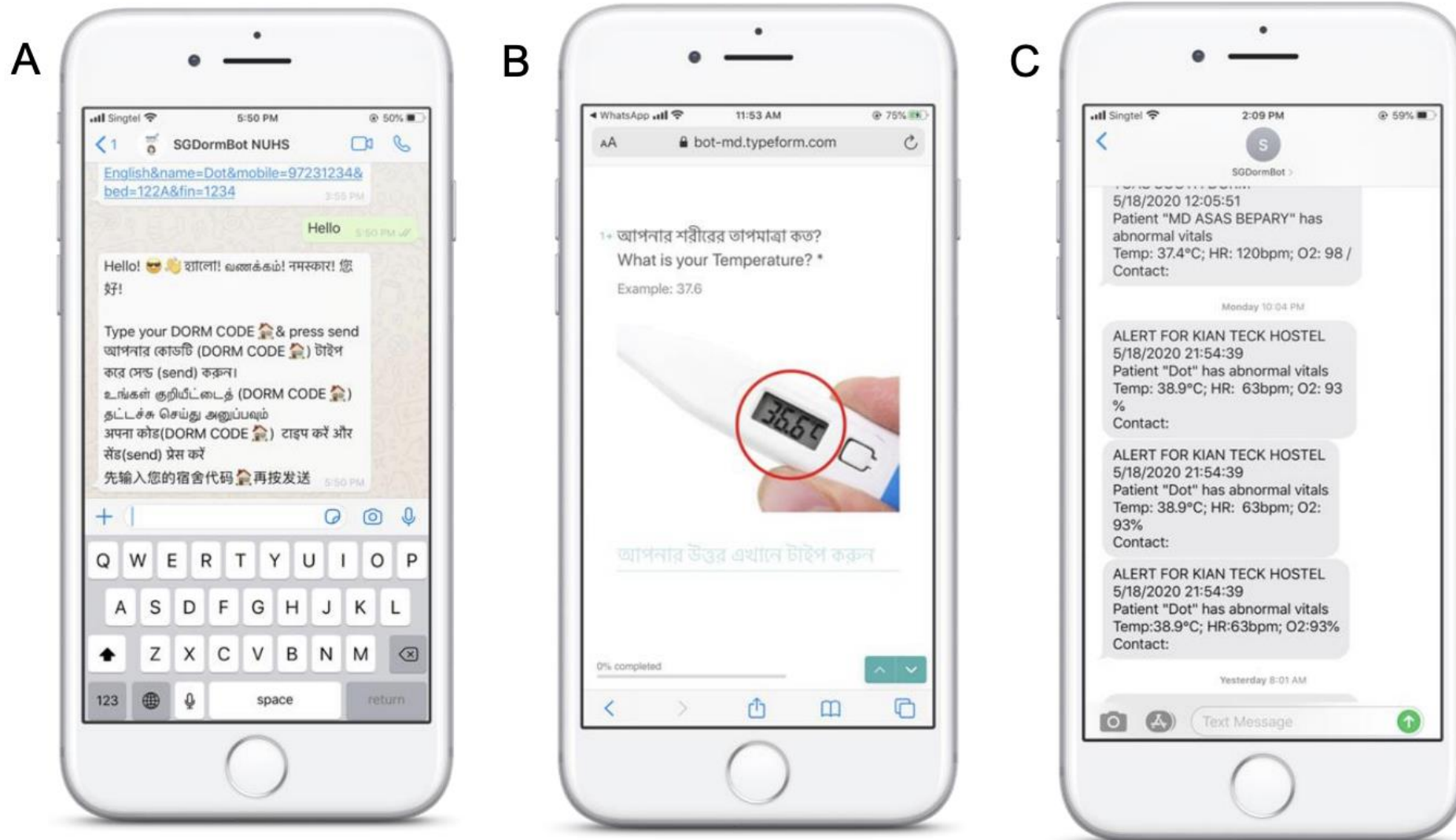
# Dormitories as Sites of Experimental Exuberance

---



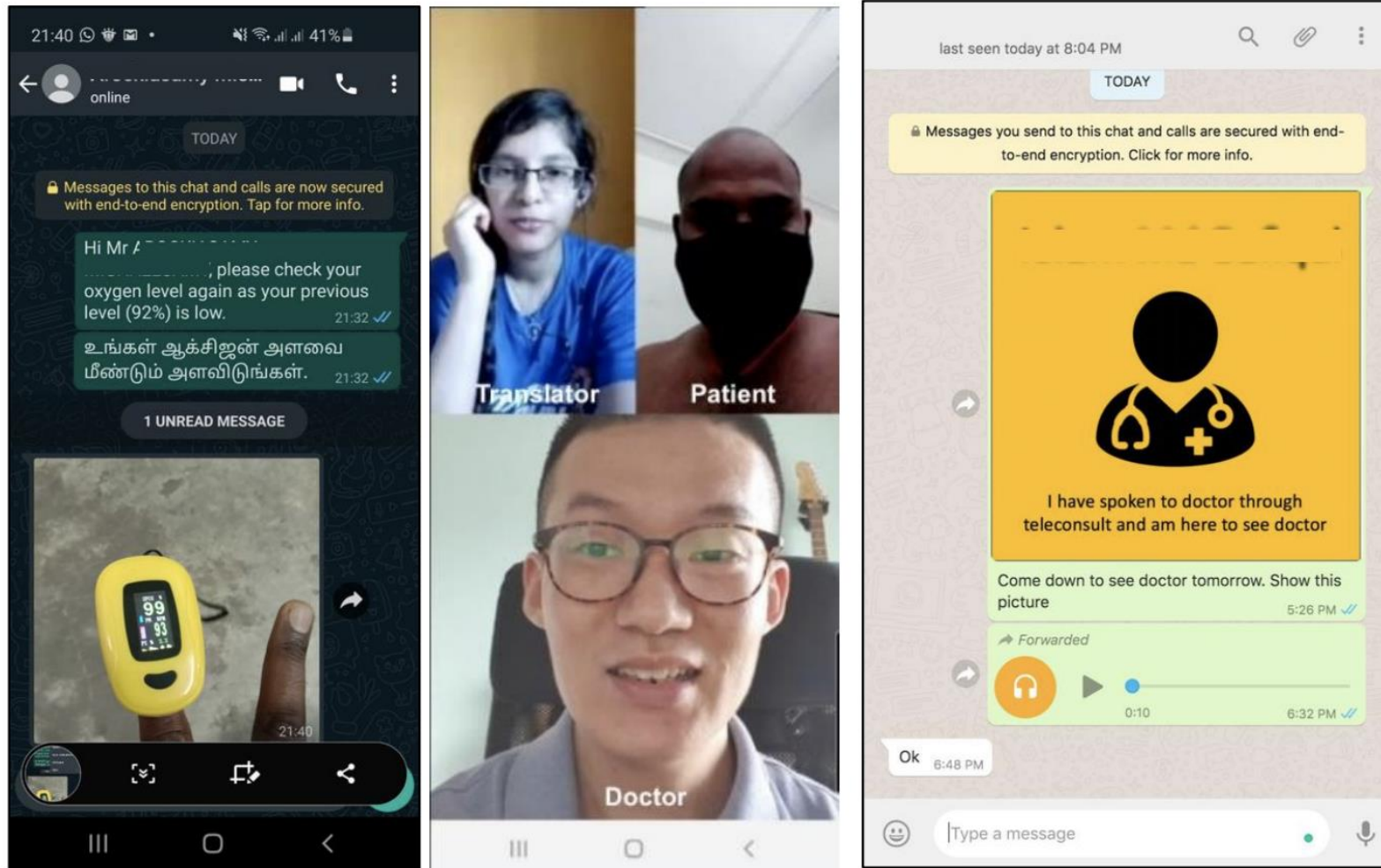
# SGDormBot: Chatbot monitors migrant workers' health

*Screenshots of A) SGDormBot Platform on WhatsApp, B) Vital signs monitoring form and C) SMS alerts sent to the NUHS doctors for patients with abnormal vital signs.*



# SGDormBot: Chatbot monitors migrant workers' health

*When a clinician is alerted of abnormal vital signs, SGDormBot telehealth consults are done via chat or 3-way video calls. Patients are then advised to visit the dormitory medical post, or escalated to the hospital for further review if required.*



## SGDormBot: “game changer” for migrant workers’ health


According to Dr Benjamin Hooi, the medical lead of Tuas South Dormitory, SGDormBot enables *“us to keep a close watch over COVID-19 positive dormitory residents, in whom a subtle change in the vital signs may be the first sign of clinical deterioration. More than that, it has empowered residents to take on an active role in monitoring their own conditions, which has facilitated a better understanding of the virus and how it affects their health.”*


# SGWorkPass App





- SGWorkPass is a free mobile app to check the validity of Singapore work passes or long-term passes issued by MOM.
- Workers can use SGWorkPass to check if they can leave for work based on their AccessCode status.
- With effect from 15 June 2020, SGWorkPass has been updated to incorporate TraceTogether, which is mandatory.

# SGWorkPass App

  
**Cannot leave residence for work**

  
G00000000  
ABC





 **VALID**  
Scanned on: 05 Jun 2020, 07:21PM


**Cannot go out for work**


Latest TraceTogether	Not installed
Pass Type	Work Permit
Pass Expires On	31 Dec 2020
Employer	ABC CONSTRUCTION PTE. LTD.
Occupation	CONSTRUCTION WORKER
Sector	Construction
Date of Application	30 Nov 2016
Issued On	31 Dec 2016
Multiple Journey Visa	Issued
Card Serial Number	K0000000

Accuracy as of 05 Jun 2020, 10:22AM

  
**Invalid work pass (Cannot work)**

  
G0000000N  
ABC





 **INVALID**  
Scanned on: 05 Jun 2020, 07:20PM


**Latest TraceTogether** **Not installed**


Pass Type	Work Permit
Pass Expires On	31 Dec 2016
Allowed To Stay Till	31 Dec 2016
Employer	ABC CONSTRUCTION PTE. LTD.
Occupation	CONSTRUCTION WORKER
Sector	Construction
Date of Application	30 Nov 2016
Issued On	31 Dec 2016
Multiple Journey Visa	Issued
Card Serial Number	K0000000

Accuracy as of 05 Jun 2020, 07:20PM

  
**Can leave residence for work**

  
G0000000A  
ABC



 **VALID**  
Scanned on: 05 Jun 2020, 07:21PM

**Can go out for work**

**Latest TraceTogether** **Installed**

Pass Type	Work Permit
Pass Expires On	31 Dec 2020
Employer	ABC CONSTRUCTION PTE. LTD.
Occupation	CONSTRUCTION WORKER
Sector	Construction
Date of Application	30 Nov 2016
Issued On	31 Dec 2016
Multiple Journey Visa	Issued
Card Serial Number	K0000000

Accuracy as of 05 Jun 2020, 10:22AM

# TraceTogether App

- TraceTogether app is mandatory for the migrant worker population.
- As of 19th June 2020, 5p.m. Work Permit and S Pass holders in construction, marine and process sectors or those staying in dormitories are required to download, activate and maintain the latest version of TraceTogether to ensure they fulfil one of the criteria required for “Green” AccessCode status.

# Issues highlighted by workers

- Apps are not available on Huawei's app gallery
- Bugs (unable to input emails, birthdays, addresses, not receiving OTPs)
- Constant need to update these apps is wasting worker's data
- Ramifications for the worker because it impact his ability to work.



**Shamih Sikthy**

★★★★★ June 17, 2020



Had an issue to update temperature. Now can't login to app after reinstall. Error message received. Code 503



**Hossain md Mofazzel**

★★★★★ June 17, 2020



Nowadays the apps are to much trouble, even i keeping continue update also mostly stuck



**kalai selvan**

★★★★★ June 17, 2020



This fuction is did not work on 17th june. Please check and clear that problems. Thank you.



**Nicole yap**

★★★★★ June 17, 2020



1

Today unable to update the temperature. I try to uninstall and reuninstall again also unable to update & login to the apps.



**satish reddy**

★★★★★ June 17, 2020



I just update app , but i cannot login . Show error 503



**Jeffrey Mercado**

★★★★★ June 17, 2020



I notice the health function not loading so i tried reinstalling the app. After that I could not log-in on the app, i keep receiving error code 503 and sms of login OTP code.

# Differential Surveillance



# Knowledge Politics of Managing Migrant Dorms

"advisory stated employers would lose their work pass privileges if they brought their workers for Covid-19 testing", and that the ministry "actively discouraged" the testing of workers.



**Corrections and Clarifications Regarding Falsehoods Published by Singapore States Times on the Reporting of COVID-19 Cases in Singapore**

False statement made in a Facebook post by Singapore States Times

4 min read | Published on 18 Apr 2020

Share :      

 There are false statements contained in a Facebook post on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore.



**PART OF A SPECIAL FEATURE**  
**COVID-19**  
**(Coronavirus)**

# Grassroots Organization and Self-Responsibilization

**Let's fight COVID-19 together**

**These measures will help to protect you.**



**Stay in your room**



**Wear a reusable mask**  
if you have to go out and  
be in close contact with others.  
Keep 1 metre apart from others



**DO NOT** meet friends  
from other floors or blocks

**Follow scheduled timeslots**



**Cook**



**Eat**



**Shower**



**Move within  
the dormitory**



**Download TraceTogether App**  
to help with contact tracing efforts

## **We will**

- ✓ **Provide you with good medical care, if you fall sick**
- ✓ **Work with employers to continue paying you**
- ✓ **Take care of your welfare, e.g. food, masks, thermometers, hand sanitisers and wifi**

Your dormitory operator  
or employer can assist you.  
If not, call MOM 24-hour hotline  
at 66925311 or 66925312.

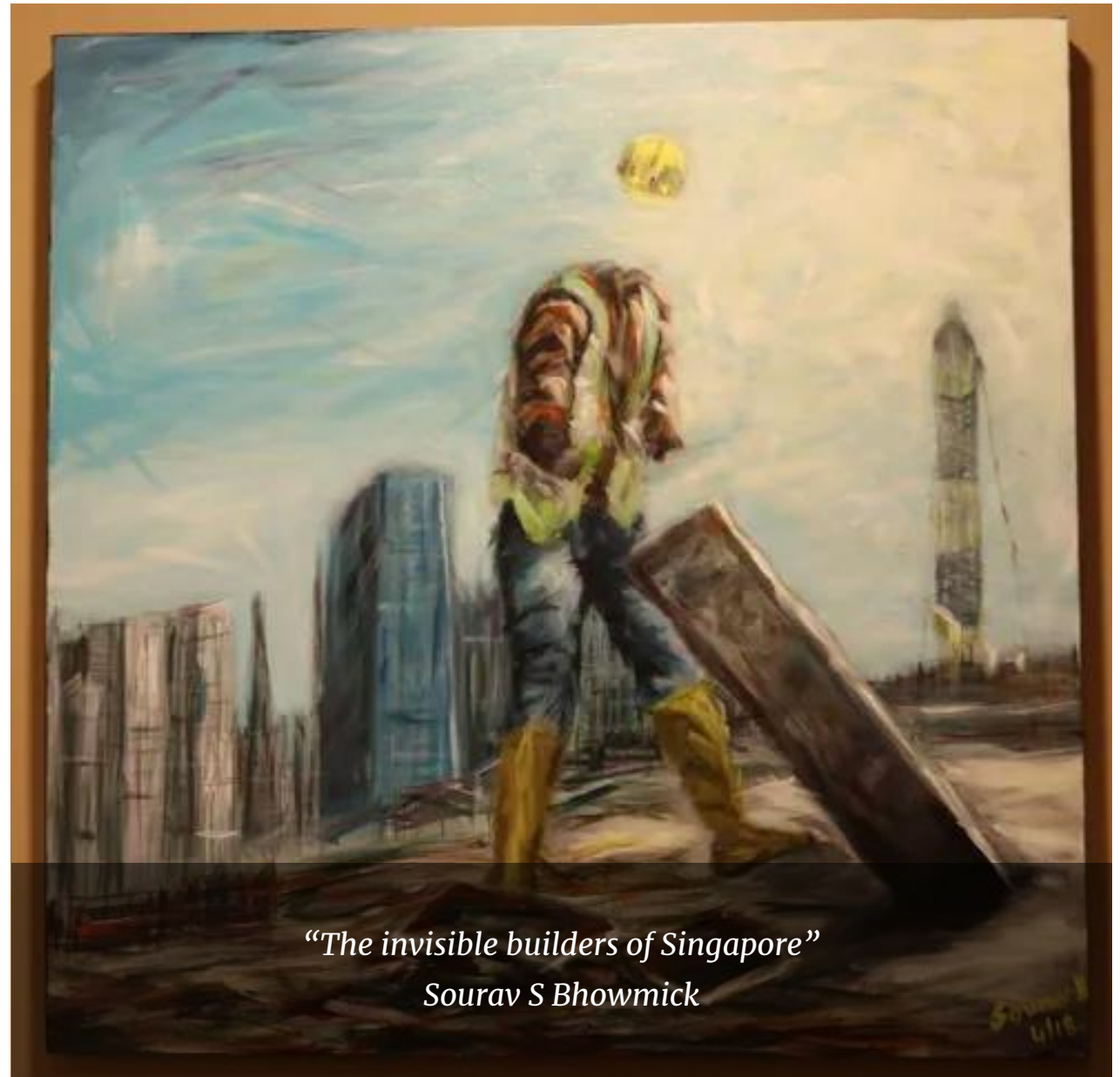


**Do not spread rumours.**  
Get the latest on COVID-19 by signing up for  
the Gov.sg WhatsApp channel ([www.gov.sg/whatsapp](https://www.gov.sg/whatsapp))



# Gradual Disciplining of Bodies to Surveillance

# Surveillant Assemblage Reproducing Racialized Immigration Hierarchies



*"The invisible builders of Singapore"*

Sourav S Bhowmick