Welfare Issues of Children and Youth in Singapore

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SINGAPORE FACTS & FIGURES

➢ Singapore is an Island Republic.
➢ It obtained its independence from the British in 1965.
➢ Well known as “Little Red Dot”.
Celebrating 53 years of Independence

9 August 2018

HAPPY Independence DAY
SINGAPORE FACTS & FIGURES

The main religious groups are: Buddhists, Taoists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Catholics.

Together with local citizens and our working migrant brothers and sisters who come from the Philippines, India, China etcs.

5.7% of Singapore populace = 300,000 are Roman Catholic
Evidence Base Medicine

What is evidence-based practice? Some misconceptions and myths

- **Evidence means quantitative ‘scientific’ evidence.** No. Evidence in general just means information – like the use of ‘evidence’ in legal settings – anything might count if it’s valid and relevant.

- **Evidence-based practice means practitioners cannot or should not use their professional expertise.** No. Expertise is another form of knowledge which can be as valid or relevant as any other. And expertise is necessary to apply evidence.

- **Evidence can prove things.** No. Just probabilities or indications based on limited information and situations.

- **Evidence tells you the truth about things.** No. Truth is a whole different thing.
Singapore's Ethnic Makeup

- Chinese: 76%
- Malay: 15%
- Indian: 7%
- Other: 2%
### Population of Singapore (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>5,791,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5,708,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5,622,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,535,262</td>
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SINGAPORE FACTS & FIGURES

Singapore Population (LIVE)

5,806,211

Singapore Population (1950 - 2018)

Yearly Population Growth Rate (%)
Singapore is a small island state:
- with no natural resources
- only resource is its people.
- Must develop her people to the fullest potential, and a crucial stage of development is in a person’s childhood and adolescence.
The Ministry for Social and Family Development (MSF) believes in empowering our children and youth and providing them with conducive environments to grow and develop into good citizens and socially responsible adults.
Welfare Issues of Children and Youth in Singapore

Areas of focus are relatively:

- Children Beyond Parental Control
- Obligations under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- Obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Protection under Children & Young Persons Act
- Working with Partners to Help Youths–At–Risk
- Rebuilding Children and Youth
- Integrated Service Providers (ISP) for MSF–funded Youth–At–Risk Programmes
Touch a life, Foster a child
Not every child has a place called home.

There are children in Singapore who are unable to stay with their families.
These children need foster families to provide them with the love, care and nurturance that all children deserve.

Right now, there are children still waiting to be placed in a foster home.

THESE CHILDREN NEED YOU.
Open up your home and heart today. You could change a child’s life forever.

Fostering is a short term care arrangement and financial support is provided for foster families.
Become a foster parent today.
Call 6354 8799 or visit msf.gov.sg/fostering.
Compulsory Education Act

According to Singapore CE Act (Cap 51)

- a child fails to attend school regularly
- not home-schooled

The parent/guardian may be guilty of an offence

Penalties:

- A fine not exceeding $5,000
- Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months (or both)
Student Support Services

- Student Support Centres
- Pre-entry support and advice
- Academic support
- Student Wellness
- Student Placement
Children Beyond Parental Control

Below 16 years of age

- display behavioural problems in school/home
- not offenders but bad behaviour

Parents might seek the Court for assistance in managing them

The Children & Young Persons Act (CYPAA) safeguards the care, protection and rehabilitation of our children and young persons who are below 16 years of age.
Children and Young Persons Homes
- Children and Young Persons Homes provide residential care programmes for children and young persons who may be in need of care, protection or rehabilitation.

Policy on Protection & Welfare of Children
- Child abuse is defined as any act of commission or commission by a parent or guardian which would endanger or impair the child’s physical or emotional well-being or that are judged by a mixture of community values and professionals to be inappropriate.

Community Service Order
- The Community Service Order aims to broaden the juveniles’ perspectives and help them gain meaningful social experiences, develop social skills in relating with other people, and develop a sense of purpose in life.

Probation with Detention
- Requires juvenile offenders to reside in a place of detention to learn relevant skills through exercise drills and groupwork.

Weekend Detention
Weekend Detention is one of the options available to the Juvenile Court when dealing with an offender below 16 years of age.

Rehabilitation of Juvenile Offenders
- Approved Schools and Approved Homes for community-based or institutional rehabilitation of children and young persons.
BEYOND PARENTAL CONTROL

BPC Complaint
Complaint accepted by Judge
Safe custody for 4-5 weeks
Possible outcomes

Admitted into closed institutions
Admitted into open institutions
Statutory Supervision Order

is an international treaty to protect children who have been removed from their country of habitual residence without the permission of the parent who has custody rights.
The UNCRC is a convention which sets out the basic rights all children should have. The UK agreed to obey the UNCRC in 1991.

What's a 'right'?
A right is something you have as a person, e.g. the right to an education, or the right to life.

Every child and young person under the age of 18 has rights, no matter who they are, where they live or what they believe in.

The UNCRC now underpins all the work that we do within Communities First Ebbw Fawr e.g. Youth Clubs and all CF Activities.

The UNCRC includes 42 rights given to all children and young people. 5 important rights are:

- The right to be healthy
- The right to be educated
- The right to be treated fairly
- The right to be heard
- The right not to be hurt.
UNCRC

UNCRC: Obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A treaty – provides for the rights of children.
- standards on the provisions of healthcare, education, legal and social services for children.

Singapore acceded to UNCRC in October 1995.

- Singapore’s commitment to protect and promote the wellbeing of children in line with the principles of the UNCRC.
- Singapore's progress in enhancing the rights of children through improving the protection, care and holistic development of children.
OPCP

Raising Understanding among Children and Young People on the OPCP

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON A COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE
safeguards the care, protection and rehabilitation of our children and young persons who are *below 16 years* of age.

- aims to enhance the welfare, care and protection of children and young persons in residential care.
- homes are guided by the regulations under the Act and Standards of Care for Homes issued by MSF.
National Committee on Youth Guidance & Rehabilitation
to reach out and help youth-at-risk aged 12 to 21 years

5 key areas initiatives supported by NYGR:

Early Intervention
- Providing programmes for early intervention when delinquent behaviour first occurs amongst youth.

Promoting Prevention Strategies
- Organising campaigns, programmes, talks and other measures to reduce the potential of delinquent behaviour.

Rehabilitation
- Community and residential rehabilitation for youth offenders to re-integrate into society.

Strengthening Families
- Helping parents provide guidance and discipline as well as instilling values in youths.

Supporting Community-Based Agencies
- Assisting public organisations and community agencies in their efforts.

- working with our partners to support youth-at-risk and help them find positive alternatives to crime and anti-social behaviour coordinating and reviewing existing intervention programmes to identify gaps
Modernisation

- **Parent**
  - Overprotection
  - Neglect
  - Strictness
  - Disharmony
  - Over jealous mother

- **Teacher**
  - Strictness
  - Excessive punitive attitude

- **Siblings and friends**
  - Separation from class siblings
  - Excessive competition

- **Child himself**
  - Boredom
  - Loneliness
  - Excessive burden of household work
  - Separation from attached parents

R Dhaker, Asst Professor, RCN
Avoid heated arguments:
Don't lock horn with your child. Instead of shouting at each other, take a break and assess the situation to calm your nerves.
Pastoral care is not merely a complementary practice; it is policy and practices fully integrated throughout the teaching and learning and structural organisation of a school to effectively meet the personal, social (wellbeing) and academic needs of students and staff.
Catholic Schools

One of the most important tenets of Catholic Education is raising our children in the Catholic faith. A holistic education system lies where children are raised to be individuals who are morally responsible, good citizens and contribute to the moral fabric of our society.

“Catholic education is more than helping our students
Family Life Society

Counselling

- Therapists help, affirm, journey with and support all who come with difficulties regardless of background, race or religious belief.

- Apart from focusing on family and marital issues, FLS also offers support on pregnancy crisis related issues.
PARA–COUNSELLING

- A team of lay counsellors known as para–counsellors who are volunteers and they offer front–line counselling for the community in the heartlands.

- Para–counselling is a **FREE service** available at **9 parishes** in the Catholic Archdiocese for anyone who needs a listening ear.
Family Life Society

- Rachel’s Vineyard
  - A support group that organizes post-abortion healing retreats for women and men who have suffered, or is suffering from, being involved with an abortion.
Rachels Vineyard
- The retreat comprises a supportive and non-judgmental process, confronting unresolved conflicting emotions to help participants experience the healing from their own internal struggles.
- The retreat welcomes non-Christians to experience the healing power of God, and the hope, liberation and peace that comes from it. Your personal freedom and beliefs will be respected.

More information visit  www.rachelsvineyard.sg
VISION
Be a sign of God’s love in restoring the dignity of victims who are accepted by society without prejudice or discrimination.
Catholic Aids Response Effort

MISSION

1. To advocate and cater to the spiritual, psychological, financial and physical wellbeing of victims.
2. To provide direct care and support to victims.
3. To help raise the level of public awareness of HIV/AIDS and promote greater compassion and understanding towards victims.
4. To give victims hope and help them have a long fulfilling life.
Rich Church in a Poor World

Reaching Vulnerable Children & Youth in Singapore
Behold, the glory of God.
Thank You