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## **Issue 1: Exploring Citizenship and Governance**

*(Inquiry Focus: Working for the good of society: Whose responsibility is it?)*

### **CHAPTER 1: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME TO BE A CITIZEN OF MY COUNTRY?**

#### **1. Different Attributes Shaping Citizenship**

1. Shaped by legal status
2. Having a sense of belonging
3. Participating in meaningful causes to compliment the role of government.

#### **1.1 Citizenship Shaped by Legal Status**

1. There are some similarities between being a member of a CCA and being a citizen of a country.
2. The differences between being a member of a CCA and being a citizen of a country are:

#### **Comparing CCA Membership and Singapore Citizenship**

	<b>Being a Member of Your CCA</b>	<b>Being a Citizen of Singapore</b>
Membership	- A personal choice - By interest	- By descent - By marriage - By naturalisation
Responsibility	- Be committed to your CCA	- Be committed to your country
Rights	- Be awarded CCA points - Able to use facilities assigned to your CCA, e.g. CCA room	- Access to public education - Freedom to practise religion

#### **Ways to Become a Citizen**

<b>1. By descent</b>	- To gain citizenship by descent, a child requires at least one parent to be a citizen of that particular country.
<b>2. By country of birth</b>	- Citizenship is granted to those who were born in the country.
<b>3. By marriage</b>	- Citizenship can be obtained by marrying a citizen of that country.
<b>4. By naturalisation</b>	- Citizenship is granted to those who have migrated to that country or have been resident there for a given number of years and registered themselves as citizens. Some countries require aspiring citizens to pass a test and/or to give up their original citizenship.

#### **1.1.1 Citizenship in a democracy**

1. Democracy is a system where people choose their representatives in government.
2. These representatives form the government and are given the authority to make decisions on behalf of the citizens.

3. Governments in a representative democracy do not have unlimited power to make decisions or carry out actions.
4. They are required to act according to the laws of the country, also known as a constitution.

### **1.1.2 Rights of citizens**

1. A constitution is a collection of rules that determine the creation and operation of the government, its organs and institutions.
2. It is the supreme law of the land, which means all other laws passed must not contradict the constitution.
3. Countries usually include the rights of citizens as part of the constitution.
4. Rights are liberties that citizens have that are protected by the law.
5. When the rights of citizens are clearly articulated, it will ensure that these rights are respected by the law and by everyone in the country.
6. Citizens have to exercise their rights responsibly even though their rights are protected by the Constitution.
7. Citizens should practise the values of respect and consideration for other people when it comes to exercising their rights.
8. The Constitution also gives citizens certain rights in respect of education. It states that no citizen will be discriminated against on the ground of religion, race, descent or place of birth when it comes to the provision of financial aid for education in any educational institutions.

### **Did you know?**

***The Singapore Parliament passed the Compulsory Education Bill on 9 October 2000 to make it a requirement for every Singaporean child to attend a national primary school unless he or she has been exempted.***

### **1.1.3 Responsibilities of citizens**

1. We have responsibilities or duties to fulfil as a citizen because we are connected to other members in the community or society.
2. As a Singaporean, we have the responsibility to obey the laws of the land and not to discriminate against people of different ethnic groups.
3. As citizens, we have the responsibility to participate in meaningful causes which contribute towards the good of the country because it will bring about progress and prosperity and to build a harmonious Singapore.

## **1.2 Citizenship shaped by Identity and Participation**

1. Citizens may also feel a sense of belonging to the country and this identity creates the desire to be involved in the affairs of the country and make it a better place to live in.
2. A sense of national identity comes from a shared belief that we belong to the same country.

3. As Singapore citizens, we experience common practices such as singing the National Anthem and taking the National Pledge.
4. Beyond common practices, Singaporeans feel proud that our country is known as a food haven to others. This recognition as a food haven creates a bond with fellow Singaporeans and strengthens the sense of identity as Singaporeans.
5. When Singaporeans feel closer to one another and the country, other positive outcomes may result, such as willingness to care for others and improve society.
6. Participation in public affairs or matters of general concern in society also shapes a person's citizenship.
7. Public affairs refer to issues that are of general interest or concern to most people in society.
8. Citizens can contribute in areas they are passionate about, thus contributing towards greater ownership and commitment towards the causes they are involved in.

### **Conclusion**

1. The term "citizen" is complex and some people regard citizenship as having a series of rights that allow individuals the freedom to do as they choose within the law.
2. There are those who view citizenship as more than just a duty to follow the laws of the country.
3. They see citizenship as also requiring participation in making contribution to society.
4. There are also those who believe that citizenship would require sharing a common purpose and bond with fellow citizens.
5. How an individual understands what being a citizen means will affect how much this individual participates in improving the society.
6. The 3 attributes are, however, closely related to one another.
7. For example, those without the legal status of citizenship, like refugees, would find it difficult to integrate and develop a bond with other citizens.
8. Without a legal status, refugees will not be able go through formal schooling, gain employment and establish themselves in the community.



## **Issue 1: Exploring Citizenship and Governance**

*(Inquiry Focus: Working for the good of society: Whose responsibility is it?)*

### **CHAPTER 2: HOW DO WE DECIDE WHAT IS GOOD FOR SOCIETY?**

#### **1. Challenges in deciding what is good for society**

- Within a society, there are challenges in deciding on what is good for society due to several reasons.
- One such reason is because people have different needs and interest and this leads to people disagreeing on what is more important them, and the extent of what they will be willing to give up for the benefit of society.

##### **1.1 Differing Needs and Interests**

1. A diverse population may not agree on common interests and what is most important for a happy or fulfilling life.
2. Given that society only has limited resources, it would be impossible for everyone's needs and interests to be met fully.

##### **1.2 Differing Priorities**

1. Besides differing needs and interests, there could also be disagreement on priorities.
2. For example, the citizens of a country may agree that it is important for the country to provide affordable healthcare, a good education and a clean environment.
3. However, the citizens may disagree on which area the government should prioritise. Parents with school-going children would likely want more resources to be invested in education.

##### **1.3 Unequal Sharing of Costs**

1. When a decision is made, some individuals or groups will bear greater costs than others.
2. For example, in building an efficient transportation system for the country, it is necessary to build expressways for smooth traffic flow. While society will generally benefit, residents living near the expressways may be affected by the noise generated from the traffic.
3. While there are some residents believe that such developments are needed, there are also others who believe that these facilities should be built further away from their homes so that they do not have to bear with the inconveniences associated with them.
4. This is an example of the Not In My Backyard (NIMBY) syndrome.
5. The situation is even more difficult in Singapore as we have limited land and such facilities would invariably be built near where some people live.

#### **2. How the Government Manages Conflicting Demands**

1. Tensions arise due to the different needs and interests that need to be addressed in a small country like Singapore.

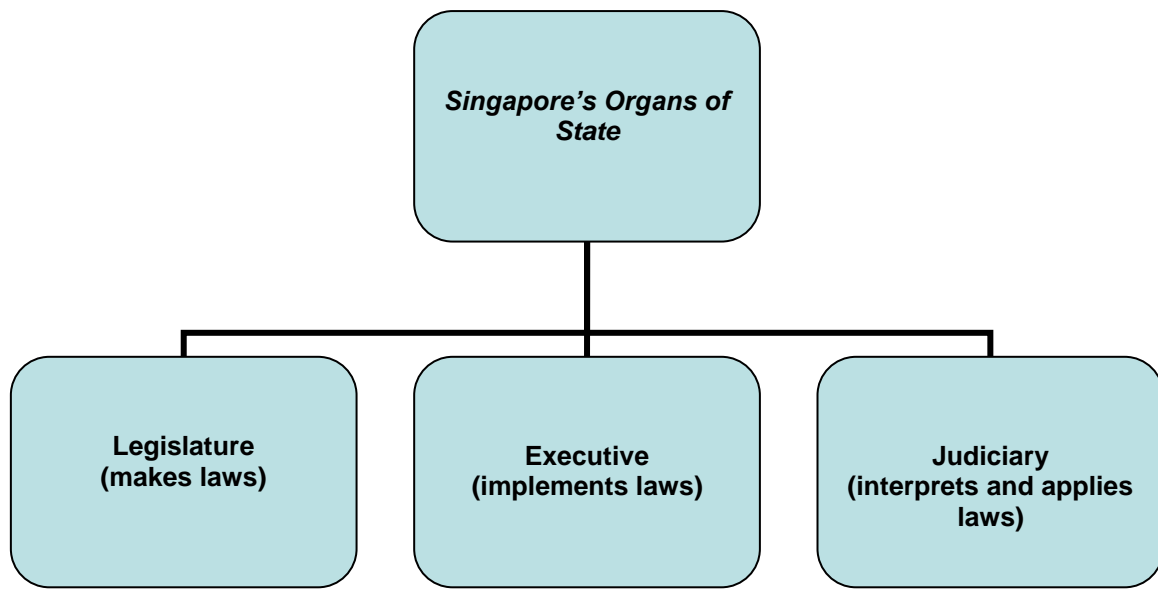
2. As Singapore's population continues to grow, more and more land will be required for living spaces such as recreational and housing areas.
3. Citizens may not always be able to come to an agreement on what is good for society.
4. As the government considers citizen feedback in its decision-making, it has to make decisions based on the best interests of society.
5. Prioritisation is needed, which may mean that not everyone's interests could be addressed effectively,
6. In doing so, the government may also not be able to meet all of the demands in society due to the limited amount of resources Singapore has.

## **2.1 Understanding Trade-offs**

1. Due to the limited amount of resources available, there is a need to make choices about how to make the best use of these resources.
2. This will ensure more people are able to gain the most benefits from these decisions.
3. The Singapore government has to consider our limited resources when making decisions on developing Singapore.
4. In 2014, the government had to make a decision to acquire land previously used for other purposes, such as residential and commercial, to build the Thomson-East Coast Line. When fully operational in 2024, the new MRT line is expected to serve 500 000 commuters daily in the initial years, rising to one million commuters in the longer term.
5. By making this decision, the trade-off was that this piece of land could no longer be used for recreation or industry in the future.
6. Very often, the government needs to balance the costs of trade-offs with that it chooses to spend its resources on.

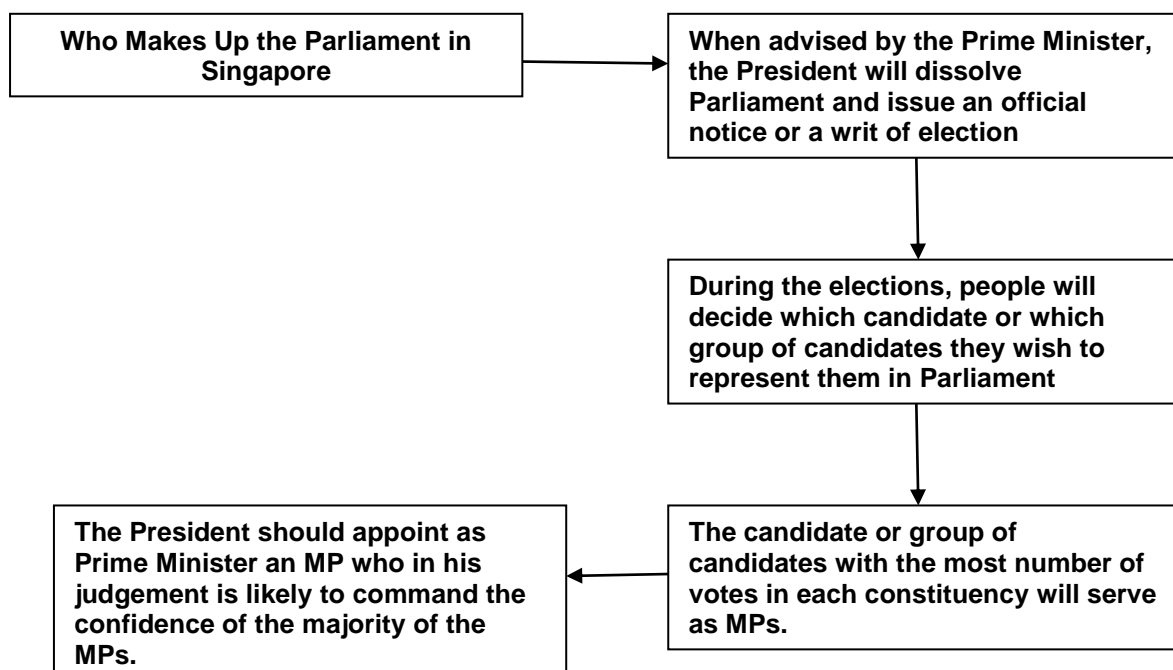
## **2.2 Decision-making in a Representative Democracy**

1. In representative democracies, representatives in governments are elected by citizens and have the political legitimacy to make decisions on behalf of citizens when there are conflicting interests and demands.
2. In the face of conflicting demands, governments make decisions by making laws (rule-making), implementing them (rule execution) and interpreting and applying them (rule adjudication).
3. In Singapore, the organs of state, provided by the Constitution, carry out these functions.



### 2.2.1 Legislature

1. It consists of the President and Parliament.
2. The Legislature meets during Parliament sessions to discuss important national issues and make laws.
3. Parliament is made up of elected, non-constituency and nominated Members of Parliament (MPs).
4. The President's agreement is required for all Bills passed by Parliament and he may, at his discretion, withhold agreement to certain Bills.
5. MPs contribute towards holding the government accountable for the use of the country's financial resources.
6. The General Elections are held about once every five years.

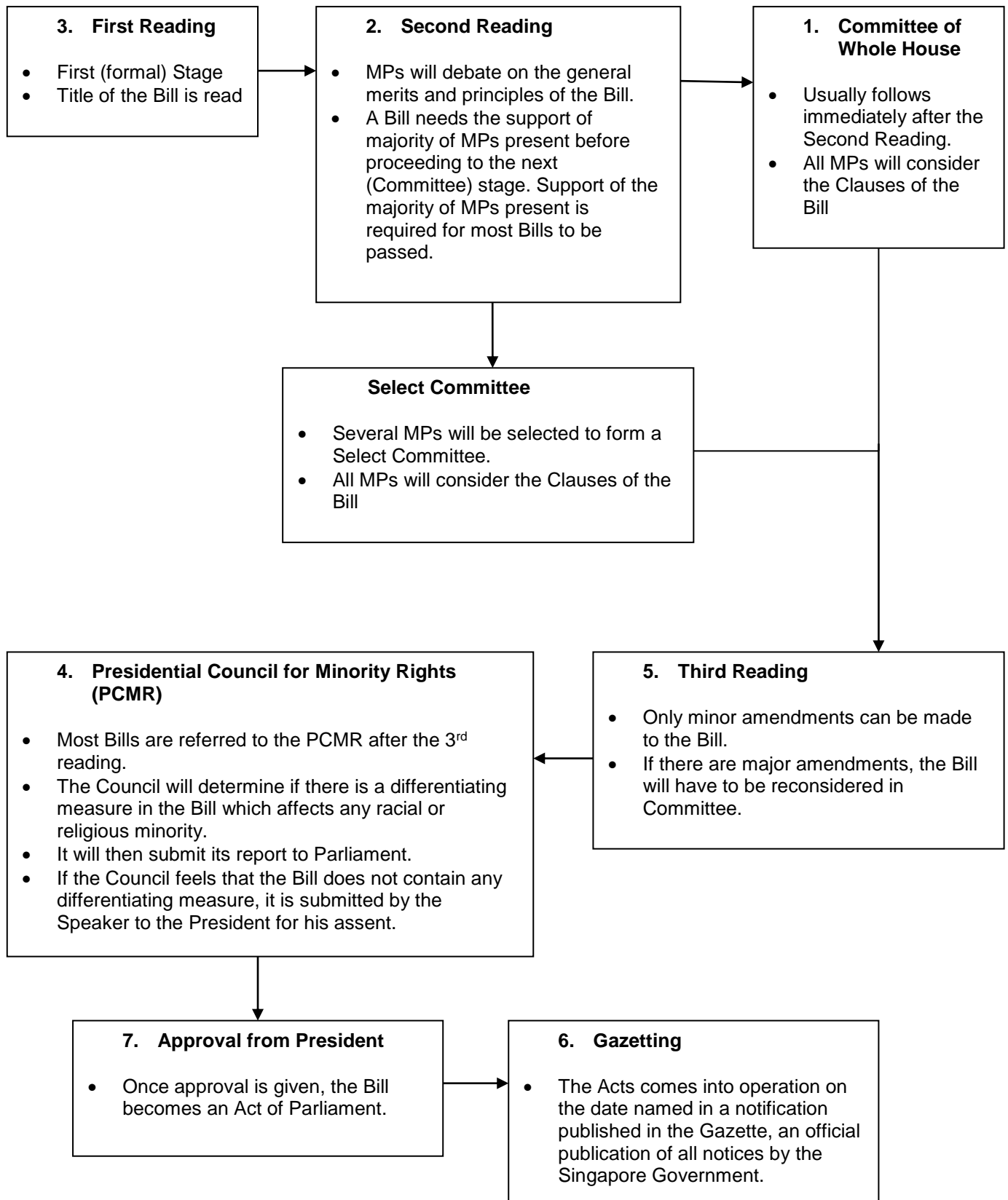


## WHO MAKES UP PARLIAMENT IN SINGAPORE?

<b>Speaker of Parliament</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Speaker chairs Parliament sessions. He or she is elected at the start of a new Parliament by MPs and may or may not be a MP, but must possess the qualifications to stand for election as a MP.</li><li>• The Speaker regulates and enforces the rules of debate. He or she decides who has the right to speak and puts the question for the House to debate on and vote.</li><li>• The Speaker does not take part in the debates but can abstain or vote for or against a motion if he or she has an original vote as an elected MP. The Speaker must remain impartial and fair to all MPs.</li></ul>
<b>The Cabinet</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cabinet is responsible for all government policies and the day-to-day administration of the affairs of the state. It is collectively responsible to the Parliament.</li><li>• It comprises the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, and the Ministers in charge of various ministries.</li></ul>
<b>Members of Parliament</b>	<p><b>Elected Members of Parliament (MPs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MPs represent either Single Member Constituencies (SMCs) or Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs)</li></ul> <p><b>Non-Constituency MPs (NCMPs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Constitution provides for the appointment of up to nine NCMPs. NCMPs are appointed if fewer than nine Opposition MPs are elected into Parliament.</li><li>• NCMPs consist of MPs from the Opposition political parties. NCMPs are candidates who have obtained not less than 15 per cent of the total number of votes in their constituency, and polled the highest percentage of votes among losers at the General Election.</li><li>• This system broadens the diversity of views expressed in Parliament.</li></ul> <p><b>Nominated MPs (NMPs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Constitution also provides for the appointment of up to nine NMPs to ensure a wide representation of community views. NMPs are appointed for a term of two and a half years. The President appoints NMPs based on the recommendation of a Special Select Committee.</li><li>• NMPs are not elected into Parliament nor do they belong to any political party. Their main role is to contribute independent points of view.</li></ul>



## How Does a Bill Become Law?



## **Committee of Supply**

1. Another important role of Parliament is to serve as the Committee of Supply.
2. This Committee discusses the estimates of expenditure for the coming financial year, considers each ministry's request for funds and votes on it.
3. Members may propose nominal cuts of \$100 to each ministry's estimates.
4. By moving a cut to a ministry's estimates, a member gets a "peg" to debate on the policies and programmes of that ministry.
5. Members take this opportunity to raise their concerns and questions for the ministry to respond to.
6. After the Committee has voted on the estimates, it reports its decision to Parliament, which will then debate and vote on the amount of money that the government may spend in the coming financial year.
7. This becomes the Supply Bill for the coming year.
8. After the Bill is agreed to by the President, the government is authorised to withdraw monies to meet its expenditure as contained in the approved estimates.

### **1,1,3 Responsibilities of citizens**

1. The Executive comprises the Cabinet, led by the Prime Minister and includes the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers for the 16 Ministries.
2. The Executive is responsible for all government policies and day-to-day administration of the affairs of the state.

<b>The 16 Ministries at a Glance</b>	
Ministry of Communications and Information	To build a nation of connected people and achieve a better quality of life by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing vibrant infocomm, media and design sectors</li><li>• Cultivating learning communities</li><li>• Fostering an engaged public</li></ul>
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth	Through arts, heritage, sports, giving, and community and youth engagement, MCCY aims to create an environment where we can pursue our aspirations for fulfilling lives, be a gracious society built on mutual appreciation and trust and have a strong sense of belonging to Singapore, our home.
Ministry of Defence	Aims to enhance Singapore's peace and security through deterrence and diplomacy, and should these fail, to secure a swift and decisive victory over the aggressor.
Ministry of Education	Aims to mould the future of the nation, by moulding the people who will determine the future of the nation. The Service will provide our children with a balanced and well-rounded education, develop them to their full potential, and nurture them into good citizens, conscious of their responsibilities to family, society and country.

Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources	Aims to deliver and sustain a clean and healthy environment and water resources for all in Singapore.
Ministry of Finance	Aims to create a better Singapore through finance.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Aims to advance and safeguard the interests of Singapore and Singaporeans through effective diplomacy and efficient and responsive consular assistance.
Ministry of Health	Aims to promote good health and reduce illness, ensure access to good and affordable healthcare, and pursue medical excellence.
Ministry of Home Affairs	Aims to work as a team in partnership with the community, to make Singapore a safe and secure best home.
Ministry of Law	Aims to advance access to justice, the rule of law, the economy and society through policy, law and services.
Ministry of Manpower	Aims to develop a productive workforce and progressive workplaces, for Singaporeans to have better jobs and a secure retirement.
Ministry of National Development	Aims to develop a world-class infrastructure, create vibrant and sustainable living environment and build rooted and cohesive communities.
Ministry of Social and Family Development	Aims to nurture resilient individuals, strong families and a caring society.
Ministry of Trade and Industry	Aims to promote economic growth and create good jobs, to enable Singaporeans to improve their lives.
Ministry of Transport	Aims to strengthen Singapore's transportation connectivity and to develop the transport sector's potential to advance our economic competitiveness and the quality of life in Singapore.
Prime Minister's Office Singapore	<p>Aims to co-ordinate the activities of Ministries and the general policies of the government and to provide overall policy direction. It comprises of the following agencies to support the Prime Minister:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB)</li> <li>• Cyber Security Agency (CSA)</li> <li>• Elections Department (ELD)</li> <li>• National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS)</li> <li>• National Population and Talent Division (NPTD)</li> <li>• National Research Foundation (NRF)</li> <li>• National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS)</li> <li>• Public Service Division (PSD)</li> <li>• Smart Nation Programme Office (SNPO)</li> </ul>

Did you know?

***The following ministers contributed to the early nation-building years of Singapore. They were the first ten Cabinet Ministers of the Republic of Singapore and continued to contribute to Singapore in other ways after their first term in office***

***Prime Minister: Lee Kuan Yew***

***Deputy Prime Minister: Toh Chin Chye (Dr)***

***Minister for Foreign Affairs: S Rajaratnam***

***Minister for Education: Ong Pang Boon***

***Minister for Interior and Defence: Goh Keng Swee (Dr)***

***Minister for Health: Yong Nyuk Lin***

***Minister for Labour: Jek Yeun Thong***

***Minister for Law and National Development: Edmund William Barker***

***Minister for Finance: Lim Kim San***

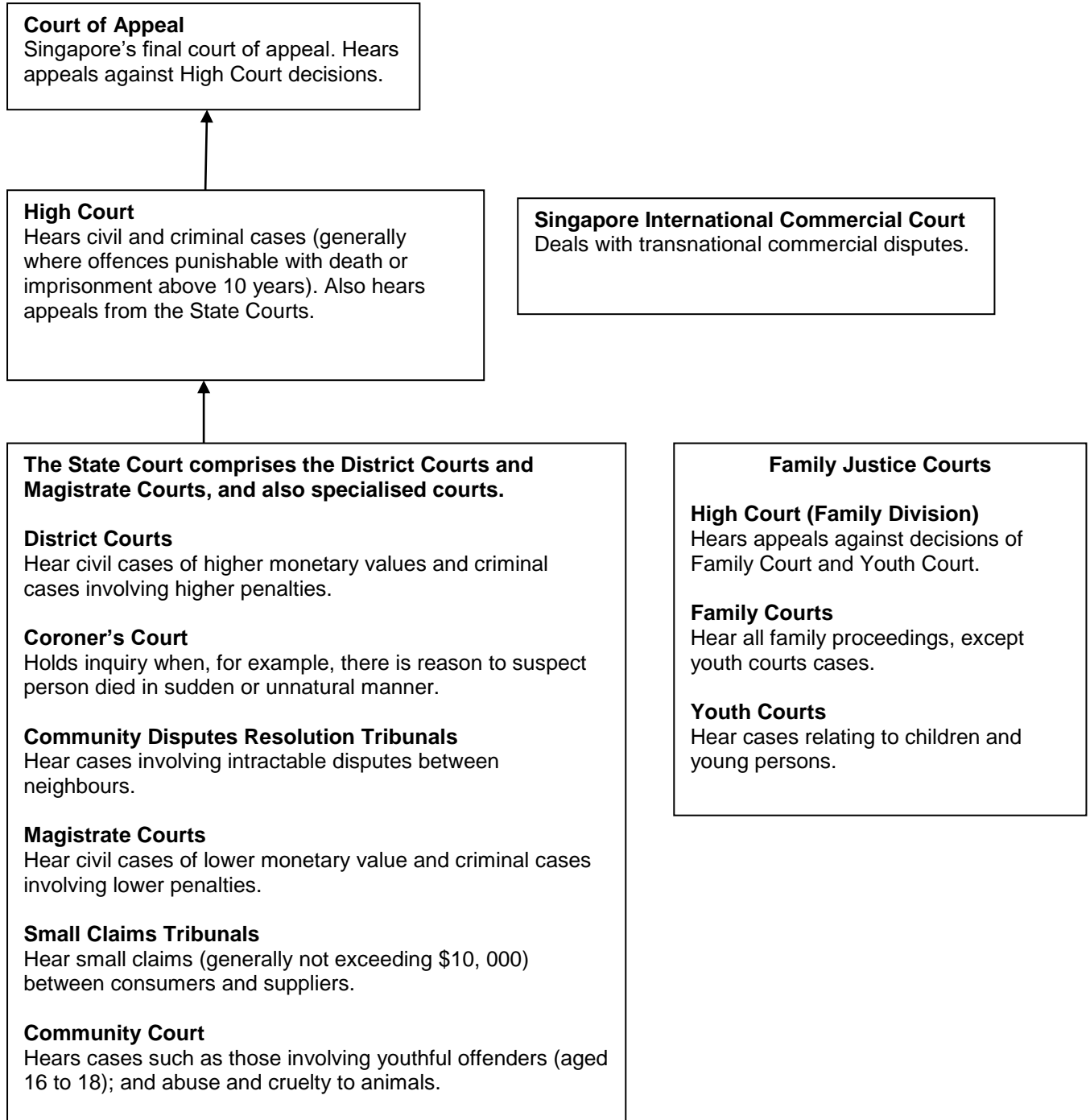
***Minister for Culture and Social Affairs: Othman Wok***

### **2.2.3 Judiciary**

1. It consists of the Supreme Court, the State Courts and the Family Justice Courts.
2. The head of the Judiciary is the Chief Justice.
3. Judicial power in Singapore is vested in the Supreme Court and laws passed by the Legislature are implemented by respected ministries and enforced by the Judiciary.
- 4.
5. The government carries out laws through the Cabinet and the ministries supporting the Cabinet.

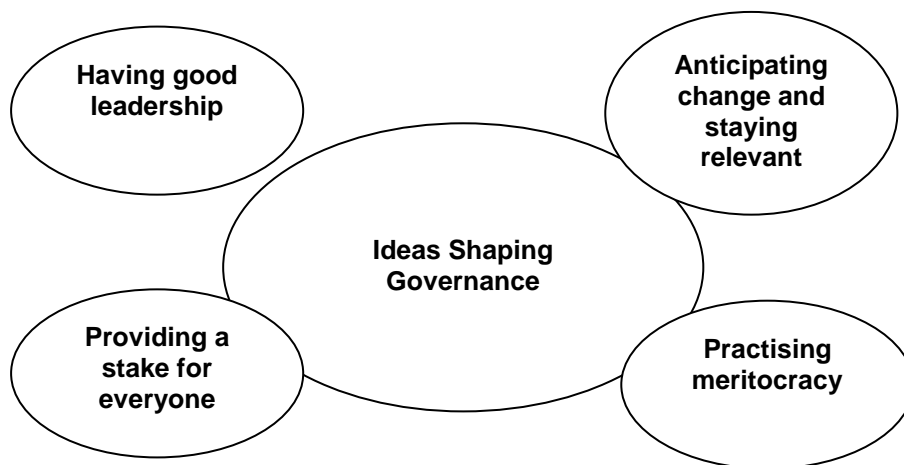
## Singapore's Court Structure

*The Supreme Court consists of the Court of Appeal and the High Court.*



### 2.3 Ideas Shaping Governance

1. The authority entrusted to the government by citizens allows it to make decisions for the good of society.
2. Besides processes, ideas and beliefs also shape decision-making.
3. When crafting policies, the government has to take into account the varying needs and interests of different groups in society since resources are limited.
4. Evaluating trade-offs, when done carefully and systematically, involves comparing the costs and benefits of each available alternative decisions.



#### 2.3.1 Having good leadership

1. The government representatives or leaders must be honest and capable.
2. Given the complex nature of decision-making, leaders must have the moral courage and integrity to do what is right, including making decisions that may not be popular with the people.
3. Leaders who are incorruptible and of good moral character can win the confidence and respect of the people.
4. Incorruptible leaders will make decisions for the good of the country rather than for personal interests and dishonest leaders will be dealt with by the law.
5. This will ensure that leaders in power are working with the right intent, in the interest of society.

#### 2.3.2 Anticipating change and staying relevant

1. When citizens' needs and interests are adversely affected in the short term due to a decision based on more long term considerations, tensions may arise.
2. The government needs to manage these tensions and remain forward-looking and need to make decisions that will benefit Singaporeans in the future.



#### **Example of Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant: Integrated Resorts (IR)**

- The government decided to build two IRs at Marina Bay and Sentosa in 2005.
- In making the decision to build the IR, the government tried to anticipate change and stay relevant, especially in seeking potential economic benefits, such as job opportunities and higher tourist spending.
- The government was also aware of the tensions and social consequences in terms of concerns about higher gambling rates and took measures to lessen the potential impact of problem gambling.

### **2.3.3 Providing a stake for everyone**

1. Having a say in decision-making can develop a greater sense of belonging in citizens.
2. They will feel that they have a stake in Singapore's future and be more willing to be involved in working towards the good of society.
3. More opportunities have been created to encourage Singaporeans to share their views about policies and decision-making.
4. Home ownership is another way to strengthen the sense of belonging.
5. The Public Housing Scheme (PHS) allows many Singaporeans to own their own homes through the provision of housing grants.

#### **Example of Providing a stake for everyone: Our Singapore Conversation**

- Singaporeans share their views, hope and dreams about Singapore.

### **2.3.4 Practising meritocracy**

1. Meritocracy refers to a system that distributes opportunities to enable future successes.
2. People are rewarded according to the effort they put in rather than factors such as their race, religion or socio-economic background.
3. When people are rewarded based on their abilities and effort, they are encouraged to work hard.
4. Students, for example, who perform well in their studies and CCAs are rewarded in ways to help them excel further in the education. The Edusave Scholarship and Merit Bursary schemes reward the top 10 percent and 25 percent of school students respectively.
5. In 2013, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong shared that meritocracy can create inequity as the groups of Singaporeans benefitting from meritocracy may become smaller over time. One example is how families who have done well for themselves due to meritocracy would be able to give a head start to their children.
6. He shared the need for Singaporeans to practise compassionate meritocracy because it will encourage citizens to contribute to society, particularly to those who may not have access to the same opportunities.

7. In 2014, DPM Tharman Shanmugaratnam shared about the need to achieve meritocracy throughout our lives.
8. He encouraged Singaporeans not to view academic qualifications as the only achievement in life and instead to pursue lifelong learning and high performance standards at every stage of their lives, regardless of where they graduated from or what they started with.
9. These shifts show principles can be modified to ensure that they remain relevant.

## **Conclusion**

1. It is challenging to decide what is good for society because individuals have differing needs and interests and it is not possible to meet all of them.
2. Since Singapore is a representative democracy, the government has the political legitimacy to make decisions on behalf of the people.
3. In making decisions for the good of society, the Singapore government is guided by a set of principles in their policy discussions and decisions.
4. Our country faces constraints such as a small land area and limited financial resources, hence decisions taken by the government often stem from a series of trade-offs that need to be made.

## **CHAPTER 3: HOW CAN WE WORK FOR THE GOOD OF SOCIETY?**

### **1. Role of Government in Society**

- 1, Through the roles of rule-making, rule execution and rule adjudication, the government performs several duties that are necessary for society to function effectively.

#### **1.1 Working for the Good of Society**

1. The government conduct the affairs of the country such as maintaining internal order and external security, ensuring justice and providing goods and services for the public.
2. They make decisions which shape policies and programmes that address the needs and interests of society and by doing so, they contribute towards the good of society and the growth of the country.

##### **1.1.1 Maintaining internal order and external security**

1. One of the duties of the government is to maintain internal order and external security.
2. Agencies such as the police, prisons and civil defence help to maintain internal order by protecting citizens, property and whatever society believes should be protected.

<b>Internal Security Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)</b>	
<b>Casino Regulatory Authority (CRA)</b>	Their core function is to ensure the management and operation of a casino is and remains free from criminal influence or exploitation. CRA also ensures that gaming in a casino is conducted honestly. They also contain and control the potential of a casino to cause harm to minors, vulnerable persons and society at large.
<b>Home Team Academy (HTA)</b>	HTA provides leadership training and guidance for its instructors and instructional development for areas such as Homefront Security, Joint Operations and Crisis Leadership. HTA facilitates cross sharing of expertise and knowledge amongst Home Team departments.
<b>Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB)</b>	CNB's core function is to be the leading law enforcement agency in the fight against drugs and to make Singapore drug-free. CNB conducts vigorous enforcement against drug offenders, actively co-operate with local and foreign agencies in drug-related matters and promotes a drug-free lifestyle through preventive education and active engagement of the community.

<b>Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA)</b>	ICA is responsible for the security of Singapore's borders against the entry of undesirable persons and cargo through our land, sea and air checkpoints. Aside from border security, ICA also performs immigration and registration functions such as the issuing of travel documents and identity cards to Singapore citizens. ICA also issues various immigration passes and permits to foreigners. As a security agency, ICA also conducts operations against immigration offenders.
<b>Internal Security Department (ISD)</b>	ISD's core function is to keep Singapore safe and sovereign for all Singaporeans. To do so, ISD collects accurate intelligence, makes impartial assessments and take timely action to counter security threats to Singapore's internal stability and sovereignty.
<b>Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)</b>	SCDF's main role is to provide fire-fighting, rescue and emergency medical services; mitigating hazardous materials incidents, as well as formulate, implement and enforce regulations on fire safety and civil defence shelter matters.
<b>Singapore Police Force (SPF)</b>	SPF's core function is to protect the people who live in Singapore from crime and all manner of criminal harm. Crime in SPF's context includes terrorism and public disorder.
<b>Singapore Corporation for Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE)</b>	SCORE plays an important role in the Singapore correctional system by creating a safe and secure Singapore through the provision of rehabilitation and aftercare services to inmates and ex-offenders. SCORE seeks to enhance the employability of offenders and prepares them for their eventual reintegration into the national workforce by focusing on four main building blocks of training, work, employment and community engagement.
<b>Singapore Prison Service (SPS)</b>	SPS enforces the secure custody of offenders and rehabilitates them for a safer Singapore. Through cooperation with partners, SPS takes the lead in providing guidance to offenders under their charge and assist these offenders in reintegration upon their release.

3. To ensure the external security of Singapore, the government engages agencies such as the army, navy and air force.
4. Through the collaboration between these agencies, Singapore's defence strengthened and potential enemies are deterred from attacking Singapore.

<b>External Security</b> <b>Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) The Singapore Armed Forces</b>	
<b>Singapore Army</b>	The core function of the Singapore Army is to deter aggression, and should deterrence fail, to secure a swift and decisive victory. The Singapore Army is to be ready and capable of conducting a spectrum of operations to defend the security interests and sovereignty of Singapore.
<b>Republic of Singapore Navy</b>	The core function of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) is to enhance Singapore's peace and security through deterrence and diplomacy, and should these fail, to secure a swift and decisive victory over the aggressor at sea. The RSN will ensure Singapore; seaward defence, secure our sea lines of communication and maintain a high level of operational readiness and a broad spectrum of capabilities to support our national interest.
Republic of Singapore Air Force	The core function of the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) is to deter aggression and defend Singapore and its interests. The RSAF will respond decisively to the full spectrum of missions from peace to war as part of an integrated Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). The RSAF deters aggression through control of the air and decisively influencing the ground and maritime battles.

<b>External Security</b> <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFA contributes to the formulation and implementation of Singapore's foreign policy to advance our national interests.</li> <li>• It does this by forging strong partnerships at the bilateral and multilateral levels and positioning Singapore as a responsible and constructive member of the international community.</li> <li>• This includes sharing Singapore's developmental experience with other countries through the Singapore Cooperation Programme.</li> <li>• It also provides consular assistance, or help and advice, to Singaporeans at home and abroad.</li> <li>• MFA assists in maintaining Singapore's external security through diplomacy.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Example 1:</b> <i>In the early years of nationhood, Singapore played a key role in the negotiations at the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea during the 1970s and early 1980s to safeguard the country's maritime and economic security.</i></li> <li>- <i>Singapore together with the other ASEAN founding members strongly contested the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia.</i></li> </ul>

- **Example 2: Pedra Branca**
  - Singapore and Malaysia had different views on how Pedra Branca belonged to, both countries agreed to resolve their differences amicably through a third party by bringing the territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice.
- Singapore is active on a wide variety of issues, including international trade, international law, international civil aviation and maritime affairs, sustainable development, water and sanitation and human rights.
  - Singapore also participates actively in international climate change negotiations to secure an environmentally and economically sustainable future.

### Did you know?

***One example of the government maintaining internal order of Singapore was seen during the riot that broke out in Little India on 8 December 2013. Riots broke out after a private bus accidentally ran over an Indian national. Within minutes, the Police Force was informed of the road accident and the Civil Defence Force was activated. When some members of the public in the area became rowdy, the Special Operations Command (SOC) was activated. After the arrival of the SOC, the crowd dispersed and suspected rioters were arrested. This incident, as well as the swift actions taken show the importance the government places in the maintaining internal order in Singapore.***

***A thorough investigation was conducted to understand the circumstances and management of the riot in Little India. It was found that there were improvements that can be made to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future. This includes strengthening the Home Team through strategies such as improving communication, command and control facilities, training and equipping frontline officers as well as reducing layers of approval for resource activation. There were also suggestions for measures to manage congregations and improve the lives of foreign workers.***

### 1.1.2 . Ensuring Justice

1. With the presence of the Judiciary, Singaporeans will have confidence that the courts will judge people fairly.
2. One example of the Judiciary interpreting and applying the law passed by the Legislature is through providing relevant information and taking action to protect Singaporeans in the event of family violence.
3. The Family Justice Courts provide guidelines on what is defined as family violence, who can apply for a Personal Protection Order (PPO), how to apply as well as the actions that can be taken by the courts.
4. A PPO will be granted if the court is satisfied that family violence has been committed or is likely to be committed against the applicant, and the PPO is necessary for the applicant's protection. If the applicant receives the PPO, the court can take action such as to prevent or restrict a person from entering the applicant's house or part of the house.



### 1.1.3 Providing goods and services for the public

1. Government devote significant resources to improving the well-being of their citizens.
2. In their daily lives, citizens enjoy benefits from the provision of goods and services for the public.
3. These goods and services are provided for or subsidised by governments so that all citizens can have access to them.
4. Transportation is one example of a service provided for the public.
5. In Singapore, the government has worked towards developing a people-centred public transport system, which has amongst others, more connections and better services.

Public Transportation in Singapore:	
Enhancing Commuter Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Premium bus services</li><li>• Upgraded bus stops</li><li>• CEPAS Smartcard</li><li>• Bus services map</li><li>• Real-time bus arrival info</li><li>• Travel information system</li><li>• MyTransport.SG</li></ul>
As of 2014.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22 number of bus interchanges</li><li>• 164km of expressways</li><li>• 272 taxi stands</li><li>• 4638 bus stops</li><li>• 35 LRT stations</li><li>• 105 MRT stations</li></ul>

#### Did You Know?

***Singapore has Four National Taps in order to ensure a sustainable supply of water. The Four National Taps comprise of the following – water from local catchment areas, imported water from Malaysia, NEWater and desalinated water. Since 2011, Singapore has used two-thirds of its land surface as a water catchment area. Singapore also has been importing water from Johor, Malaysia, under two Water Agreements. The first expired in 2011, and the second will expire in 2061.***

***To provide alternative sources of water, Singapore embarked on the NEWater and desalinated water projects. NEWater is produced by reclaiming water that has been used while the process of producing desalinated water converts sea water to drinking water. Singapore aims for NEWater to meet up to 55 percent of the country's water demand by 2060. Recognising concerns from some members of the public, there has been continued efforts to assure the public of the cleanliness of NEWater.***

#### **1.1.4 Safeguarding the interests of citizens**

1. Government implement legislation that safeguards the interests of citizens to ensure that citizens will have a sense of security about living in the country.
2. The interests of citizens can be safeguarded in various ways such as ensuring that there is no abuse by employers as well as a sense of security in old age.
3. WorkRight is an example of the government's initiative to help both employees and employers understand their rights and responsibilities respectively.
4. The initiative is intended to create awareness of employment rights amongst low-wage workers and better ensure retirement security for this group of workers.
5. Another way in which the government safeguards the interests of Singaporeans is by helping them prepare for retirement through the Central Provident Fund (CPF).
6. CPF enables Singaporeans to finance their housing and healthcare needs, and have a source of lifelong income in retirement.
7. The life expectancy of Singaporeans has increased tremendously and is still rising. It means that Singaporeans have to save more to last them through a longer retirement or they may end up outliving their savings.
8. CPF LIFE was introduced in 2009 to provide Singaporeans with a lifelong monthly payout in retirement to give them greater peace of mind in retirement.
9. The level of payout is based on the amount of CPF Savings they have accumulated from the moment they start working, primarily through the CPF Special Account as well as the choice of CPF LIFE plans.
10. Besides personal contributions, employers also contribute to their retirement savings.
11. Together with the risk-free interest paid by the government, CPF helps Singaporeans to stretch their retirement saving for as long as they live.

## **2. Role of Citizens in Society**

1. Besides voting for their representatives in government, citizens can participate by communicating their views on national issues, contributing as individuals or organising themselves into groups to support meaningful causes.

### **2.1 Outcomes of Citizen Participation**

1. Citizens can influence government policies by providing feedback through platforms such as online and offline communication channels.
2. Citizens can also improve outcomes in society by addressing the needs of their fellow citizens or by responding to issues and challenges that they care about. They can do so as individuals or in groups.
3. As citizens participate more actively in shaping outcomes in society, they become more conscious of how they complement government actions.
4. Also, as citizens contribute, their sense of belonging could strengthen as they feel they have a role to play in the development of the country.

### **2.1.1 Contributing to the needs of society**

1. Citizens have an important role to improve and sustain the general well-being of a society.
2. Often, citizens contribute in areas they are passionate and concerned about and because of that, there is a greater sense of ownership and commitment towards these causes.
3. This leads to long term involvement which would ensure sustainable benefits to society.

#### **Role of Individuals**

1. Individuals play an important role in contributing to the needs of society through volunteering their time, effort and money towards meaningful social causes they are concerned about.
2. Their actions can benefit many people directly and the improvements that result can be immediate and their actions can also inspire others to make similar improvements.

#### **Did You Know?**

***As a young person, you can also volunteer for meaningful causes in working for the good of Singapore and Singaporeans.***

***There are many opportunities offered by a variety of beneficiaries and organisations. You can find out about volunteering opportunities through the following links:***

- <http://www.sif.org>
- <http://www.onesingapore.org/volunteer>
- <http://www.giving.sg/>
- <http://www.nvpc.org.sg/>
- <http://www.youthcorps.sg>

#### **Formal groups**

1. These organisations have clear objectives and are formally registered with the government.
2. They address a wide range of interests such as persons with special needs and protecting the environment.
3. An example of formal groups are NGOs (Non-governmental organisations) and VWOs (Voluntary welfare organisations) are voluntary groups formed by people with a common interest.
4. NGOs and VWOs can cater to the needs of specific groups in society and by doing so, they complement the role of the government in working for the good of society.

<b>NGOS and VWOS in Singapore</b>	
Mercy Relief	- Established to respond to human tragedies in Asia. Mercy Relief serves the less fortunate and needy regardless of country, culture or creed.
MINDS	- Aims to advance the development, well-being and aspirations of persons with intellectual disability and their integration into society.
Nature Society (Singapore)	- Dedicated to the appreciation, conservation, study and enjoyment of natural heritage in Singapore, Malaysia and the surrounding region.

### **Informal Groups**

1. These are organisations with a specific, short term objective related to issues that arise suddenly.
2. These groups are temporary and may not be registered.
3. When a situation occurs or when a gap is noticed in an area of need, these informal groups would organise themselves to attend to this specific need.
4. Individuals too can come together to carry out activities or programmes to benefit Singaporeans. An example is Mr Chua who created an informal group to help Singaporeans manage the ill-effects of the haze. By doing so, he contributed towards the efforts to ensure that Singaporeans remain healthy during the haze period.

### **2.1.2 Influencing government decisions**

1. Feedback and suggestions from Singaporeans can influence the decisions made and plans for Singapore.
2. In instances when there are proposals or draft plans, citizen feedback and suggestions may enable necessary changes and improvements to be made.

### **Role of individuals**

1. In 2012, PM Lee announced a national-level conversation where citizens can come together to share their views and ideas about what matters to Singapore as well as their hopes and dreams.
2. This citizen engagement exercise became known as “Our Singapore Conversation” (OSC) and this exercise enabled conversations amongst citizens and between citizens and the government.
3. It was conducted through social media channels where some Singaporeans participated through the Facebook page.
4. As a result of the OSC, the government learnt about Singaporeans’ aspirations and Singaporeans also learnt more about each other’s hopes for the future.
5. The common hopes and desires of Singaporeans were collated and these ideas have helped chart future plans for Singapore.

### **Roles of organised groups.**

1. Efforts of NGOs can also help refine government policies and point to areas which require more attention.
2. In 2011, two NGOs – the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME) and the Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) – put forth the recommendations on improving the working conditions of foreign domestic workers in Singapore. They recommended that foreign domestic workers be given a day off a week in recognition for the work they do.
3. The Singapore Environment Council conducted an ENVision exercise to understand Singaporeans' values and redefine a vision for our environment.
4. It held dialogue sessions with participants from grassroots, businesses, schoolchildren, professionals and NGOs who shared their views on Singapore's environmental future.
5. MINDS is a VWO that contributes to the society by focusing on catering to the needs of persons with intellectual disability.
6. It helps ensure equal opportunities for children with intellectual disabilities to receive education and later to be integrated as contributing and responsible citizens in Singapore.
7. They run special schools, employment development centres, training and development centres, a multi-service residential home for adults and children, a caregivers support services, a social integration programme for clients and home-based care services.

### **2.1.3 Strengthening citizens' sense of belonging**

1. The media, especially social media such as Facebook and Instagram, has become a powerful platform for citizens to engage with the government and political leaders to clarify or provide feedback on national issues and policies.
2. Singaporeans can also engage with the government and provide their feedback through other channels such as REACH.

### **Did You Know**

***In 2007, when the government wanted to create a space for youths to create, explore and showcase their creative talents, it consulted a range of interest groups. This consultation resulted in the creation of \*SCAPE.***

***It is a place in the heart of Orchard Road for recreational, social and community activities for youths. During the planning stage, over 2200 pieces of feedback on what \*SCAPE could be were given by youths in a two-month long consultation exercise. Youths submitted their ideas in the form of videos, impressions and models. Youths were involved in the planning and development of the space throughout the project. Through this exercise, it shows the active role these youths collectively play in effecting change to the landscape in Orchard Road.***

3. Political leaders are also setting up their own communication platforms in social media to stay in touch with citizens as well as to receive useful suggestions on issues that affect Singapore.
4. Besides social media, citizens can also provide feedback on societal issues through the Forum or feedback found in media platforms and websites of government or government agencies.

5. The feedback helps in providing relevant authorities ideas and perspectives for better understanding of their policies and programmes and this will help inform future planning and decision-making.
6. Constructive feedback provided by citizens would be important as nature of issues and challenges in society become more complex.
7. There are different perspectives on how far feedback provided to the government shapes decision-making and policy formulation.
8. This could affect a person's sense of belonging to Singapore if one feels that the government is not listening to one's feedback.
9. Many Singaporeans continue sharing and discussing their views with the government in a responsible and constructive manner.
10. This ensures that the feedback can be carefully considered and relevant as well as feasible changes can be made. Thus society will benefit from the collective views and efforts of citizens.

## **Conclusion**

1. The government addresses the needs and interests of society through policies and programmes, which will be shaped through the discussions within government and society.
2. Tensions may exist due to different perspectives about the purpose and impact of these policies and these tensions can be a challenge when trade-offs have to be made and some needs are interests are not met.
3. Increasing awareness among citizens, new forms of relationships and ways of interactions between government and citizens have resulted in citizens in playing a more active role in society, effecting change individually or collectively.
4. The government have also recognised that greater citizen participation is important especially as the nature of issues and challenges in society become more complex.
5. Citizens are also encouraged to contribute towards the good of society.
6. The outcomes of their participation are shaping national policies and societal issues in different ways, which will encourage constructive and responsible participation from citizens.



## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Issue 2: Living in a Diverse Society**

***(Inquiry Focus: Living in a diverse society: Is harmony achievable?)***

#### **CHAPTER 4: WHAT IS DIVERSITY?**

##### **1. Identity and Diversity**

1. Your identity comes from how you define yourself and how others define you.
2. It can be expressed through the choice of clothes.
3. When we learn more about our identities and that of others, we understand what makes us similar and different.
4. This understanding can bring people closer together or create tensions and challenges.

##### **1.1 Nationality**

1. Diversity means different things to different individuals.
2. One aspect of diversity is the presence of different nationalities in Singapore.
3. Nationality, beyond legal status, also involves in having a sense of belonging to a nation and sharing common experiences with others of the same nationality.
4. People of the same nationality usually share a common history, a common set of traditions, common practices, a common language and live together in a particular geographical area.
5. This helps to build a sense of belonging and can shape one's identity and a shared identity is also known as the national identity.
6. People from the same country may feel more comfortable with other members of the same nationality, as they can identify with the common experiences, attitudes and beliefs shared by citizens of their country.
7. Expressions of national identity can be reflected through lifestyle choices such as the types of sports played and appreciated, preference for certain cuisines and choice of music.

##### **Did you know?**

***New Zealanders identify themselves as “Kiwis” and rugby is their national sport. Most Kiwis would watch the games when the national team, the All Blacks, plays against other countries. The Kiwis bond through their common love for rugby and their admiration of the All Blacks. A traditional practice that all Kiwis are familiar with is the ‘haka’, a Maori warrior dance.***

8. Besides participating in celebrations of the nation's birthday, Singaporeans, being part of a multicultural society, also share a deep respect for multiracial and multireligious practices and a common love for food across cultures.
9. There would also be a commitment to bilingualism and the use of the common language, English.

10. In this way, aspects of the shared national identity would shape the individual's identity and actions, for example, in terms of interaction with other citizens.
11. We relate to different aspects of what makes us Singaporean in different ways.
12. These beliefs and experiences influence a large part of our national identity.

## **1.2 Race and Ethnicity**

1. "Race" refers to the classification of people according to physical characteristics that are biological in nature such as skin colour, bone structures, colour of eyes and hair and jaw structure.
2. "Ethnicity" refers to one's ancestry, cultural practices, language, customs, food and dressing that are associated with an ethnic group.
3. One's ethnicity can be associated with a set of practices and customs unique to a particular country or region.
4. Ethnicity can differ within the same racial group, like members of the Miao and Hui communities in China. They may have the physical features of the Chinese race but they are of a different ethnicity, with unique costumes, practices and customs.
5. There also different ethnic groups within the Malay race like the Bataks, Bugis, Dayaks, etc.
6. Race and ethnicity shape our identity as we belong to particular racial/or ethnic communities.
7. These practices and beliefs of these communities shape our way of life, thus influencing our identity.
8. In Singapore, the terms "race" and "ethnicity" are sometimes used interchangeably.
9. Most Singaporeans would have their race indicated in their identity cards and these reflect racial markers that have been used to shape policies in the areas of education, housing and welfare.
10. This categorisation was necessary in our early nation-building days to bring different communities together.
11. This categorisation has been revised to reflect increasing diversity in Singapore.
12. On 1 January 2011, Singapore implemented the registration of double-barrelled race option for Singaporean children born to parents of different races. An example of double-barrelled race option is "Indian-Malay" for a child born to Indian and Malay parents, where the races of both parents are reflected in the child's race.
13. Before this option was available, parents had to choose between one of two races to indicate for their child.
14. In Singapore, diversity in terms of race and ethnicity means that many customs are celebrated and observed by the different races and ethnic groups in Singapore.

### 1.3 Religion

1. It is an organised collection of attitudes, beliefs, practices, world views and often, worship of a single or multiple gods.
2. The religion that individuals believe in may be determined by birth or by choice.
3. Most religions embody a set of shared core beliefs and practices.
4. Believers keep to these beliefs and practices regardless of their nationality and ethnicity and these practices would then shape the way we interact with others, the choices we make and our thinking.
5. Religion thus plays an important role in shaping our identity as they influence our way of life in many ways.
6. The main religions in Singapore promote the attitudes of compassion, sensitivity in believers' interactions with others, and in helping others.
7. Values such as respect for one another, love and care towards all beings, and integrity in one's conduct are common to these religions.
8. Singaporeans are free to profess and practise their religion as well as propagate it and is protected under the Article 15 of the Singapore Constitution.

#### Did you know?

***There are currently ten major religions practised in Singapore as of 2015. Since 1949, the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) has worked quietly to promote peace and religious harmony in Singapore. The IRO organises activities and participates in local and international forums to learn more about what is being done in the region to promote religious harmony.***

**Read the following to find out about the importance of values such as respect and compassion in guiding relationships with fellow human beings:**

Buddhism	Believers in Buddhism known as Buddhists, follow the teachings of Buddha. The teachings of Buddha promote peace and harmony amongst different races and religions, non-violence and the appreciation of all living beings in an interdependent world. Hence, Buddhists also believe they must care for the welfare of all living things as they too equally desire peace and happiness.
Christianity	Christianity teaches that God is love. Christians believe that God's love is expressed in his Son, Jesus Christ, who came to offer eternal life to humankind through his death and resurrection. Jesus taught those who trust and follow him to love God with all their heart and to love their fellow human beings as themselves. Therefore, Christians are to show their love for God in their service to others.

Hinduism	Hindus believe in the Trinity made up of Brahma, the Creator, Vishnu, the Preserver and Shiva, the Absorber. Hindus believe that they are not independent and separate Gods, but are three different aspect of the same Supreme God. Hindus also believe in avoiding causing or desiring harm to any living being, whether physical, mental or emotional.
Islam	In Islam, Muslims believe that there is only one and supreme God - Allah. They believe that Allah is the creator and ruler of the universe, and the only one deserving of worship. Beyond worshipping God, however, Islam also places much emphasis for Muslims to uphold the spirit of justice, brotherhood, love and purity of character. It is also expected of Muslims to extend compassion to all human beings regardless of religion, race or language; and also to be kind towards the rest of God's creations.
Sikhism	Sikhism believes that there is One Creator of all and He dwells in his creation; hence all human beings are equal. God's words, <i>Shabad</i> , as revealed through the Gurus, teach core values such as humility, truthful conduct, sharing honest earning with fellow beings whilst keeping the remembrance of God at all times and showing love and compassion to everyone. Sikhs are taught to participate in the <i>saad sangat</i> (holy congregation), to read, listen, sing and contemplate <i>Gurbani</i> (Shabad) to understand and through practice, efface egotism and acquire god-like virtues, whilst keeping in control the passions such as lust, anger, greed, attachment and pride, which lead to vices.
Taoism	Taoism is a religion founded around the time of 142 CE by Celestial Master Zhang Daoling based in the teachings of the Dao preached by Laozi and the Yellow Emperor. Taoists follow the fundamental values of compassion, frugality, and humility, and strive to build a harmonious and peaceful relationship between man and nature.

#### 1.4 Socio-economic status

1. Another factor that shapes people's identity is their socio-economic status.
2. Socio-economic refers to an economic situation shared by a group of people and some determinants are occupation, income, education and ownership of wealth.
3. One's socio-economic status is usually determined by objective indicators which can be constructed from single or multiple measures.

4. In Singapore, an individual or household's income level is used as the indicator for socio-economic status.
5. The socio-economic status of an individual may shape one's life experience as it affects the choice of housing, food, entertainment and activities.
6. This will then influence the circle of friends that one interacts with.

<b>The Different Socio-economic Status Groups</b>	
<b>Higher socio-economic status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals can have a higher socio-economic status in different ways.</li> <li>• They could be born into a wealthy family or accumulated their wealth through work or investments.</li> <li>• They usually have access to better housing, food vacations and modes of transport.</li> </ul>
<b>Middle socio-economic status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals in this group are generally involved in jobs performed in offices, and are also known as "white-collar" workers.</li> <li>• A common term that is used to categorise jobs in this category is "PMETs", referred to professionals, managers, executives and technicians.</li> </ul>
<b>Lower socio-economic status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually do not possess much wealth and at times, they do not have the financial means to fully support themselves.</li> <li>• Many such individuals take on jobs which usually require manual labour or jobs which do not require much skill.</li> <li>• These are sometimes referred to as "blue-collar" jobs.</li> <li>• Those who are unemployed, homeless or receive financial assistance from the government are another group who are of lower socio-economic status.</li> </ul>

7. Through hard work, an individual can move from lower to higher levels of income and this movement is called "social mobility".

## Examples of “Social Mobility”

### Story 1

Dr Abdul Razakjr Omar’s childhood ambition was to become a heart specialist. At the age of 35, he became the first Malay heart specialist in Singapore. Dr Abdul Razakjr came from a humble family background. Throughout much of his schooling years, he lived in a rented flat with his parents and two siblings. Despite their difficulties, Dr Abdul Razakjr’s parents were always supportive of his dream and ensured all his schooling needs were taken of.

### Story 2

Former Fiver Start Tours boss Ken Lim Cheng Chuan is constantly busy as the Chinatown drinks stall where he now works. Mr Lim may have had to find new work as a coffee shop assistant, but he still retains the drive to become as successful as he previously was. When asked about his future plans, Mr Lim pledged to return to where he was before, with a glint of sheer grit in his eyes. He said, “I am just waiting for my chance to go back to what I was once was.”

Mr Lim was boss and managing director of the once-successful Five Start Tours, which used to have as many as eight branches in Singapore. It was doing so well that the company even sponsored S-League club, Geylang United. Now bankrupt and earning just enough to get by, he still has that steely determination to succeed.

8. There is concern that Singapore’s income gap is widening.
9. However, when taking into account the role of taxes and transfers by the government in terms of subsidies and assistance, the income gap has shrunk a bit in 2014.

### Did you know?

***In Budget 2015, the Government announced that the GST Voucher – Cash quantum will increased by \$50 across the board, to help the lower-income households with their cost of living. Eligible Singaporeans will receive up to \$300 a year in GST Voucher (Cash) from 2015. This will cost the Government an additional \$70 million a year, and will benefit about 1.4 million Singaporeans.***

Assessable income for Year of Assessment 2014 not exceeding \$26 000	Annual Value of Home as at 31 December 2014	
	Up to \$13 000	\$13 001 to \$21 000
Aged 21 and above	\$300 (previously \$250)	\$150 (previously \$100)

10. Income gap is one factor shaping socio-economic diversity that can be seen in Singapore today.
11. Income inequality may result when income gaps between the higher and lower socio-economic groups widen over time.
12. In order for social mobility to happen, many measures have been put in place to support the needs of the lower socio-economic status groups, especially in the areas of healthcare and education financing



13. It is important that these two areas are well supported as they enable people in lower socio-economic status groups to meet their basic needs and work towards improving their well-being and social mobility.

#### **Did you know?**

***Low-income households have benefitted from a new assistance package to help them view free-to-air television programmes since September 2014. Minister for Communication and Information Yaacob Ibrahim announced in Parliament that the package includes a free digital set-up box, an indoor antenna and installation of the equipment. This will enable viewing of free-to-air programmes by these households***

#### **Conclusion**

1. Nationality, race and ethnicity, religion and socio-economic status help shape the way we look at others and ourselves.
2. The difference and similarities that arise contribute to the diversity we see in society.
3. Such variety and differences may divide the society but it may also lead to better understanding between us and others and this would shape the state of harmony in society.

## CHAPTER 5

# Why is there Greater Diversity in Singapore Now?

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*Inquiry Focus: Living In A Diverse Society: Is Harmony Achievable?*

### Big Ideas:

1. Identities are diverse and complex.
2. Living harmoniously in a diverse society means respecting our differences and appreciating what we share in common.
3. We can choose how we respond to diversity in our society.

### What you need to know in this chapter:

#### Specific Instructional objectives:

1. The different factors that shape identity and contribute to a diverse society.
2. Reasons for movement of people to Singapore.

#### 1. Immigration Policy

- Singapore's immigration policy is closely linked with the manpower needs of the country.
- After gaining independence in 1965, Singapore was a third world nation with massive unemployment and lacked **foreign direct investment**.
- The setting up of the Jurong Industrial Estate marked the start of Singapore's industrialisation programme.
- Factories producing garments, textiles, toys, wood products and wigs.
- There were capital and technology-intensive projects together with labour-intensive industries.
- There was a demand for more workers in construction sites, factories and shipyards.
- This demand was addressed through issuing of work permits to foreign workers seeking employment in Singapore in 1971.
- However, these foreign workers were not allowed to stay permanently or start families in Singapore.
- By the 1980s, Singapore was facing a declining population and a **brain drain**.
- Hence, the government had to review the immigration policies.
- Professionals such as doctor found it easier to work overseas in, for example, Australia as they could speak English.
- Hence, the Singapore government started to encourage another wave of immigration to Singapore in the 1990s till today.

- The government's foreign workforce policy has evolved over time, with the key objective of meeting Singapore's manpower needs, as Singapore faces a declining citizen population and a growing ageing population.
- The policy focuses on a higher-skilled foreign workforce to support a knowledge-based economy.
- Foreign manpower helps to mitigate the impact of an increasing tax and economic burden on the working-age population and shrinking customer base where companies may find Singapore unattractive to sell their products to.
- Migrants (foreign manpower who come to Singapore temporarily) who choose to make Singapore their home become our naturalised Singapore citizens (SCs) or permanent residents (PRs).
- The immigration framework to grant citizenship and permanent residence considers a range of factors such as the applicant's ability to contribute to Singapore, adapt to our society and show their commitment to Singapore.
- These migrants and immigrants bring a diversity of cultures, practices, customs, skills, valuable experiences and business networks to contribute ideas and expertise to Singapore's economy.
- Thus the inflow of migrants and immigrants has led to the greater diversity in Singapore today.

## 2. Economic Opportunities

- Economic opportunities often attract migrants and immigrants looking for employment that may not exist in their home countries.
- In Singapore, employment opportunities are readily available due to the large number of businesses that operate here.
- The ease of doing business, growth potential, stable political environment and well-established judiciary system attract global investors such as **multinational corporations (MNCs)**.
- Singapore has the reputation of a business hub and its world-renowned efficiency has attracted about 7,000 MNCs to set up operations here.
- It is important for Singapore to remain competitive and continue to be a place where businesses and investors can see long-term prospects for growth and a range of employment opportunities.
- Ample job opportunities and consistent investments by MNCs have led to increase in Singapore's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita** over the years.
- As Singapore's economy continues to grow, we will need both lower and higher-skilled manpower to remain attractive to foreign companies and sustain our economy growth.
- Singapore's stability and the economic opportunities it offers thus continue to attract many foreigners to seek employment and take up residency here, adding to the diversity found in Singapore.
- The increase in migrants and immigrants seeking employment here may have led to greater socio-economic diversity. The highly-skilled workers raise the incomes of the top tier income earners while the lower-skilled migrants may keep wages at the bottom tiers low.

### **3. Socio-cultural Environment**

- Singapore's status as a vibrant business hub has attracted many professionals to bring their families to settle down in Singapore and some eventually become naturalised citizens.
- This has led to an increase in socio-cultural and socio-economic diversity of Singapore society.
- Singapore's socio-cultural environment is a key reason why migrants have chosen to eventually settle in Singapore.
- Some other features that appeal to potential immigrants include strong community support, a safe environment and a quality education system.

#### **3.1 Community Support**

- Singapore is home to a wide range of ethnic communities and cultures from all over the world.
- The existence of these communities may help foreigners to feel more at home in Singapore
- However, if some foreigners do not interact beyond their immediate community, it may affect their engagement with the larger Singapore society.
- Many of these ethnic communities gather in certain districts, helping them to strengthen ties. (e.g Thai community → Golden Mile Complex, Japanese community → Liang Court and Clarke Quay Central, Korean community → Bukit Timah Plaza)
- Immigrant communities bring with them distinct national identities that can also include ethnic practices unique to their countries of origin.

#### **3.2 Safe Environment**

- Migrants and immigrants consider safety and security when deciding on the country to work or live in.
- Both the foreigners and the supporting communities thrive when there is a safe environment.
- The crime rate is often a measure indicating the level of safety in a country.
- Singapore's laws play a role in ensuring the relatively low crime rate.

#### **3.3 Singapore's Education System**

- Many migrants come to Singapore for quality education either for themselves or for their children.
- International students add to the diversity in schools as they are able to share their experiences and learning with their fellow students.
- Singapore's public schools are becoming increasingly popular with foreigners due to their high standards.
- Many primary schools, secondary schools and junior colleges accept international students.
- Polytechnics and universities have also been popular with international students because they offer high standards of certification and a wide range of courses.
- The options available have made Singapore a well-known hub for quality education.

# ISSUE 2

## Living in a Diverse Society

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*Inquiry Focus: Living In A Diverse Society: Is Harmony Achievable?*

### CHAPTER 6

#### **WHAT ARE THE EXPERIENCES AND EFFECTS OF LIVING IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY?**

**Key Understanding:** We can choose how we respond to diversity in our society.

##### **Knowledge Outcomes:**

1. Explain how harmonious interaction among people of different identities can be shaped through common spaces
  2. Explain the importance of harmony through embracing diversity
  3. Demonstrate how embracing diversity can result to exchange and appreciation of culture
  4. Demonstrate how embracing diversity can result to the exchange of skills and knowledge
  5. Explain challenges in a diverse society such as prejudice and misconceptions, as well as competitions for resources
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#### **I. Interactions in a Diverse Society**

##### **A. Harmonious interaction through common spaces**

1. As societies become increasingly diverse, it is essential to ensure harmonious interactions.
2. The diversity in Singapore has increased in recent times because of an increase in the number of migrants and immigrants who have chosen to work, study or make Singapore their home.
3. Common space was advocated by former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong which refers to physical space, shared values and common experiences that build our national identity.
4. Government and non-government organisations create and provide common space to bring people together to interact.

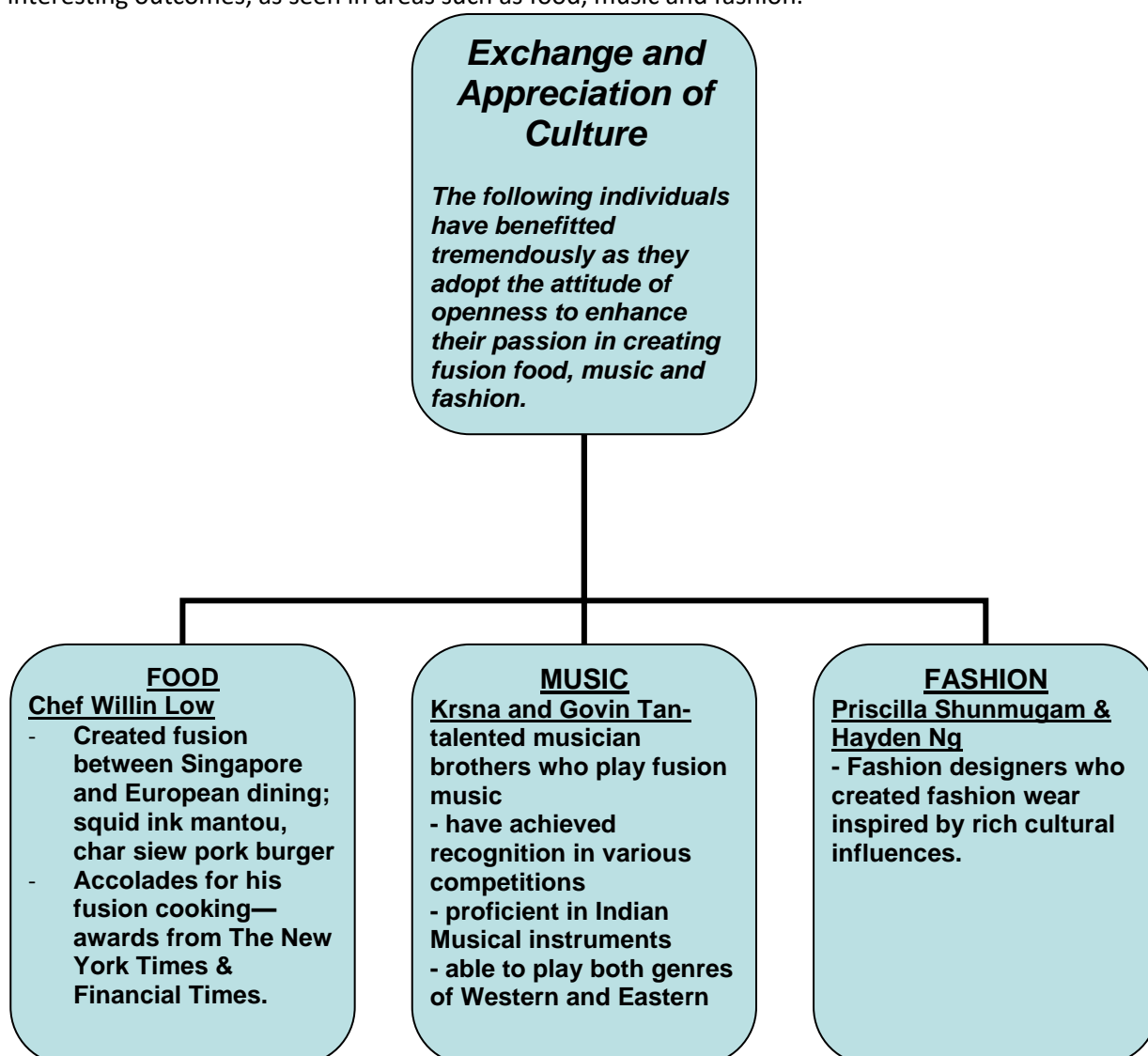
<b>Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circle (IRCCs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Community inter-racial and inter-faith platforms that promote racial and religious harmony.</li><li>- Available in every constituency.</li><li>- Helps deepen people's understanding of various faiths, beliefs and practices in Singapore through inter-faith and inter-ethnic themed activities such as heritage trails, talks and dialogues</li></ul>
<b>OnePeople.sg</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Initiates programmes and initiatives to foster interactions and friendships among different ethnic communities</li><li>- An example is CampTeen, a youth racial harmony ambassadors programme where youth volunteers dedicated to the cause of promoting harmony bring youths from all races together to participate in bonding activities</li></ul>

<b>People's Association (PA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A statutory board established to promote racial harmony and social cohesions</li> <li>- Offers a wide range of community programmes and volunteering opportunities for Singaporeans from all walks of life.</li> </ul>
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## II. Exchange and Appreciation in a Diverse Society

### A. Exchange and Appreciation of Culture

1. Cultural exchanges can create distinct experiences because of diversity in nationality, race and ethnicity, religion and socio-economic status.
2. Our diverse society provides people with many opportunities to interact and learn from those who hail from different countries and cultures.
3. This can result in fusion between local cultures and foreign ideas. This fusion can result in interesting outcomes, as seen in areas such as food, music and fashion.



### B. Exchange of Skills and Knowledge

1. In areas of research and development with overseas expert, there are usually exchanges of skills and knowledge. Foreign scientists can share their knowledge and expertise to help strengthen research competencies and collaborations with Singaporeans.
2. Biomedical Research Council (BMRC) of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) funds and supports public research initiatives in Singapore.
3. Under BMRC, internationally renowned scientists with the expertise and knowledge to jump-start the country's biomedical sciences moved to Singapore. These foreign scientists provided leadership to local research institutes and mentored young local scientists.
4. The openness to learn and collaborate with overseas scientists has led to robust research, which in turn has led to significant discoveries made in Singapore, like the H1N1 flu vaccine.

### III. Challenges in a Diverse Society

#### A. Prejudice and Misconceptions

1. Opportunities for people from different backgrounds to interact and communicate can also bring possibilities for misunderstanding. Differences in cultural backgrounds can lead to differing and sometimes conflicting views on values, beliefs and customs. Negative sentiments can arise when people jump to conclusions about others and make incorrect judgements due to insufficient understanding and false assumptions.
2. Stereotypes are generalised thoughts about people. They are beliefs held by one social group about another social group. Some of these stereotypes can be negative and are known as prejudices. Prejudices are negative conclusions about people.
3. Threats to diversity may occur as prejudices may lead to discrimination against the victims, who are either hurt or excluded from the interactions in a diverse society. For example, religious and racial prejudice has led to discriminatory behaviour towards certain groups of people.
4. Arabs and Muslim-Americans became victims of hate crimes in America after 9/11 terrorist attacks. Many Arabs and Muslim-Americans were stopped for questioning by public officers because of their appearance or Muslim names.
5. Discriminations as such have caused unnecessary hurt, much inconveniences and deepened prejudice against people of a different race or religion. It is important that Singapore remains vigilant against such forms of prejudice that would harm relationships in our multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.
6. Prejudice can arise from misconceptions linked to nationality, race and ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status. This can take the form of hurtful remarks made about people. This has the effect of causing misunderstandings.

#### Instances of Prejudice : Example 1

- In 2010, a pastor of a large Christian church was questioned by the Internal Security Department (ISD) for contentious remarks about Buddhism made in a video of a sermon.
- It spread quickly and created a huge uproar on the Internet. Despite a public apology made specifically to Buddhist leaders, inter-religious harmony in multicultural Singapore

7. Prejudice is dangerous and can create an environment where discrimination can happen more often. An example can be seen in the denial of rental accommodation to some foreign races and nationalities in Singapore.
8. This discrimination in rental markets can cause much inconveniences to foreigners seeking to find accommodation in Singapore and create the impression that many Singaporeans are ***xenophobic***.
9. The episodes of prejudice and discrimination can cause unnecessary suffering for groups that are targeted for abuse, both verbal and through actions. Misunderstandings may be unavoidable due to incomplete information people have about other nationalities, races and ethnicities or socio-economic status.
10. To avoid further prejudices, it is important to be aware of prejudices caused by incomplete understanding and to address these gaps by being open to interactions with and understanding others.

#### **B. Competition for Resources.**

1. In recent times, increases in the number of foreigners have created tensions that have caused some prejudice and discrimination as explored earlier.
2. One of these sources of tension is due to the competition for resources. These resources could be in the form of opportunities or availability of infrastructure. With the inflow of foreigners into Singapore, there will be questions on how Singaporeans are able to cope with the increased competition for employment, housing and transportation (standard of living).
  - ➔ Concerns over employment:
  - With increasing number of foreigners in our workforce, some Singaporeans fear that foreigners are taking their jobs away. They also face competition for housing and demands on public transport.



- Foreigners who come to Singapore on a valid Employment Pass and S Pass are eligible to work in Singapore based on their relevant qualifications and a specific salary criterion. They would most likely be holding a PMET position (Professionals, Managers, Executives, Technicians).
- There are some Singaporeans who hold the opinion that they have caused the loss of jobs for some of the older white-collar Singaporean workers.
- Foreigners can also be employed as lower-skilled foreign workers such as in the construction and shipping sectors.

#### **Foreign manpower: Singaporeans unhappy**

- In 2014, the general unhappiness with foreigners can be seen when abuse was directed against the Filipino community after they revealed plans for celebrating the Philippines Independence Day in Orchard Road.
- Recognising these concerns, the government has tightened immigration framework controls to reduce the inflow of foreign manpower into Singapore. For example, the monthly levy for Work Permit pass holders has been increasing since 2010. The quotas for S Pass and Employment Pass holders have also been reduced. Eligibility criteria like monthly salaries were also tightened since 2010. This means that foreign manpower needs to earn a certain level of salary before they can be considered for these passes.
- From 1 August 2014 onwards, companies who intend to submit Employment Pass applications would need to advertise the vacancies in the Jobs Bank administered by the Workforce Development Agency. This is part of government's effort to strengthen the Singaporean core in the workforce under the Fair Consideration Framework.

#### **➔ Concerns over Living Space and Infrastructure**

- Singaporeans are concern over an increasingly congested public transport system, competition over health resources and availability of public housing.
- Recognising these concerns, the government has expanded rail network about 100 metres to a total length of 280 kilometres by 2021. More public housing, hospitals and healthcare facilities will also be built.

#### **➔ Concerns over Social Mobility**

- Over the years, the income gaps between the lower and higher income groups have increased over the years in Singapore. This has led to many Singaporeans feeling that social mobility is being limited.
- They are also other issues that could be affecting income gap. One example is that lower income groups working in the manufacturing sector were affected by the shifting of jobs to regions which offer lower labour costs. This loss of jobs also affected their ability to progress up the socio-economic ladder.
- Therefore, Singapore government emphasizes re-training and the learning of new skills to enable Singaporeans of lower income group to stay relevant to economic demands. This would help to improve social mobility. Another way is to ensure that Singaporeans uphold the principle of meritocracy, where one is rewarded based on merit, regardless of race, language, religion or socio-economic status.

## **Conclusion**

1. The presence of diversity in society shapes our experiences. A variety of experiences can arise from interactions with people from different nationalities, races and ethnicities, religions and socio-economic status groups.
2. Some of these experiences are positive as exchanges of ideas and experiences enrich and strengthen harmony in a diverse society. At the same time, there are tensions and challenges that arise from differences.
3. Prejudices and competitions between locals and foreigners/immigrants press the government to think of ways to manage such diversity in society.

# CHAPTER 7

## How Can We Respond in a Diverse Society?

### Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Develop an understanding of how governments manage diversity in various countries and the impact of different approaches on people.

### 1. Management and Impact of Socio-Cultural Diversity

- As immigrants enter the country, they often form the minority in their host countries. These immigrants bring with them their unique identities, shaped by beliefs and practices from their country of origin.
- A government would then form policies that guide how immigrants can become part of the host country.
- These policies would also affect the interactions between the majority and minority groups in the country.
- The policies will attempt to assimilate or integrate the minority immigrant groups, though the degree of these policies will vary depending on the context.

#### 1.1 Assimilation

- In a country where the government adopts a policy of assimilation, immigrants are expected to adopt the beliefs and practices of the majority group in the host country.
- Over time, this is supposed to make the identity of the immigrants indistinguishable from the majority group in aspects such as cultural beliefs and practices.

##### 1.1.1 Assimilation in France

- France believes in the principle of *laïcité*, which means secularism.
  - **Secularism** refers to the idea of not connecting governance with religious or spiritual matters.
  - In France, there is a separation of religious affairs from governance and no religion is favoured over another. Assimilation expects all French citizens to identify with the idea of secularism.
- Secularism law was passed in 1905, which made it illegal for any census to compile data concerning a citizen's race, ethnicity or religion.
  - Article 1 of the 1958 French Constitution assures equality before the law for all citizens regardless of origin, religion, race and ethnicity.
  - This shapes a strong French national identity that is not linked to factors based on race, ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status.
- In France, the ideal of harmony in society is achieved through every individual putting aside their affiliations to race, ethnicity, religion and socio-economic status and display their national identity as the only observable aspect of identity.
- Thus, France acknowledges the existence of diversity, but diversity does not overshadow the national identity that binds all French citizens.
- Today, France has one of the highest proportions of immigrants in Europe. Many of the immigrants were from former French colonies such as Algeria and Morocco. In 2011, immigrants made up about 5.5 million (8.7%) of the total population in France.
- To assimilate these immigrants into French society, the government has implemented assimilation policies in the areas of education, employment, and naturalization processes.

#### Education

- The education system is secular & strengthens French national identity through schooling. There is no discussion about religions except in History and Philosophy classes; expressions or symbols of religion are not allowed.
- Adaptation classes are also conducted for the children of immigrants to help them improve their French & eventually join regular French schools, thus ensuring the assimilation of minority groups into secular French society.

## **Employment**

- Through employment, the immigrant is committed to stay on in the country, which helps to hasten the acquisition of social capital. Immigrants would also need to pick up the French language for the purpose of communicating with their French colleagues.
- However, the unemployment level of immigrant families was 3 times the national average in 2007, partly due to discrimination in the hiring practices of companies. Assimilation, thus, could not take place effectively.
- The government thus introduced the Diversity Charter, which allowed companies to articulate their support for a discrimination-free workplace, so as to allow greater diversity to flourish in the workplace, which could support the assimilation of immigrants into French society.

## **Naturalisation processes**

- Naturalisation programmes help to assimilate immigrants by helping them develop basic knowledge about life in France and what being a French national means.
- Since 1998, it became necessary for all immigrants to undergo French language courses, and attend a day of civic education about life in France before they gain permanent residency.
- Immigrants will also need to demonstrate knowledge of the history and culture of France, French language proficiency and pass a French cultural test to be eligible for French nationality
- All of these policies ensure immigrants will have to interact as much as possible with other people in French society, & thus attain fluency in the French language, adopt French attitudes and beliefs that will strengthen their French identity.

### **1.1.2 Tensions arising from assimilation policy in France**

- Assimilation may be adopted to maintain the influence of national identity, and as the case for France, assimilation was adopted as the influx of immigrants was perceived to have weakened the sense of national identity.
- This perception grew stronger as France became more multicultural and diverse.
- Immigrants make up a sizeable portion of the population in France
  - In 2014, 105613 immigrants were granted citizenship.
  - The government & people continue to emphasise French identity, & this led to expectations on the people to keep their displays of religious beliefs and ethnic customs private.
- Assimilation has thus led to tensions between, on one hand, upholding the influence of national identity, and on the other, recognizing the impact of religion on identity and respecting the rights of individuals to practice their religion.
- Many of the new immigrants hold on to their religious identities and this has created challenges as some French believe that French national identity is threatened when the new immigrants continue displaying their religious identity prominently.
- The wearing of religious symbols in public has become a source of tension.
  - In 2004, a law was introduced to prohibit the display of religious items, serving to reinforce the secular French national identity.
  - Examples of the impact of this law can be seen in how (i) Muslim students cannot wear Muslim headscarves (ii) Jewish students cannot wear kippahs (iii) Christian students cannot wear large Christian crosses in schools (iv) Sikh students cannot wear turbans in class.
  - The wearing and display of religious clothing was seen as a visible challenge to French national identity as it is seen to conflict with national cohesion.
- In February 2011, Nicolas Sarkozy, the then President of France, reinforced that France's policy on immigrants is one of assimilation, emphasizing that France requires all immigrants to adopt the French language and culture to obtain citizenship.
  - On the one hand, critics say that assimilation violates individual rights and freedom of religion and expression; on the other hand, the French government defends its position based on the need to minimize distinctions between people.
  - This shows how assimilating immigrants, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality or religion into any society can bring about experiences and responses that may not always be positive.

## **1.2 Integration**

- This policy includes immigrants retaining their unique identities while forging common ground with the groups already living in the host country.

### **1.2.1 Integration in Singapore**

- Singapore's approach towards management of socio-cultural diversity has been on integration, where differences are recognized and respected. Policies promoting integration include:
  - **Bilingual policy**: Bilingualism, introduced in 1966, is the cornerstone of the education system. Students are expected to learn English and one of the official Mother Tongue Languages (MTLs). Learning English has given the different ethnic groups a common language to communicate with one another and helps to foster a sense of belonging and promote better integration across different ethnic groups. Learning our MTLs also allows us to preserve our cultural identity and heritage.
  - **Presidential Council of Minority Rights (PCMRs)**: PCMR was formed in 1970 as a safeguard to ensure that laws passed by the Parliament are not discriminatory against any racial or religious community. Apart from scrutinizing legislation, PCMR also reports on matters affecting such communities that are referred to it by Parliament or government.
  - **Group Representation Constituency (GRCs)**: Introduced in 1988, the GRC ensures that minority racial groups are represented in Parliament. At least one of the candidates in the team contesting in a GRC has to come from a minority ethnic group. In this way, the concerns and needs of minority groups are represented in Parliament.
  - **Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP)**: Introduced in 1989, EIP was to achieve a balanced ethnic mix in HDB estates and to prevent the formation of ethnic enclaves. EIP helps to foster racial harmony among the various ethnic groups and strengthen social cohesion by providing HDB residents of different races with opportunities to interact as neighbours.
- Integration is emphasized through promoting equality without granting special rights to any particular racial, ethnic or religious group.
- Integration is also achieved when diverse socio-cultural identities complement the national identity of being a Singaporean with their unique identities.
- The core of Singapore's national identity is anchored on shared values of upholding law & order, respecting racial & religious harmony, and a commitment to working together for a better future.
- More immigrants are choosing to come to Singapore and become Permanent Residents (PRs) or Singapore Citizens (SCs).
  - More Singaporeans are marrying non-Singaporeans; about 40% of Singaporean marriages each year are between a Singaporean & a non-Singaporean with 8600 such marriages in 2013.
  - Permanent residency is granted to about 30 000 immigrants a year to keep the PR population stable at 0.5 to 0.6 million and to ensure a pool of suitable candidates for citizenship.
  - Together, the PRs & SCs, also known as new immigrants, help to mitigate ageing population.
- With an average of 50,000 new immigrants per year, it is important to integrate them into Singapore society.
  - Some foreigners have had time to make Singaporean friends, adjust to our way of life, some would have studied in our schools, and by having lived in Singapore, these foreigners then decided to commit to make Singapore their permanent home, and thus, take up citizenship.
  - Some new immigrants, however, may take a longer time to integrate.
  - Thus, Singapore's integration policies help the new immigrants to adapt to the norms, culture and values in Singapore.
- These integration initiatives include naturalization programmes, the forging of common experiences and provision of community support.

### **Naturalisation initiatives**

- Upon receiving their in-principle approval for Singapore citizenship, new Singapore citizens would go through a mandatory programme called the Singapore Citizenship Journey.
  - The Singapore Citizenship Journey is a 3-part programme designed through collaboration between the National Integration Council (NIC), the People's Association (PA), and the Immigration and Checkpoint Authority of Singapore (ICA).
  - New citizens have up to 2 months to complete this programme before they can receive identity cards and citizenship certificates.

- Singapore Citizenship e-Journey: An online journey that allows new citizens to learn about S'pore at their own pace and convenience. It includes information on history and development as a country, key national policies, Total Defence, and efforts in building a cohesive society.
- Community Sharing Session: An event where new citizens reflect on their journey towards citizenship, share their hopes and aspirations for Singapore, meet other new citizens, and learn how they can actively participate in the community. Integration and Naturalisation Champions from the PA will also share experiences living in a multi-cultural and multi-religious society, and share valuable insights to help new citizens better settle into their community.
- Singapore Experiential Tour: A half-day tour which brings new citizens to key historical landmarks and national institutions where they learn about Singapore's history and the management of national challenges in urban planning, transport, water resources, as well as security and defence.
- The Singapore Citizenship Journey plays a key part in helping the new Singapore citizens learn about their new home as they explore the key historical, cultural and relational experiences.
- Besides the Journey, the NIC also drives integration efforts in a comprehensive, sustainable and ground-up manner so that emotional attachment and a sense of belonging can be fostered.

### **Common experiences**

- Common experiences build ties between immigrants & the larger Singapore society to encourage immigrants to develop better understanding and to interact outside of their own communities.
  - In March 2010, a new Singapore Permanent Resident (SPR) quota was introduced for non-Malaysian SPR households buying HDB flats. The quota is set at 5% for neighbourhoods and 8% for blocks. This limit is applied on top of the prevailing EIP. The objective of the SPR quota is to facilitate better integration of SPR households and prevent enclaves from forming in public housing estates.
  - In National Service (NS), all male Singapore citizens and PRs are required to serve NS for 2 years, to ensure Singapore's security and sovereignty. NS brings people from diverse racial, religious, language and educational backgrounds to train, live, and serve together in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), the Singapore Police Force (SPF), or the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF). During NS, they develop the sense of collective interest before self. Such common life-shaping experiences have helped to foster greater cohesiveness & create a strong national identity. Fulfilling the NS obligation is a critical indicator of identity and integration as it shows that new immigrants embrace this rite of passage that is distinctive for Singaporean men and their families.

### **Community support**

- New immigrants are also integrated through grassroots-organised events and activities.
  - The NIC launched the Community Integration Fund (CIF) in September 2009 to support organisations interested in implementing ground-up integration initiatives, which serve to address specific target audiences or needs. Organisations support integration by focusing on different and important aspects of adapting to the Singapore way of life.
    - CIF Criteria for Funding includes
      - (i) Provide information and resources on Singapore society, norms and values to immigrants and foreigners through learning journeys, field trips, seminars, publications and productions that provide information on local history, cultures and social norms.
      - (ii) Enhance interactions between immigrants, foreigners and Singaporeans through interest-based activities that provide common platforms for people to interact and build relationships with each other, eg. sports or arts.
      - (iii) Promote positive mindsets and attitudes among Singaporeans, immigrants and foreigners through projects that promote mutual understanding such as diversity workshops and cultural exchange programmes.
      - (iv) Encourage emotional attachment to and involvement in Singapore through projects that introduce volunteerism opportunities to immigrants, encourage the use of English for communication and interaction, and encourage immigrants to connect their community with the wider Singaporean society.
  - The PA also organized grassroots support initiatives such as block parties, festive celebrations at community clubs, home visits and orientation tours to help new immigrants adapt to life in Singapore. Some new immigrants also served as Integration and Naturalisation (INCs) and visited the homes of recently confirmed PRs and new SCs, to invite them to events and activities. These common experiences help to alleviate the anxiety faced by new immigrants.

### 1.2.2 Tensions arising from Integration policy in Singapore

- Singapore has been known to be a welcoming society to foreigners, and home to many multi-national companies (MNCs) and non-profit organisations operated by foreigners, whose presence has created numerous jobs for the local economy and added to the economic vibrancy.
- However, some Singaporeans feel that the new immigrants have not integrated sufficiently and have begun to feel uncomfortable with the inflow of foreigners.
  - In the economic area, some Singaporeans feel that their job security has been compromised as they now have to compete with the immigrants. Immigrants are also blamed for causing increases in prices, constant traffic congestion and greater incidences of breakdown in public infrastructure such as the MRT.
    - Eg. a survey conducted shows that 73.2% of Singaporeans believe that job opportunities will be reduced for local-born Singaporeans if we have more immigrants
    - 55.8% of Singaporeans believe that the government attracted immigrants to Singapore at the expense of local-born citizens.
    - 63% of Singaporeans agreed or strongly agreed that the policy to attract more foreign manpower will weaken Singaporeans' feeling as one people or one nation.
  - Tensions over the perceived erosion of the Singaporean identity have also built up, as some Singaporeans feel that large numbers of immigrants have affected social cohesion.
  - Some immigrants' inability to communicate effectively in English & their different social norms and behaviours have hindered successful integration.
- While integration has strengthened bonding between the ethnic groups, new immigrants and Singaporeans need to continue to strengthen understanding, so as to ensure that Singapore continues to remain vibrant and diverse.

## 2. Management and Impact of Socio-Economic Diversity

- The government is responsible for ensuring its citizens being able to enjoy certain rights in education and healthcare services. The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that all people should be able to obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them.
- The government can thus help where there is greater socio-economic diversity, and when the lower socio-economic groups are facing challenges financing healthcare costs.
- Three approaches are highlighted on how governments can adopt the financing of healthcare by looking at examples of the **United States (US)** [market-based approach], **Singapore** [shared responsibility approach], and **Sweden** [government-financed approach].

### 2.1 Market-based approach (United States)

- In a market-based approach, the government gives citizens the freedom to decide how much they wish to pay for healthcare and allows the market to determine the provision of services to meet healthcare needs.

#### 2.1.1 Market-based approach in the US

- There is no single national policy guiding the US healthcare system. Under the US healthcare system, both public & private hospitals provide healthcare services to citizens. The differentiation is in the types of healthcare that each type of hospital provides.

Types of hospitals and the type of services provided	Description	Proportion of hospitals
Not-for-Profit hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Non-profit</li><li>- Provide both essential and optional care</li></ul>	58%
Profit Private hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Profit-making</li><li>- Provide healthcare services which are optional or services for people with higher incomes eg. plastic surgery</li></ul>	21%
Public Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Non-profit</li></ul>	21%

hospitals	- Provide both essential healthcare services eg. diabetic care	
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- The US government neither intervenes in the setting of prices by healthcare service providers, nor interferes with the choice of healthcare service options by citizens.
- As healthcare provision is based on the market-based approach, prices can vary significantly due to the freedom of the healthcare provider to set the prices they want.
- Market-based approach also means that Americans have to cope with healthcare costs largely on their own, & thus, expected to buy medical insurance to ensure that they can receive & pay for the necessary medical treatment. However, not everyone is able to afford the medical insurance.

### 2.1.2 Keeping healthcare affordable in the US

- Majority of Americans who are from middle-class & higher socio-economic status groups obtain medical insurance as part of their employment package. However, these Americans are more likely to be employees of large firms & are less likely to have problems meeting healthcare costs. Only 10% of Americans can afford private medical coverage beyond what their employers provide.
- Market-based approach makes it harder for socio-economic status groups to pay for healthcare.
- Medical insurance premiums, or the amount of money paid by the insured to the insurer for covering the risks of medical conditions, are also higher as insurance companies charge higher in a market-based system to make a profit.
  - This means that Americans of lower socio-economic status are more likely to not visit a doctor when sick. They may also not take the necessary tests, treatments, and follow-up care due to high costs, unless if they are in an emergency and sent to an A & E department. As of 2014, there are still 16% or close to 41 million Americans who are uninsured.
- Several policies attempted to address the healthcare challenges faced by lower socio-economic status groups, with mixed success. Healthcare policies to help lower-income groups in US include:

Types of policies	Description
Medicare	- Form of health insurance for Americans aged 65 or older, who disabilities and permanent kidney failure.
Medicaid	- Form of health insurance available to people and families with limited income or disabilities. - Eligibility may also depend on how old one is and whether one is pregnant, blind or have other disabilities.
Legislation on Emergency Medical Treatment	- Emergency departments in hospitals that receive payment from Medicare are required by law to provide care to anyone needing emergency until one is stable. - The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) ensures patient access to emergency medical care and to prevent the practice of patient dumping. This happens when uninsured patients were transferred from private to public hospitals without consideration of their medical condition.

### 2.1.3 Challenges faced by the healthcare system in the US

- Tensions arising from the need to provide citizens with adequate healthcare and maintaining the market-based approach to healthcare provision.

#### Cost and coverage of medical insurance

- For Americans with lower income in lower socio-economic groups, health insurance premiums, which usually cost a few thousand dollars a year, are deducted from their pay. This leads to many choosing not to buy insurance as they must still pay for their daily needs.
  - Small firms also find it a financial burden to provide healthcare benefits for their employees. Thus, many low-skilled workers are not given any healthcare insurance. Those who receive medical insurance as part of employment will also lose it if they lose their jobs.
  - Insurance companies in a market-based system are driven to make profits, & thus, they are more motivated to insure the healthy & the employed, & usually refuse to insure those who have been sick in the past or risk having recurrent illnesses as these will incur more costs. Thus, it leads to the situation of healthcare being denied to those who need it most.
- The market-based approach allows individuals to decide how much healthcare they need, & at what price.
  - However, sections of society are excluded from obtaining essential healthcare services.
  - The implementation of the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, from 2014, opens possibility of lower socio-economic status groups receiving more help in healthcare needs.



- Under this Act, families with low to moderate income are now eligible for financial assistance in obtaining insurance coverage, thus helping to alleviate some challenges caused by the market-based approach. The changes could also benefit Americans from a wider range of income levels.

## **2.2 Shared responsibility approach (Singapore)**

- In a shared responsibility approach, the government intervenes through providing basic healthcare services and shares the cost of some aspects of healthcare.
- There is a balance between personal responsibility and the government's provision for healthcare.

### **2.2.1 Shared responsibility approach in Singapore**

- Singapore's healthcare system is made up of both public & private healthcare service providers.
  - Primary care services are provided by the government in polyclinics, and in the private sector, by general practitioners (GPs).
  - About 85% of inpatient beds are in public hospitals; the remaining are in private specialist hospitals.
  - In the public hospital system, the ward types range from unsubsidised A class wards to the heavily subsidised B2 and C class wards.
- Intermediate and Long Term Care (ILTC) services (eg. community hospitals, home care, nursing homes, hospices etc.) provide further community care and treatment to patients who are stable enough to be discharged from hospitals.
  - These services are provided mainly by voluntary welfare organisations, with the government providing subsidies to ensure that care is affordable for the needy.
- The approach of financing healthcare in Singapore is guided by a combination of personal and collective responsibility, and government provision.
- Healthcare costs are kept affordable by the provision of heavy government subsidies, collective responsibility by society through risk-pooling, with individual & family responsibility still important. Government provision also better ensures cost-effectiveness and efficiency.
- A portion of Singaporeans' Central Provident Fund (CPF) savings is set aside in Medisave to help them pay for healthcare.
  - The scheme encourages patients to take personal responsibility for their healthcare choices, such as what type of services and where they go to seek these services for medical needs..
- Singapore's shared responsibility healthcare system:
  - (i) Universal access to healthcare for Singaporeans
    - Singapore offers universal healthcare coverage to its citizens, with a financing system anchored on individual and collective responsibility to keep healthcare affordable for all.
    - Singapore has achieved good healthcare outcomes for the population with a national healthcare expenditure of about 4% of our GDP, which is low among the developed countries.
    - However, this is expected to grow with an ageing population.
  - (ii) Multiple tiers of protection
    - 1st tier of protection is provided by heavy government subsidies of up to 80% of the total bill in public hospital wards.
    - 2nd tier of protection is provided by Medisave, a compulsory medical savings account.
    - 3rd tier of protection is through insurance, in form of MediShield Life & Integrated Shield Plans.
  - (iii) Organisation of service delivery of medical services
    - Singapore has a mixed delivery model.
    - The public sector dominates the acute care sector, delivering 80% of the care in this sector.
    - The primary care sector, for eg., general medical practice, is dominated by private sector providers, which account for about 80% of the market.
    - In the ILTC sector, service provision is mainly provided by voluntary welfare organisations which are mostly funded by the government.

### **2.2.2 Keeping healthcare affordable in Singapore**

- Our healthcare financing framework has multiple tiers of protection to ensure that healthcare is affordable. The government is mindful of balancing between inculcating personal responsibility & providing for the lower income groups with subsidies and safety nets.
- Provision of subsidies is also tiered to ensure that the lower income groups receive more support. In this way, no Singaporean is denied access to the healthcare they need.
- Healthcare financing policies at a glance:

Financing policies	Description
Healthcare subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In public healthcare institutions, healthcare is heavily subsidized by the Government.</li> <li>- Subsidised treatments are available in polyclinics, public &amp; community hospitals &amp; nursing homes.</li> <li>- Lower to middle income groups can also receive additional means tested subsidies at public hospital outpatient clinics and selected private GP and dental clinics under the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS).</li> </ul>
Medisave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A compulsory individual medical savings account scheme. It helps Singaporeans, especially the lower income, to pay for their share of medical treatment without financial difficulty.</li> <li>- Working Singaporeans and their employers contribute a part of their monthly wage into the account to save for their future medical needs.</li> </ul>
MediShield Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A health insurance plan for all Singaporeans to help pay for large hospitalization bills, for life.</li> <li>- It allows all Singaporeans to effectively share the responsibility of paying for large bills by risk pooling the financial risks of major illnesses.</li> <li>- A deductible is applicable to help focus insurance coverage on large bills. Individual responsibility for one's healthcare needs is kept by requiring co-payment.</li> </ul>
Medifund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An endowment fund that acts as a safety net for needy Singaporeans who cannot afford to pay their medical bills even after heavy subsidies, MediShield Life and Medisave.</li> </ul>

- To keep in pace with Singaporeans' needs, new schemes have also been introduced to help mitigate rising healthcare costs for the elderly and lower income groups.
- In 2014, higher outpatient subsidies for specialist care & drugs were introduced at public hospitals and polyclinics to help lower healthcare costs for lower to middle income families.
  - Pioneer Generation also enjoy subsidies & Medisave top-ups to help alleviate healthcare costs.
  - In 2015, MediShield was replaced by MediShield Life to cover every single Singaporean.
- These policies help to address rising socio-economic diversity & ensure that quality & affordable healthcare is available to all Singaporeans, regardless of income levels.

### **2.2.3 Challenges faced by the healthcare system in Singapore**

- Key challenge for Singapore is balancing healthcare affordability with rising healthcare costs in the context of a rapidly ageing population.

#### **Managing the growing demand for healthcare**

- Singapore's population grew 25% over past 10 years and will continue to grow over next decade. Healthcare services will need to grow in tandem.
- The population is also ageing rapidly. The ageing population will be a strong driver for healthcare demand, as the elderly need more intensive medical care.
  - By 2030, one in five Singaporean residents will be aged 65 and above. This is a threefold increase to 960,000 from about 350,000 in 2012.
  - Studies have shown that they are about 4 times more likely to be hospitalized than younger Singaporeans and also more likely to stay longer in hospital when hospitalized.
  - This has implications on infrastructure needed to support the healthcare needs of the aged.
- The combination of a growing and ageing population will impact the capacity of the healthcare infrastructure in Singapore to meet the peoples' needs. With increasing life expectancy and more sedentary lifestyles, there is a greater need of treatment for chronic diseases.
- With rising chronic diseases, better coordination and continuity of care is important to ensure best health outcomes for our population. This is done by shifting the focus of care away from hospitals and specialists towards primary care through family doctors in the community to enable a more sustainable healthcare system.
- Primary care plays an important role as the first point of contact. The government's vision is for Singaporeans to have a regular family doctor who understands their health needs and are able to provide good medical care and advice.

#### **Rising healthcare costs**

- Many governments are struggling to contain rising healthcare costs and Singaporeans are not spared the effects of global healthcare inflation.
- The government has made improvements to the various financing policies, including more subsidies to the low and middle socio-economic groups as well as the elderly, to help them manage out-of-pocket payments and ensure that citizens will be able to afford healthcare.

- The effectiveness and sustainability of these measures will be influenced by our age dependency ratio as they are funded mainly by government revenue, including taxes on income & consumption.
- With a shared responsibility approach, it also places critical healthcare decisions in the hands of patients and doctors. Healthcare professionals and patients need to embrace care that is cost-effective and appropriate to one's needs as spending more does not necessarily lead to better health outcomes.
- Helping to manage costs is everyone's responsibility. We should maintain a healthy lifestyle and diet, as staying healthy is the best way to reduce healthcare costs.

## **2.3 Government-financed approach (Sweden)**

- In a government-financed approach, the government provides substantial subsidies & services for most of the healthcare needs of its citizens.

### **2.3.1 Healthcare system and financing in Sweden**

- The healthcare system in Sweden is based on the belief that all citizens should have access to healthcare services regardless of background or socio-economic status, which is based on the idea of social and economic equity.
- Swedish Welfare Healthcare system:
  - (i) Universal access to healthcare
    - Sweden provides universal access to healthcare for its people, which means that every Swede has equal access to healthcare services, regardless of social class, income or residence.
  - (ii) Public healthcare is largely owned and financed by the government
    - Swedish healthcare system is publicly governed and in large part, also publicly owned.
    - Majority of hospitals are publicly owned while primary care, in form of GPs, is privately owned.
    - Both public and private providers are financed largely from public funds.
    - The people pay a nominal sum of money for healthcare services as part of co-payment.
    - The average tax rates are higher in the Nordic countries than in other European countries and this reflects public responsibility over healthcare and other welfare services such as pensions.
  - (iii) Choice of having private insurance
    - Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI) is a form of private insurance policy offered as a supplement to publicly financed healthcare.
    - It provides faster access to medical services at GPs and hospitals.
    - Employers usually offer VHI as an optional part of employee remuneration.

### **2.3.2 Keeping healthcare affordable in Sweden**

- Sweden practices a government-financed approach to healthcare, where there is strong intervention by the government. This is to ensure access to healthcare for all socio-economic status groups in society, in particular, the lower income groups.
- The cost of providing this comprehensive and subsidized approach is sustained through heavy personal taxes on the people.
- Healthcare policies to help lower income groups in Sweden:
  - Patients above 20 years old are charged about €9 per day for hospitalisation. The national ceiling for out-of-pocket payments for healthcare visits is €122. This means that when the cost ceiling has been reached, the patient pays no further charges for the remainder of the 12-month period. The ceiling for patients' fees for medical services is €220.
  - The patient has to pay the full cost of prescribed drugs up to €122, after which the subsidy becomes 100%.
  - For a household, all children are covered by same protection scheme for prescription drugs, providing maximum of €244 for all children within the same household during 12-month period.
  - Private insurance in healthcare is supplementary. The main reason for having private individual insurance is to be able to get quick access to a specialist in outpatient care and to avoid waiting lists for treatment.

### **2.3.3 Challenges faced by the healthcare system in Sweden**

- The Swedish healthcare system guarantees universal health coverage for all in the country. Under the system, no one is left uncared for in healthcare. However, there are challenges.

### **High taxation for low healthcare costs**

- All the benefits in the Swedish healthcare system are sustained by a high level of taxation.
- The annual personal income tax rate in Sweden in 2014 can be reflected as such:

Income range	Tax rate	Note: Evidently, the level of personal taxation is very high. For the income level US\$62,140 - US\$88,180 range, it means that income earned up till US\$62,140 will be taxed 31%; any extra income earned above US\$62,140 but below US\$88,180 will be taxed an additional 20%.
US\$0 - US\$2690	0%	
US\$2691 - US\$62,140	Around 31%	
US\$62,140 - US\$88,180	31% + 20%	
US\$88,181 and above	31% + 25%	

- There is also indirect taxation called Value Added Tax (VAT), which is similar to Singapore's Goods and Services Tax (GST). The VAT in Sweden is set at 25%.
- Despite the willingness of most Swedes to pay high taxes to sustain the government-financed system, the ageing population means that the tax burden will increasingly fall on a smaller group of working citizens.

### **Growing number of people needing healthcare**

- Sweden is reviewing its government-financed approach to finance healthcare as it has to contend with changes brought about by immigrants and globalization.
  - Their once homogeneous society is becoming more diverse with the inflow of immigrants and there are demands to change state policies to factor in these developments.
  - Besides immigrants, citizens of European Union (EU) member countries are also eligible for some aspects of Sweden's heavily subsidized healthcare.
  - This puts a strain on the system as they consume healthcare services without paying the taxes needed to sustain the system. Competition for medical resources will also increase.
- Competition for existing healthcare resources will also result from a growing & ageing population in the next 10-15 years.
  - This is because the ageing population will increase without similar increases in workforce numbers, and thus, the government revenue from taxation will need to fund a larger number of people as the age dependency ratio reduces.

### **Conclusion**

- Every country's approach to healthcare can be different and any changes made would result in trade-offs. It is important to understand that while countries may learn the best practices in a particular policy area, it would be difficult to implement in its entirety what had worked in another country. This is because of differences in the way a country finances its systems, the experiences of its people, and the state of services in the country.
- In examining different healthcare approaches, government policies can impact socio-economic diversity. The need to cater to the range of socio-economic status groups in societies is a great challenge & continues to be so. Healthcare is an area of need that is required by all & the needs & interests of people may shift over time. The ability of the government to address healthcare needs of its people would depend on its ability to fine-tune its approaches to meet its needs.

## **CHAPTER 8: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE IN A GLOBALISED WORLD?**

### **1. Globalisation**

1. **Globalisation** in the process through which ideas and activities of people in different parts of the world become interconnected.
2. **Interconnections** lead to **interdependent relationships** between:
  - a. developments globally and locally.
  - b. suppliers, producers and consumers

### **2. Driving Forces of Globalisation**

1. Rapidly increase pace of globalisation
2. Increase in frequency and intensity of creating interconnections

#### **2.1 Developments in Transportation**

<b>Decrease in duration of travelling ('shrinking' of world)</b>	
Improvements in size and speed of modes of transportation because more goods and people can be carried per trip: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Savings in transport cost</li><li>• Facilitates interconnectedness</li></ul>	Development of efficient and integrated transportation infrastructure facilitates movement of people and goods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exchange of ideas between countries</li></ul>
Outcome for Singapore: <b>Leading transportation hub</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provision of efficient, reliable and quality service</li><li>• Connectivity to world achieved through airports and seaports<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- High connectivity between Singapore and Malaysia through extensive rail and road networks</li></ul></li><li>• Competition from regional and international hubs e.g. Malaysia and Hong Kong<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continuously improve transportation infrastructure (increase capabilities and capacities)</li></ul></li></ul>	

#### **2.2 Growth of Multinational Corporations (MNCs)**

1. MNCs are businesses with **economic activities** in more than one country.
2. MNCs increase economic interconnections between people and good due to their global span of their operations, resulting in the creation of interdependent relationships.
3. MNCs in Singapore:

<b>Locally-owned</b>	<b>Foreign-owned</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eu Yan Sang</li><li>• Singapore Airlines</li><li>• Singtel</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pfizer</li><li>• Shell</li><li>• Toyota</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operate in regions and countries around the world</li><li>• Continue to expand overseas</li><li>• Create interconnections and interdependent relationships between economic activities in Singapore and the world</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brought benefits through providing employment, higher wages and bringing in new technology and expertise to sustain Singapore's competitiveness</li><li>• Facilitate exchange of ideas through collaboration in research and development</li></ul>

### **2.3 Advances in Technology**

1. Technological advances in communication have resulted in:
  - a. Greater access to the Internet
  - b. Increasing use of mobile communications
2. Evolution of the mobile phone:
  - a. Convenient for people to communicate anytime and anywhere through messaging and video calls
  - b. Gain access to vast amount of information on the internet
  - c. Smart phones: mobile phones with advanced computing capabilities with applications that no longer limit mobile phones to just making phone calls.
    - i. Provision of special features and functionalities like faster processing speed and compatibility with more advanced mobile networks, faster information transfer speed.
    - ii. 2.2 billion mobile internet users worldwide with apps having been downloaded over 100 billion times worldwide.

### **Conclusion**

1. Technological advancements allow for ideas and activities of people in different parts of the world to become interconnected.
2. Developments in transportation and growth of MNCs facilitate movement of goods, people and ideas resulting in the development of interdependent relationships across the world between local and global developments.

# ISSUE 3

## Being Part of a Globalised World

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*Inquiry Focus: Being Part of a Globalised World: Is it Necessarily Good?*

### CHAPTER 9

#### HOW DO WE RESPOND TO TENSIONS ARISING FROM SOME ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF GLOBALISATION?

##### **Key Understandings:**

- Global interconnections create tensions due to the uneven impacts.
- The impacts of globalisation result in differing responses from countries and people.

##### **Knowledge Outcomes:**

1. Explain how interconnections and interdependent relationships between economic activities across the world lead to a global economy.
  2. Explain the positive and negative economic impacts of globalisation (being part of a global economy) create tensions and trade-offs at different levels.
  3. Explain how countries respond to the uneven economic impacts of globalisation
- 

#### **A. Introduction**

- (i) Interconnections and interdependent relationships between economic activities across the world lead to a global economy.
- (ii) These activities range from production to the sales of the products in different countries.
- (iii) These activities and interconnections are made possible due to the driving forces of globalisation, such as
  - developments in transportation and
  - growth of multinational corporations (MNCs).
- (iv) As interconnections are intensified due to increased economic activities across different locations in the world, the economies of these countries becoming interconnected, thus leading to economic interdependence between different countries.

#### **i) Economic Impacts of Globalisation on Countries**

## **1. Singapore in the 1960s-2000s**

- (i) In the early years of independence, labour-intensive industries were especially sought after as they provided jobs for the locals. Thus, the Economic Development Board (EDB) aided in the establishment of the Jurong Industrial Estate. This initiated the country's industrialisation programme with factories producing goods such as garments, textiles and wood products.
- (ii) In the 1970s, EDB established Singapore as a location where businesses could start their operations quickly. Factories were built in advance of demand and a highly skilled workforce was readily available. A wider range of products was manufactured and this led to more investments in electronics.
- (iii) However, by the late 1970s, countries with larger populations offered lower labour costs compared to Singapore. In order to remain competitive and maintain economic growth, Singapore focused on more technology and information-driven industries in the 1980s. To promote research and development (R & D) and computer software services, EDB co-established institutes with Japan, Germany and France that trained Singaporeans for specialised jobs in the high-technology fields of electronics and engineering. Additionally, EDB administered the Skills Development Fund to encourage manpower training programmes.
- (iv) In the 1990s, EDB strengthened its focus on key industries, namely chemicals, electronics and engineering. Consequently, Singapore began to develop a biomedical science industry that included the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology sectors.
- (v) In 2000s, EDB set up initiatives to stimulate entrepreneurship and expand research and development activities. It also focused on developing industries such as the interactive and digital media industry and the energy industry. GDP rose from \$1310 GDP per capita in 1960 to \$71318 GDP per capita in 2014.

## **2. Positive Impact**

### **a) Economic Growth**

- (i) Globalisation has increased trading and the expansion of businesses in different parts of the world.
- (ii) Participation in the global economy provides many benefits for Singapore. The global economy has been vital to Singapore's survival. With its small population and limited natural resources to support production for its own consumption, Singapore looks to the global economy for its expertise, products and services.
- (iii) Given its small domestic market, Singapore needs to tap on the global economy for trade. In order to remain competitive, Singapore has seized the opportunities available in a global economy to strengthen trading relationships between Singapore and other countries.
- (iv) The increase in trade and business makes available a greater variety of goods and services for consumption.
- (v) With greater trade, there will be more companies looking to set up in Singapore. This will not only generate more tax revenue but also create more job opportunities for Singaporeans as well. In all, this will be beneficial for Singapore's economic growth.



- (vi) With more tax revenue earned, a country can improve its infrastructure.
- (vii) One way that Singapore encourages foreign investments and invests in other countries is through foreign direct investment (FDI). FDI refers to investments in a Singapore company by a company from another country.
- (viii) In 2012, the FDI in Singapore amounted to \$747.7 billion. In 2013, FDI in Singapore amounted to over \$800 billion. This is an increase of about 13% from 2012.
- (ix) One reason why Singapore is able to attract foreign investors like USA, Japan and UK to invest is due to Singapore's ability to enable businesses to leverage economic opportunities in Singapore to expand their business in Asia and the rest of the world.
- (x) The Singapore EDB is the lead government agency for planning and executing strategies to enhance Singapore's position as a global business centre. It is tasked with creating sustainable economic growth with vibrant business and good job opportunities.
- (xi) Besides FDI, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) also play an important role in Singapore's economy. FTAs are treaties between countries to establish a free trade area where the exchange of goods and services can be conducted, without tariffs (taxes imposed on imported goods) or hindrances, across their borders.
- (xii) This leads to benefits for Singapore, such as a substantial amount of tariff savings and increased trading between Singapore and its partner countries.
- (xiii) The United States of America (USA) and Singapore signed an FTA which came into force in 2004. Some of the industries that benefited from the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA) include the electronics and information technology, chemical and petrochemicals as well as textiles industries. The FTA has promoted trade and investments between the two countries.
- (xiv) *With more international trade and foreign investments, more employment opportunities are generated. These help to promote economic growth within the country as more tax revenue is collected that can help to develop domestic infrastructure, provide support for local businesses and thus create even more business and job opportunities for Singaporeans.*

**b) Improvement in Relationships between countries**

- (i) Singapore companies have supported about 40 000 jobs in the US while the USSFTA has deepened America's engagement in the region. It has enhanced America's longstanding presence in the Asia-Pacific and has caused other countries like Korea and Australia to think how they too could deepen their relationship with the USA. It led to other US FTAs, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is now in the process of being negotiated.
- (ii) Thus, besides economic benefits, Singapore's participation in a global economy has also achieved strategic objectives. It has broadened bilateral relations between Singapore and America. The Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA) between Singapore and America anchors their security relations.
- (iii) *Singapore's participation in the global economy will thus improve bilateral relations between Singapore and other countries, and this will in turn enhance the stability and security of Singapore.*

*This will in turn attract more investments to Singapore as well as Singapore's investments in other countries, thus benefitting Singapore's economy in the long term.*

### **3. Negative Impact**

#### **a) Intense Competition**

- (i) However, participation in the global economy does not always bring benefits to all. Due to FTAs, cheaper products produced by other countries can be imported to a country, leading to competition with local products that may be more expensive.
- (ii) *This affects the livelihood of local producers or businesses as some may eventually have to close down due to their inability to compete against cheaper products imported from other countries.*

#### **b) Little Obvious Benefits for Domestic Businesses**

- (i) Some argue that the FDI offers little benefit for domestic businesses in various areas. These include little evidence of substantial transfer of knowledge and skills from foreign companies or investors, and limited employment opportunities which do not benefit the locals.
- (ii) Furthermore, the economic linkages with domestic businesses are either weak or do not bring about significant advantages for them.
- (iii) *Thus, participation in a global economy through the FDI does not necessarily benefit Singapore as Singaporeans may not necessarily learn from foreign workers or companies and local businesses may not have links with foreign companies and thus not be able to benefit much from globalisation.*

#### **c) Economic Downturn**

- (i) In a global economy, when the economy of one country faces a downturn, it may affect other countries. In times of economic downturn, a country may withdraw its investments or reduce its demand for goods and services from other countries. This consequently leads to less income and employment for the countries affected.
- (ii) An example of the impact of economic downturn is the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, which was triggered by the slowdown in US economic activity in the years leading up to 2008. Some of the economic impacts include the fall of stock markets, a decline in demand for goods and services and a decrease in industrial production. The decline in industrial production made increases in unemployment almost inevitable. According to the International Labour Organisation, the Global Financial Crisis affected the employment of more than 50 million people. The rising unemployment, which in turn reduced the demand for goods and services, led the economy to slow down even further. This resulted in further unemployment.
- (iii) Many individuals were unable to repay their bank loans that they had taken to buy property or to finance their business dealings. Banks were left with large amounts of unpaid loans and confiscated property. However, the banks could not sell these properties as there was no demand. Therefore, the unpaid loans could not be recovered.

- (iv) This led to a crisis involving banks and financial institutions. Due to the many economic interconnections between countries, the economic slowdown in the USA affected Europe. As a result, the European banks lost their money.
- (v) The governments of many of these banks had to lend them money to prevent them from going bankrupt. The economic slowdown in Europe led to a further reduction in demand for goods and services worldwide. This reduction in demand for goods affected manufacturing countries such as China and India. The Chinese government estimated that 20 million migrant workers alone had lost their jobs in 2008. In addition, FDI to China was down 22.5% in April 2009. Foreign investments in India also fell in 2009.
- (vi) Lehman Brothers was the fourth largest US investment bank in 2008, employing 25 000 people worldwide. Due to the impact of the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, on 15 September that year, it filed for bankruptcy. Banks and investors all over the world became reluctant to extend further loans as they were afraid that these loans could not be repaid. This caused more businesses to close down as they could not borrow money to fund their investments. Hence, unemployment increased as businesses laid off their workers.
- (vii) As a small and open economy, Singapore was hit and it went into a recession. The fall in worldwide demand has hit its exports, its tourism sector, and its broader economy.
- (viii) *Thus, the interconnections and interdependence in the global economy increases the economic vulnerability of Singapore, as the economic downturn in other countries, lead to reduction in demand for goods and services from Singapore, which in turn leads to failure of local businesses, as they fail to repay loans, and retrenchment, thus lowering the demand for goods and services further.*
- (ix) The Singapore government responded to the Global Financial Crisis by providing help for Singaporeans and businesses:

For Singaporeans:

- Workers who lost their jobs were given help finding new ones.
- They were also given opportunities to be retrained with new skills.
- *This helps them to manage the impact of the crisis because they would be able to remain relevant in the global economy through acquiring a new set of skills to help remain competitive.*
- Lower income families were given assistance through rental rebates. *Stable families were better able to manage the crisis as they would be able to focus on upgrading their skills so they could remain employable. Less social problems were created, thus ensuring the stability of Singapore to respond to the financial crisis.*

For businesses:

- Smaller Singapore firms could obtain financing with reduced interest rates and increased subsidies for their insurance premiums.
- New businesses and smaller companies were granted further tax exemptions, which meant they paid little or no taxes.
- *These will reduce their operating costs and the money can be channelled to other areas such as training and upgrading the skills of their workers as well as invest in technology to improve*

*their operations. These can help them increase their efficiency and productivity and therefore survive in a competitive global economy.*

## ii) **Economic Impacts of Globalisation on Companies**

### 1. **Positive Impact**

- (i) Developments in transport and advancements in technology have allowed many companies to widen their market reach by expanding their production and sales of goods in many parts of the world. They have the opportunity to benefit from higher profits and larger market share.

#### **Higher Profits/Market Share**

- (i) One way MNCs can obtain higher profits is by setting up their operations in different locations. This allows not only access to new markets abroad, but also access to lower labour costs and cheaper resources such as land and raw materials.
- (ii) There are also MNCs that obtain their components from one location but assemble them in different parts of the world where production costs would be cheaper.
- (iii) American companies such as PepsiCo have been dominating the global companies because they have been able to leverage opportunities arising from the global economy.
- (iv) Many Singapore companies have also gained higher profits by expanding their operations overseas.
- (v) To support these companies in their global ventures, the Singapore government offers assistance such as loans, grants and tax incentives. *This enables the companies to take advantage of the opportunities presented by globalisation. With globalisation, Singapore companies are able to have access to bigger markets overseas, and make higher profits through lower labour and production costs.*
- (vi) Examples of these companies or Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
  - Super Group Ltd (Manufacturer of food and beverages)
    - recognises the need to regionalise its business and capitalise on Asia's dynamic consumer markets.
  - CapitaLand Ltd (real estate company)
    - recognises the need to be open to change, be nimble and embrace innovation — in more than 20 countries, need for integrated and interconnected spaces and leverages technology to remain relevant to its customers.
  - Hyflux Ltd (water industry)
    - recognises the need to compete effectively through innovative solutions and the use of technology to meet the requirements of the global water industry
    - Strategies and Values to help companies to globalise successfully

## **2. Negative Impact**

### **Lower Profits/Market Share**

- (i) While globalisation has increased access to new markets for companies, they also face increased competition from other companies which are similarly trying to expand their market reach and profits.
- (ii) This is a trade-off that occurs because globalisation has made it become harder for them to compete for a share of profits from the global economy.
- (iii) To remain successful, a business must always anticipate how a market might change and constantly innovate and reinvent itself by introducing new features into its products and services so that it will remain relevant and not risk losing its share of the market or profits.
- (iv) For example Xiaomi, a smartphone maker, entered the market with its first smartphone in 2011. Within four years, it has managed to capture 4.4% of the world's smartphone market share. Xiaomi's success is due to its ability to innovate and meet the needs of its customers.
- (v) Alongside the MNCs are the small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Since the year 2000, globalisation has resulted in an increase in the spread of MNCs, bigger local companies and SMEs.
- (vi) Some Challenges Facing SMEs:
  - Shortage of expertise
  - Shortage of labour
  - Small domestic market
  - Competition from bigger companies that offer the same products or services
  - Insufficient profits
- (vii) As a result, many SMEs are unable to earn enough profit to sustain their operations.
- (viii) However, some SMEs are able to respond more positively to competition because they understand local conditions and choose to offer goods and services which appeal to the locals.
- (ix) Others are also able to play a complementary role to the MNCs. For example, MMI Holdings, an SME, is the supplier of hard drive disks for US-based Seagate Technology, an MNC.
- (x) As SMEs are important to Singapore's economy, the Singapore government is committed to helping them cope with increasing competition.
- (xi) Some incentives offered by the Singapore Government:
  - Provides various forms of financial assistance to help SMEs at different stages of growth
  - Aids in SMEs' efforts to venture abroad
  - Facilitates partnerships between SMEs and larger corporations
  - Provides financial assistance in the form of loans, grants and tax incentives
- (xiii) MNCs which are unable to anticipate changing markets and ensure that its products and services remain relevant and competitive could also face lowered profits and bankruptcy. In

2012, French hypermarket chain, Carrefour, closed its only branch in Singapore after 15 years. This was due to competition from other companies offering similar products in Singapore.

- (xiv) *Thus, both SMEs and MNCs who are unable to respond to increasing competition due to globalisation, will have to face lower market share, lower profits and even closure if they do not respond adequately to increasingly rapid changing market conditions, reinvent themselves or take advantage of government support, in the case of SMEs.*

### iii) **Economic Impacts of Globalisation on Individuals**

#### 1. **Positive Impact**

##### **Greater job opportunities and Higher Income**

- (i) Globalisation enables easier access to knowledge, skills and ideas. This increased mobility in a global economy can provide opportunities for individuals to collaborate over the Internet, through videoconferencing or in face-to-face situations where individuals travel across the world to learn from one another.
- (ii) Globalisation has facilitated mobility, making it easier for individuals to look for jobs overseas. More people are open to getting a job overseas because of the convenience of travelling to other countries and yet being able to stay connected with their family and friends back home, as well as better job prospects and higher income there.
- (iii) Those individuals whom overseas companies may want to employ due to their skills are individuals who may benefit from globalisation.
- (iv) *Thus, individuals who have the necessary skills and knowledge will benefit from globalisation as they have greater opportunities to obtain better paying jobs with their greater access to more companies from countries outside Singapore.*

#### 2. **Negative Impact**

##### a) **Intense Competition**

- (i) As globalisation increases the mobility of workers and jobs, some workers may be adversely affected by increased competition, thus illustrating the tensions arising from economic impacts of globalisation.
- (ii) Some workers have had to contend with lower income or risk losing their jobs, as companies get more access to foreign markets offering lower labour costs.
- (iii) *Thus, individuals who do not have the necessary skills and knowledge will not benefit from globalisation, as they will not be able to compete with foreign workers who are willing to work for lower pay.*

##### b) **Loss of Jobs and Loss of Income**

- (i) Many may be also be vulnerable to losing their jobs when global companies close down their operations to shift to another location. This affected Western countries such as the USA in the 1970s when many Americans lost their jobs, as the work could be done by people in China or India at a much lower cost. Over time, as incomes rise in China and India, more companies previously

located there are moving to other locations such as Vietnam, Myanmar, smaller Indian cities, inland Chinese cities, and Central America where the costs are even lower.

- (ii) Some workers also lose their jobs because they are unable to equip themselves with the skills required for those jobs. As economies continue to evolve, the nature of jobs demanded will change too. For instance, when countries moved from agriculture to manufacturing industries and service industries, the skills required changed accordingly. Equipping themselves with technical skills is not enough as there is also an increase in demand for cognitive skills such as information processing and interpersonal skills, among others.
- (iv) An example would be the Japanese fashion chain, Uniqlo. In 2013, it moved its product operations from Shenzhen, China, where it first started into Vietnam where labour costs there were half that of China's.
- (v) This loss of jobs and income can be experienced by workers of different skill types. There would be those who are lowly paid and not highly skilled and those who are highly skilled such as engineers, but who can also be easily replaced by equally skilled workers from other countries who command lower wages.
- (vi) *Thus, globalisation has made individuals more vulnerable to job competition as they can be easily replaced by foreign workers who have the necessary skills and knowledge and are willing to work for lower pay.*

### **3. Strategies by Singapore Government to Manage Negative Economic Impacts of Globalisation**

- (i) In the face of increasing competition for jobs, the Continuing Education and Training (CET) Masterplan was introduced by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) to offer training courses relevant to Singapore workers so as to support Singaporeans in remaining employable with new and relevant skills.
- (ii) In the case of older low-wage workers, the Workfare Training Support Scheme (WTS) allows for them to upgrade their skills in order to remain employable, upgrade their jobs and earn higher wages.

#### **Components of WTS:**

- Enhanced course fee and absentee payroll funding
  - Training allowance for working Singaporeans who sponsor their own training
  - Training roadmap with customised classes
  - Training Commitment Award to encourage workers to go for continuous skills upgrading
  - For Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) recipients. WIS is a scheme to supplement the wages and retirement savings of older low-wage workers to encourage them to stay employed.
- (iii) Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam delivered the four key thrusts of SkillsFuture in the 2015 Budget Statement – a national movement aimed to provide Singaporeans with opportunities to develop a mastery of skills throughout life so as to drive Singapore's next phase of development towards a more advanced economy and inclusive society.

## Conclusion

1. The global economy brings benefits as well as challenges to countries, companies and individuals.
2. Participating in the global economy provides the opportunities for increased international trade and economic growth. However, the interconnections and interdependence in the global economy also increases the economic vulnerability of countries, companies and individuals. For example, an economic downturn in one country can have adverse economic impacts on other countries. These uneven impacts due to the trade-offs result in much tension. *However, the tensions will be less important than the benefits once such tensions are well-managed. In fact, these tensions can become opportunities if countries can develop solutions to turn these challenges into opportunities.*
3. Companies can expand their businesses beyond their countries of origin to enjoy high profits or market share. However, the trade-off companies can face is the increased competition from other companies in the global economy, making it more difficult to compete for a share of profits from the global economy. *Nevertheless, the benefits can outweigh the challenges if companies can innovate and reinvent themselves, and turn these challenges into benefits.*
4. Individuals have greater access to employment opportunities overseas which may offer better job prospects and income. This also results in increased competition as individuals face competition both within the and beyond the country. Some individuals also have to contend with a lower income or risk losing their jobs altogether. *However, the tensions will be less important than the benefits once such tensions are well-managed. In fact, these tensions can become opportunities if individuals are able to innovate and upgrade themselves.*
5. There are various responses to these tensions:
  - (i) Countries – For example, as Singapore continues to participate in the global economy, there are also strategies at the country level to manage the adverse impacts that may come with this participation.
  - (ii) Companies – As companies face increased competition from expanding overseas to obtain high profits or market share, they need to ensure that they constantly innovate and reinvent themselves.
  - (iii) Individuals – Individuals need to continue upgrading so as to ensure that they remain employable and competitive in the global economy.
6. Thus, countries, companies and individuals must remain adaptable, forward-looking, resilient and to keep pace with global changes.



# ISSUE 3

## Being Part of a Globalised World

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*Inquiry Focus: Being Part of a Globalised World: Is it Necessarily Good?*

### CHAPTER 10

#### HOW DO WE RESPOND TO TENSIONS ARISING FROM SOME CULTURAL IMPACTS OF GLOBALISATION?

##### **Key Understandings:**

- Global interconnections create tensions due to the uneven impacts.
- The impacts of globalisation result in differing responses from countries and people.

##### **Knowledge Outcomes:**

1. Explain how interconnections and interdependent relationships between cultural activities across the world lead to a global economy.
  2. Explain the positive and negative cultural impacts of globalisation (being part of a global economy) create tensions and trade-offs at different levels)
  3. Explain how countries respond to the uneven cultural impacts of globalisation
- 

#### **A. Introduction**

- The economic exchanges in a global economy have increased access to and consumption of goods and services, facilitating the exchange of cultures in areas such as entertainment and food.

#### **CULTURAL HOMOGENISATION**

- Cultural homogenisation is the process by which local cultures are changed by foreign cultures to become more and more similar with aspects of foreign cultures
- Some foreign cultures becoming more dominant
- Impact on cultural diversity across and within countries

##### **EXAMPLES OF CULTURAL HOMOGENISATION**

- Example of the Starbucks Coffee Company
- Other than food, impact of cultural homogenisation can be found in other areas such as languages i.e. the prevalence use of English

##### **NEGATIVE RESPONSE**

- There are also instances when foreign cultures are rejected by those who wish to protect local cultures.
- This is because foreign cultures are perceived to undermine cultural, moral, and religious values as well as threaten the local cultural industry.

### **CULTURAL HYBRIDISATION**

- Cultural hybridisation occurs when the foreign and local cultures are blended, resulting in unique combinations containing elements from both cultures.
- This can produce new cultural products with changes in the nature of local products

### **EXAMPLES OF CULTURAL HYBRIDISATION**

- Examples can be seen in various genres of music
- For example, salsa, which is a Latin American music genre that originated in New York, is a mixture of foreign Afro-Caribbean musical influences and North American jazz and rock

### **HOMOGENISATION AND HYBRIDISATION IN ENTERTAINMENT**

- The presence and proliferation of foreign entertainment, either in television, film, music or radio, reflect the acceptance of foreign cultural influences.

#### **NEGATIVE RESPONSE**

- There has also been resistance to foreign entertainment.
- Local cultures can also influence foreign cultures  
→ results in hybridisation of local and foreign cultures

#### **American Influences**

- The entertainment industries in many parts of the world today are dominated by the USA.
- Some applaud the spread of American culture through entertainment because they argue that American messages of freedom and individuality in the entertainment products can empower consumers to develop their identities.

#### **NEGATIVE RESPONSE**

- However, the dominance of the American entertainment industry has not been welcomed by all.
- Reasons include perceptions of American influences to be threatening local culture, languages and local entertainment industry.
- The relationship between foreign and local cultures is often dynamic as both can influence each other.
- There have been instances of resistance against American entertainment in both France and China.

#### **Korean Influences**

- Since the mid-2000s, another dominant influence in the entertainment industry comes from South Korea.
- Evidence of the Korean wave' spread and dominance can be seen in the rise of the Korean pop music, also known as K-pop.
- The Korean Wave in Singapore can be seen from the popularity of many products associated with Korea, from cosmetics to food and electronic products.

- As the Korean Wave gains acceptance in many countries across the world, it is also facing some resistance due to various reasons, which can range from cultural reasons such as perception of “invasion” of Korean culture to political reasons such as political tensions with Korea.

### **Significance**

- These examples from the American and South Korean entertainment industries have illustrated the cultural impacts of globalisation.
- We can observe varying degrees of acceptance and rejection of foreign cultural influences, with some groups in the society embracing these foreign influences while some other groups are attempting to protect local cultures from these foreign influences.
- These examples also demonstrated the dynamic relationships between foreign and local cultures as seen in the hybridisation of entertainment products.

### **HOMOGENISATION AND HYBRIDISATION IN FOOD**

- The cultural impact of globalisation can also be examined through the impacts of foreign influences on food landscapes m j j
  - across and within countries.
- The presence of foreign food cultures shows that locals have embraced some aspects of these foreign influences.
- There is resistance towards the influences of foreign food cultures as they are perceived to threaten local cultures.
- Examples: Fast food cultures with McDonalds and KFC
- Despite the claim that fast food restaurants homogenise food landscapes, there is evidence to show that local cultures can maintain their influences when hybridisation takes place.

### **CONCLUSION**

- The cultural impacts of globalisation can lead to homogenisation when foreign cultures change local cultures
- This reduces cultural diversity as more local culture become more similar to foreign cultures.
- In some cases, tensions lead to resistance to foreign influences.
- This resistance can lead to an outright rejection of the foreign cultures.
- However, globalisation can also result in hybridisation due to adaptations of foreign cultures by local cultures and this may further enrich cultural diversity.

# CHAPTER 11

## How Do We Respond to Tensions Arising from Security Impacts of Globalization?

### Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Develop an understanding on the security impacts of globalization & what the challenges & responses are in managing them.

### **1. Security Challenges**

- Countries typically see the importance of safeguarding their national security in the face of internal and external challenges, which could include economic, political and environmental challenges.
- For instance, the global economy can pose challenges to countries and the responses governments can have to manage the impacts of these challenges.
- In a globalized world, these challenges became more complex due to the transnational nature of these challenges which extend beyond a country's boundaries.
- The chapter will focus on the security impacts of globalization through the examples of cyber security challenges and transnational terrorism.

### **2. Cyber Security Challenges in a Globalised World**

- Advancements in technology have led to the growth of online computer networks which store huge amounts of confidential data, and globalization has made it easier for people to access information virtually.
- However, computers, networks, programmes & information have become more vulnerable to cyberattacks as these attacks can come from any part of the world.

#### **2.1 Impacts of Cyber Security Challenges**

- Hackers or Cybercriminals (people who break into another person's network) are known to have used malicious software such as Malware to infect networks & allow them to access info inside networks.
- Some cybercriminals attack government networks to gain access to national secret information.
- If cyberattacks are targeted at critical infrastructure such as power plants, water treatment plants and transport systems, then it could create a widespread crisis and expose the country to further attacks.
  - Example of an allegation of such attacks on government networks include the 2013 US accusation of China's military of mounting cyber-attacks on its networks.
  - These attacks were focused on collecting information on US political, economic & defence sectors.
  - China, in turn, also accused US in engaging in cyberattacks to steal secret information from the Chinese government.
- In some instances, cybercriminals gain access to secret government documents and publish them to expose such information. These 'hacktivists' hack into networks for a political or social agenda, eg. WikiLeaks in 2010, a website set up by Julian Assange.
- WikiLeaks released secret records of US military operations as they insisted that citizens have right to know what their governments were doing.
  - US government had argued then that exposing such dealings or information, such as US foreign policy and diplomatic negotiations, will affect its national interests.
- Cybercrime also affects commercial businesses as business networks were hacked and trade secrets or money were stolen. If a company steals information on new technology that a rival is developing, it can use this technology to stay competitive.
- Financial institutions such as banks are often targets as hackers can steal large amounts of money if they can successfully hack into online banking networks
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## **Cybercrime in Singapore**

- Survey conducted by Norton in 2013 showed that 1 million Singaporeans were victims of cybercrime in 1 year alone.
- Half of respondents do not regard cyber security concerns as important, and do not use basic precautions such as password protection, security software or back up files.
  - 57% are not aware security solutions for mobile devices exist.
  - One fifth of respondents admitted sharing work information with friends and family.
  - 27% of all adults admitted they had lost their mobile phones or had them stolen.

## **2.2 Managing Cyber Security Challenges**

- Cyber security threats are a growing international concern as cybercriminals exploit the speed, convenience and anonymity of the Internet to access ICT, usually with aim of theft, disruption, damage or other unlawful actions.
- Internet has made it possible for cybercriminals to operate from any part of the world, & by hiding behind complicated cyber networks, cybercriminals can remain anonymous and make it tough for authorities to track them down.
- Many governments now emphasised on strengthening cyber security defences.
- Singapore govt takes a strong stance against cybercrimes and cybercriminals are severely dealt with.
- In 2013, there was a spate of a cyber-attacks, including the hacking of government websites, such as the PM Office.
- The individuals behind these cybercrimes were then arrested as these acts are not only a nuisance, but the damage is significant, and cast doubt on security and credibility of the government organisations whose networks are hacked.
- Singapore government announced efforts to further strengthen its cyber security, including upgrading Cyber Watch Centre, to allow tracking of malicious activities and responding swiftly to security threats.
- These measures form part of Singapore's 5-year National Cyber Security Masterplan 2018, which focuses on developing 3 key areas:
  - Growing Singapore's pool of cyber security experts
  - Increasing efforts to promote adoption of cyber security measures among businesses & individuals
  - Enhancing security of cyber infrastructure
- On 1 April 2015, the Cyber Security Agency (CSA) was formed to provide dedicated and centralised overview of Singapore's national cyber security functions.
- CSA ensures safety of Singapore's critical infrastructure, eg. in energy and banking sectors; it reports to the PMO and is managed by Ministry of Communications and Information; it also takes in the Masterplan as part of its purview.
- Another defence strategy against cyber threat is through collaboration between countries, by sharing information and skills.
  - An eg. of such collaboration is the Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT), which was formed to encourage cooperation between member states to maintain a network of computer security experts in the region.
  - For eg. Singapore plans and executes ASEAN CERT Incident Drill (ACID) annually, which aims to strengthen cooperation among ASEAN members in APCERT and other countries.
- Governments also partnered with private organisations with large technology companies to track down cybercriminals.
- In Singapore, the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) works closely with cyber security companies. Such collaboration aims to boost the country's cyber security capabilities through, for eg. the training of professionals in the fight against cybercrimes.
- Interpol, the global police agency, opened its first Digital Crime Centre in Singapore in 2015, and it provides support for member states by providing law enforcement agencies with tools and techniques to counter the latest cybercrime trends, facilitates info sharing with the private sector.

### **3. Transnational Terrorism**

- With globalisation, terrorism has become even more complex as it takes on a transnational nature.
- Since 2000, there has been over a 5-fold increase in the number of deaths from terrorism, rising from 3361 (2000) to 17958 (2013).
- Between 2012 to 2013, the number of countries that experienced more than 50 deaths rose from 15 to 24
- Economies of developing countries are more vulnerable to terrorism than developed countries.
- Terrorism is a complex security challenge because the threats can come from within and beyond a country's borders; it involves use of violence to harm or generate fear amongst victims who are often civilians or non-combatants.
- Terrorists could appear to be ordinary people and are often difficult to detect. Terrorists may fight against one or many governments, or against another group of people to achieve their objectives, and do not follow rules of conventional warfare set out in the International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

#### **3.1 Impacts of Transnational Terrorism**

- Transnational terrorism has intensified partly due to technological advances of globalisation, as they improved the speed of communication, travel and trade.
- Terrorist organisations found it easier to coordinate their operations across countries, online or in person. They used Internet to spread their violent beliefs to a global audience, as they freely recruit, train, raise money, transfer funds, collect intelligence & distribute propaganda.
- Low cost of Internet and its wide reach are attractive to terrorists, allowing it to grow as a global movement; for eg. there were more than 4300 websites serving terrorist groups and their supporters between 2003 and 2005
- There have been many examples of transnational terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, for eg. 9/11 attacks.
- On September 11 2001, Al-Qaeda, a militant group, hijacked 4 US airline planes & crashed them into various US locations such as the World Trade Center in New York, & the Pentagon in Washington DC.
- In 80 minutes, 19 terrorists had killed themselves and nearly 3000 other people.

#### **Global Spread of Al-Qaeda & its Affiliates**

- Al-Qaeda, also known as "The Base", was formed in 1989 by Osama bin Laden from amongst volunteers from many parts of the world to fight against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.
- Al-Qaeda wants to challenge influence of West, especially US, in Muslim countries, and establish a global Islamic government to unite Muslims throughout the world. It believes in achieving its objectives through violent means against the US and its allies.
- Muslim leaders however have asserted that Al-Qaeda's actions and beliefs contradict Islam, which teaches peaceful submission to God and peaceful relations with others.
- Al-Qaeda has a multi-national membership scattered all over the world, & is able to make use of globalisation to plan & carry out attacks across continents, designed to inflict maximum casualties
- Like other transnational terrorist groups, Al-Qaeda is loosely-organised with decentralised networks spread across the world. Case of Al-Qaeda shows how security can be challenged easily when terrorists have access to information through the Internet.
- After 9/11 attacks, US government removed sensitive documents such as maps, locations, layouts of military bases and weapons facilities from websites on the Internet, to prevent information from being used by terrorists to plan further attacks.
- In Dec. 2001, Singapore's Internal Security Department (ISD) arrested 13 members of a regional terrorist group, Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), with links to Al-Qaeda.
- These arrests prevented them from carrying out bomb attacks in S'pore, including Changi Airport, MOE building, MINDEF HQ at Bukit Gombak, as well as US and other diplomatic missions.
- Although Al-Qaeda's interpretation of Islam & the Quran to justify their violence is wrong, it is unfortunate that their global influence has resulted in backlash against Muslims worldwide.
- Recently, there is a growing threat from self-radicalisation.
- Self-radicalised individuals or "lone wolves" are individuals who are not members of any organised terrorist group, but are inspired and radicalised by extremist propaganda, usually through social media and the Internet.
- Terrorist groups and radical ideologues are spreading their propaganda through social media and the Internet to attract recruits and supporters to their violent causes.

### **3.2 Managing Transnational Terrorism**

- Because of the complex nature of transnational terrorism, a lot of resources are needed to manage this threat.
- Countries manage transnational terrorism through preventive, protective and responsive measures.
- Responding to transnational threats in the face of conflicting needs of countries and individuals inevitably involves trade-offs, resulting in tensions.

#### **3.2.1 Preventive Measures**

- These measures are vital in reducing a country's vulnerability to transnational terrorist threats as they can deter terrorists & help prevent loss of lives, destruction of property & disruption to the economy & society. Measures include effective border controls & collaboration between countries.
- Border controls are vital in preventing movement of terrorists as well as materials that can be used to produce explosives into SG through land, sea and air checkpoints.
- Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA), formed on 1 April 2003, is responsible for fortifying Singapore's borders.
  - ICA developed specialised capabilities in border security and identification, including the use of biometric technology in immigration and clearance process and radiographic image analysis of cargo vehicles crossing Singapore's borders.
  - These capabilities help improve ICA's effectiveness and efficiency in monitoring & regulating movement of people, goods & conveyances across Singapore's borders.
  - Examples of technological advances in ICA's efforts include biometric passport which contains unique biological data such as fingerprint data, facial image and passport details on a contactless chip; as well as the Radiographic Scanner Portal (RSP) system which is used to scan air shipments & screen all cargo vehicles at Changi Airfreight Centre (CAC) checkpoint.
- Some countries also control their borders by restricting air travel of suspected terrorists within, into and out of countries.
  - Eg., since 2001, US has actively implemented a 'No-Fly List' which contains known or suspected terrorists' names.
  - Americans outside US & placed on list are not allowed to board any plane back to US, while non-Americans placed on the list based in US would not be allowed to board a plane abroad.
  - Canada implemented "Passenger Protect Program", identifying individuals who may threaten aviation security and prevents them from boarding a plane destined from or for Canada.
- Restrictions are meant to ensure security of the countries and the passengers travelling by air. However, they are also deemed as violating individuals' rights to have freedom of movement as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Transnational terrorism is threat faced by many countries & is best countered by working together
  - One such collaboration effort is the establishment of the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1373 of 2001 which was passed following the 9/11 attacks.
  - This resolution calls upon UN member states to enhance their abilities to counter-terrorist attacks, including sharing intelligence on individuals or groups practising or planning terrorist acts and cooperating with other governments to take action against them.
  - To monitor and assist member states in implementing Resolution 1373, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was formed by UN.
- Singapore also collaborates with other ASEAN members to fight terrorism through various platforms, such as the ASEAN Counter-Terrorism Workshop, where countries exchange best practices to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation
- Another collaborative initiative is the creation of Interpol's Fusion Task Force (FTF), which include sharing of information & increasing capacity of member states to address threat of terrorism, & working closely with international organisations such as the UN Al-Qaeda and Taliban monitoring teams to maintain accurate databases on terrorist groups
- Singapore also collaborates with other countries by pledging its commitment to maritime safety, as it is a member of the US-led Container Security Initiative (CSI).
  - CSI recognises the potential dangers posed by illicit seaborne cargo, such as bomb materials, and thus manage this threat by screening containers to identify and target high-risk US-bound containers and pre-screen them before they are shipped to ports in the US.
- Fight against transnational terrorism is not the sole responsibility of the government as the public also plays an important role in strengthening the country's defences.

- Total Defence thus helps us build a strong, secure and cohesive country that is prepared and able to deal with any crisis or security challenge, including transnational terrorism; a strong defence is crucial in reducing our vulnerability to potential terrorist attacks.

### **3.2.2 Protective Measures**

- These measures work hand-in-hand with preventive measures to enhance security of the country
- One such strategy is through enhancing surveillance in key installations and infrastructure like power stations and public places with large numbers of people as they are perceived to be more vulnerable to terrorist attacks.
- SAF plays vital role in protecting borders through working closely with homeland agencies to protect key sites, thus ensuring that Singapore remains vigilant against potential terrorist threats.
  - For eg., Jurong Island, site of Singapore's petrochemical hub, is protected by SAF troops, who work closely with the Police Force and the Coast Guard, to guard the Sea Line of Communication, while the RSAF works closely with Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) to safeguard our skies.
- Surveillance can also be carried out on individuals, especially on suspected terrorists.
- However, surveillance methods have been criticised as they involve a trade-off in terms of privacy and a violation of rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
  - Eg. of this trade-off could be seen through the introduction of full body scanners in US airports in 2007, which had led to much opposition as some saw such scans as similar to a virtual body strip, thus compromising the right to privacy.
  - In 2013, these scanners were replaced with scanners which revealed fewer details.
- Another such strategy is through allowing the government to detain suspected terrorists indefinitely without trial. Singapore has an Internal Security Act (ISA), which is a law that enables the government to deal with threats to our security, which would include terrorism, racial and religious extremism, subversion and espionage. ISA allows the government powers to detain individuals without trial and became critical after the 9/11 attacks.
- Safeguards for the use of ISA have also been enhanced over time.
  - An Advisory Board chaired by a Supreme Court Judge reviews all detentions under ISA.
  - In 1991, ISA was amended to give the Elected President veto powers, which means that where the Advisory Board recommends the release of any person, that person cannot be detained by the government without the President's concurrence.
- In 2001, the US government passed the Patriot Act which made it easier to arrest, detain and seize the property of anyone suspected of involvement in terrorist acts; suspects can be held indefinitely without trial or deported without little or no chance of challenging the decision.
- However, there are accounts of abuse where detainees were badly treated during their imprisonment, making these measures unpopular and in violation of the human rights declaration
- Thus, detention of suspects without trial will always be contested, causing tension between protecting the state's security and the rights of individuals detained.
- Detention of suspects without trial could be purposeful as such people are too dangerous to release and there is insufficient evidence to try them in court until further interrogations could help lead to uncover terrorist networks and thus further arrests and ultimately save lives.
- However, the detention of suspects without trial could also mean that many innocent people are held without hope of release.
- Thus, it is never easy to manage a complex threat like transnational terrorism, as in the process of ensuring the security of countries, the rights of individuals may be compromised due to the conflicting needs and interests of security versus privacy.

### **3.2.3 Responsive Measures**

- Apart from the previously mentioned measures, countries should also be prepared to deal with damages or harm brought about by such acts if they occur.
- In Singapore, frequent exercises are held by the Singapore Police Force and the Singapore Civil Defence Force to test their contingency plans for terrorist acts.
  - For eg., emergency preparedness exercises such as Exercise Heartbeat are held annually, where Home Team agencies work with the community and private corporations.
  - These exercises help us to be better prepared to deal with a range of security threats.
  - They also help to enhance resilience to stand united as a community and recover quickly.
  - On a larger scale, Exercise Northstar, which tests the Whole-of-Government ability to respond to emergency scenarios, serves to raise public awareness on the threat of terrorism and emphasizes the need for continued vigilance.



- Singapore also collaborates with other countries to improve its capabilities in responding to transnational terrorist threats.
  - For instance, Singapore's DSO National Laboratories work closely with its counterparts in countries such as the US, France and Sweden on chemical, biological, radiological and explosive (CBRE)-related research and development efforts. This is to equip Singapore in handling the dangers posed by chemical, biological & radiological attacks.
- Singapore also participates in exercises with other countries for exchange knowledge on dealing with CBRE-related terrorist attacks.
  - For eg., at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus Counter Terrorism Exercise, in 2013, forces from Singapore & other ASEAN countries as well as countries such as Australia, China and the US came together to plan and discuss strategies to coordinate operations against CBRE-related terrorist attacks.
- As part of its commitment to the fight against transnational terrorism, Singapore participates in various missions across the world.
  - For eg., as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the SAF has deployed close to 500 personnel to Afghanistan from 2007 to 2013. The mission has been one of SAF's longest overseas deployments.
  - They have contributed expertise in various areas such as construction, engineering, humanitarian aid, medical, surgical and dental health care as well as training of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF).

## **Conclusion**

- Thus, security impacts of globalization could include the challenges to security, and how countries, agencies, and individuals respond to these challenges.
- In managing these challenges, tensions and trade-offs occur because of conflicting needs and interests of countries and individuals.
- Due to the nature of cyber security and terrorist threats, they cannot be managed by a country alone and a collaborative approach between countries as well as individuals in society is required.
- By remaining vigilant and putting in effort to maintain and enhance our defence measures, the threat of transnational terrorism can be more effectively managed.



