Chapter 4: How can citizens and the government work together for the good of society?

What is the concept of the 'good of the society'?
- Achieving positive outcomes for the society by addressing needs and interests of citizens
- Promote social, economic and political stability
- Achieving the 'greater good'
- Both Govt and citizens have complementary roles (combining in such a way as to enhance or emphasize the qualities of each other or another) in working for good of society

How can both sides contribute to the 'good of society'?
- **Addressing the needs of society**
  - Refers to the effort focused on improving well-being of different groups of people
  - Respond to issues and challenges these groups face
  - Types of current needs: (Poverty/Isolation/Mental Health/People with Disabilities etc)
- **Influence decision-making in public affairs**
  - Govt and citizens can work together to make informed decisions
- **Strengthening citizens' sense of belonging**
  - Encourage citizens to feel attached to fellow citizens
  - Form an unique identity as Singaporeans
  - Make them feel essential in the society -> more funding to govt
- **Create community groups**
  - Two types of groups
    - Formal
    - Informal

How can the government work with citizens?
- **Create opportunities for the community to share care to those around them**
  - Set up structures and national programmes
  - Providing resources in a targeted manner
- **Provide citizens with equal opportunities to participate and influence public policy decision-making**
- **Give every citizen a stake in the country's affair**
- **Strengthen citizen's sense of belonging**
  - Put in place structures
  - Fund programmes

How can the citizens work with the government?

- <u>Offer their knowledge, skills, experiences</u> (Initiate new efforts)
- <u>Use resources (programmes etc) provided</u> from the Govt to address the needs of society
- <u>Share their opinion</u> with Govt through engagement platforms (social media eg.)
- <u>Craft recommendations with the Govt</u> by working together
- <u>Play an active role in strengthening sense of belonging</u> in citizens
  - Share, build a sense of identity and attachment with people, places and history

Examples of Addressing Needs of Society

- <u>National Council of Social Services develop resources -> Volunteer Management Toolkit 2.0</u>
  - Provides a framework and guidelines on how to manage volunteers effectively
  - Helps to meet the needs of needy groups
- <u>Senior volunteers at RSYP Singapore serve >200,000 beneficiaries every year</u>
  - Provides seniors with meaningful opportunities to contribute in the community

Examples of Influencing decision-making

- <u>Citizens' Jury for the War on Diabetes demonstrates how the Govt and citizens worked for the good of society</u>
  - Govt worked with citizens to create community-based and community-driven recommendations to combat problem with diabetes
  - Ministry of Health supported 14 out of 28 recommendations and provided resources to carry out the recommendations

Examples of Strengthening citizens' sense of belonging

- <u>Our Singapore Fund setted up by Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth provides funding for Singaporeans</u>
  - Allows them to carry out projects that aim to build national identity of citizens

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Chapter 5: Factors that shape the identities of people and contribute to a diverse society

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What is Identity?

- Refers to how you perceive yourself and how others perceive you
- Perceptions may be based on different factors (personal qualities, relationships, physical attributes
- Can change over time

What is Diversity?

- Refers to difference and variety
    - Socio-cultural diversity: people of different races, ethnicities, religions and nationalities
    - Socio-economic diversity: different people of different socio-economic backgrounds due to different levels of education, income, wealth

Types of factors:

Race and ethnicity

- Refers to a biological classification of people (Physical characteristics)
- Eye colour, skin colour, jaw structure are some physical characteristics that define people

Religion

- Refers to an organised collection of attitudes, beliefs, values, practices and world views
- May be by birth or choice
- Believers keep to belief and practices of their religion (Regardless of race/ethnicity/nationality)

Socio-economic status

- Refers to an economic situation shared by a group in society (based on a combination of social and economic status
- Possible indicators are: income, type of housing, occupation and education level
- A person may move across socio-economic positions either upwards or downwards -> social mobility

Nationality

- Having a sense of belonging to the nation
- People of the same nationality live together: Usually live together in a particular geographical area
- Share a common history, language, experiences, practices and traditions