
Exploring Citizenship and Governance

Social Studies



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01

What does it mean for me to be a citizen of my country?

Legal status, sense of identity, participating in public affairs



How to be a citizen in Singapore?



By descent

Any child born to a Singapore citizen



By marriage

A person married to a Singapore citizen + lived in Singapore for at least two years



By naturalization

PRs for 2-6 years can apply for citizenship

Being a citizen,

gives a person legal rights, duties and responsibilities in a country

Examples of such in Singapore are free speech (Art.14 of the Constitution), freedom of religion (Art 15), rights in respect of education (Art 16)





Sense of identity

Comes from a shared belief that we all
come from the same country
+ share aspects of a common way of
life + common practices—



Participating in public affairs

Work towards bettering Singapore and
involvement in common spaces and
build civic consciousness

02

How do we decide what is good for society?

Legal status, sense of identity, participating in public affairs



Challenges in deciding what is good for society?



Differing needs and interests

Different people hold different things important

e.g: those with no cars who care about public transport vs those with cars who care about road networks



Differing priorities

Different people have different priorities

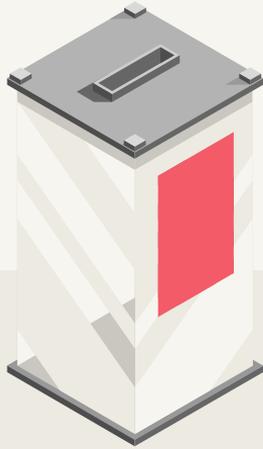
e.g: Citizens can't agree on what the government should worry about more, healthcare/education



Unequal sharing of costs

Some groups may have to bear a higher cost than others

e.g: By building more expressways to create a better transport system, ppl are bothered by the construction noise



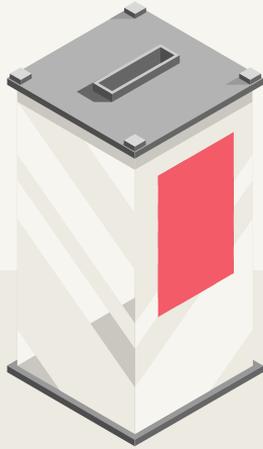
Singapore is one of the smallest countries in the world + small population + few monetary and natural resources

TLDR; Having limited resources makes it hard to implement changes

Not In My Backyard Syndrome

When local citizens self-organise themselves to prevent the building of what they see as an undesirable project near their homes





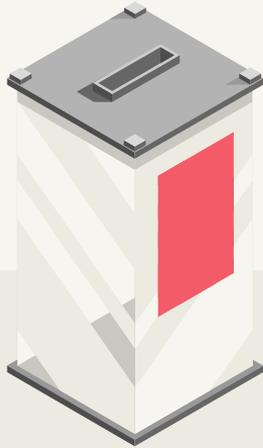
An exchange of one thing for another of more or less equal value , meaning a benefit, profit or value of something must be given up to achieve something else

Trade-offs



e.g: 2011 @ Bukit Brown Cemetery

LTA wanted to redevelop land in Bukit Brown Cemetery for an eight lane highway, which caused severe backlash from civil society groups who believed it to be destroying culture. Singapore Heritage Society documented important artifacts, while LTA started exhuming the graves in 2013.



SG has the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive to decide what is good for society. Citizens can vote for issues of interest and civil society groups and the President's Council for Minority Rights (PCMR) speak up about any issues they view in policy

Singapore's decision-making in a Representative Democracy



Having good leadership

Leaders must have the moral character and who are incorruptible can win the confidence and respect of the people

e.g: Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore, his progress for the country (etc.)

Ideas that shaping governance



Anticipating change and staying relevant

Governments must be able to manage tensions caused by their decisions

e.g: IRs in 2004 promoting gambling (bad for social consequences, good for money)
-> IRs implemented + National Council of Problem Gambling was created

Ideas that shaping governance



Providing a stake for everyone

Providing the citizens of Singapore a say in the decision-making so that they can feel a sense of belonging

e.g: REACH government feedback system which allowed citizens to give feedback and realise their concerns



Practising meritocracy

Practising a system that distributes opportunities based on merit rather than status and encourages them to work hard for the country

e.g: Edusave Scholarship and Merit Bursary who reward top 10% and top 25% citizens in schools

03

What is the government's role in working for the good of society?

What the government does, what the citizens do



What the government does

- IO: Singapore Police Force
- ES: deterrence (SAF) + diplomacy (good international relations)

Maintain internal order and external security

Ensuring justice

By having strict and clear laws that judges citizens fairly and objectively and keeps the people's trust in government and the Judiciary

By providing services and goods that the public needs like public transport, it improves their quality of life and is a benefit to society

Providing goods and services

Safeguarding the interests of the citizens

Initiatives like the WorkRight scheme that keep both workers and employers know their rights are in place to ensure that citizens are protected by the government, giving them a sense of security

What citizens can do



Individuals

Can benefit many with immediate improvements + inspire others

e.g: 'A litter at a time' was a spontaneous movement driven by a housewife after she saw the irresponsibility of Singaporeans to clean up after themselves at the Countdown



Formal groups

Close cooperation with the government allows the benefit to be long term and sustainable

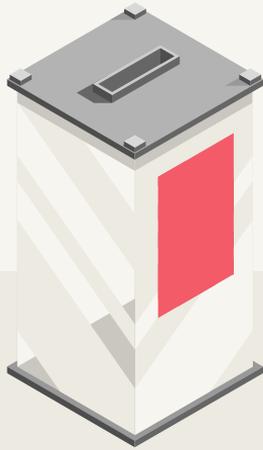
e.g: NGOS, VWOS, MINDS is an example which aims to advance the development wellbeing and aspirations of people with intellectual disability and help them integrate into society.



Informal groups

Help support communities that the government/formal groups may not be able to help

e.g: various groups created to deal with the haze in Singapore that organised events such as the distribution of masks to the needy such as elderly



A greater sense of ownership and commitment is created, resulting in the long term involvement

**Why does it matter that citizens
can contribute to the needs of
society?**

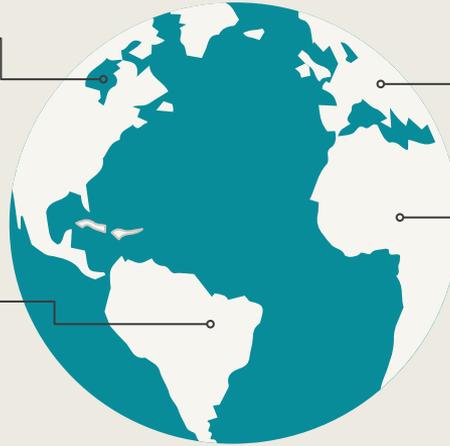
Influencing Government Decisions

Individuals

provide feedback so as to gauge general public sentiments and areas for improvements and change

Individuals

e.g. REACH (Reaching Everyone for Active Citizenry @Home) regularly collects feedback from the citizenry to help gauge a policy's effectiveness.

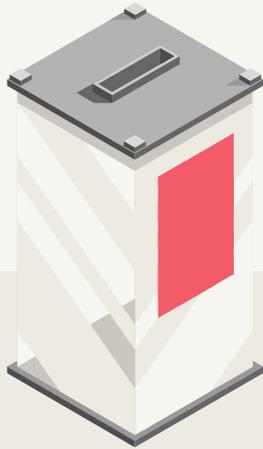


Formal groups

provide detailed and highly informative feedback which can help refine government policies and point to areas which need more attention.

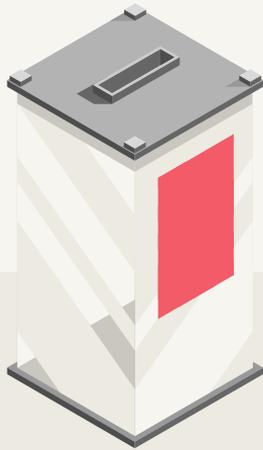
Formal groups

e.g. TWC2 (Transient Workers Count Too) submitted a report to the government, putting forth their recommendations on how to improve the living conditions of foreign workers in Singapore.



Citizens can help suggest for any necessary changes and improvements to be made, allowing for a more effective policy.

**Why does it matter that citizens
can influence government
decisions?**



When citizens are both actively involved on a societal level and in the decision making process, this cultivates a sense of attachment to Singapore.

How does this strengthen a citizen's sense of belonging?

Thanks



Do you have any questions?
dont ask me

@p0stc4rds_
<https://uquiz.com/mKMmQQ>



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