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A Study on the Success of the Singaporean Society

Ananya Goyal¹, Kundapur Mahima Bhat²

^{1,2}Christ (Deemed to be University), Karnataka

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to understand how the Singaporeans live as a community and how they are such a strong, independent, powerful and successful society. Singapore lacks the abundance of natural resources, yet they have built a community so powerful that people constitute the most important asset of the country. We have studied articles and journals by different authors describing what Singapore owes its success to and also read about various people who have stimulated the growth in the last few decades. The major reasons Singapore is at the top today are the education, health, infrastructure, trade and finance facilities available to the people. One important thing we have understood through our research is that the government and the people have worked together considerably well in order to reach the position that Singapore is in today. With stringent rules and regulations along with approved policies, Singapore is also corruption free and there is honesty between the citizens and the authorities. The impressive standard of living is due to the high income of the people, which leads to a proper investment in education and health by them; if people are healthy, they work well which helps boost the economy of the country. It is all a virtuous cycle. We have studied many more factors contributing to the success of the community and how Singapore is where it is today. It has reached this level only in a few more than 50 years, making its success so great.

Keywords: Singaporean Community, Success, Development, People as a Resource.

1. INTRODUCTION

Singapore is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of money, material and man. With a population of almost 5.5 million people, it claims to be a hub for sectors like finance, trade, health as well as education. The entire population resides in the urban areas which makes it easy to avail all the resources. The population is comprised of a maximum number of Chinese, followed by Malays and around 8-10% Indians. English and Mandarin Chinese are the most spoken languages along with Malay and Tamil. It is therefore evident that Singapore maintains a balance between the western as well as the Asian countries. (Singapore: Society) The main determinants of a successful society are the health of the people and their level of education. In terms of health, the hospitals and medical facilities are majorly handled by the government which makes it affordable as well as convenient for the citizens. Singapore has one of the best healthcare facilities and it was ranked 6th in the World Health Organisation's ranking in 2000.

Next, in terms of education, Singapore is one of the most literate as well as educated country in the world. Primary education is compulsory for all starting from the age of six. The education in Singapore is extremely advanced and students from all across the globe come to the reputed colleges for various courses in science and technology as well as finance and fashion.

All in all, Singapore is highly developed, highly modernised and highly advanced in each field.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Badr Berrada (2017) in his article speaks about Meritocracy, Pragmatism and Honesty being the key factors to the success of the Singaporean society. Along with that, he also speaks about self-reliance and mutual support. Singapore has some of the wealthiest people in Asia as well as in the world. The success of the people is mainly due to its multi-racial society, self-reliance, support for one another and their trust in the government. Also the world-class education system offered to the citizens gives them a great edge over the other countries. Social media usage among the younger generations has led to people being free to voice their opinions and bridge the gaps. Strong emphasis on technology and mathematics has also created a skilled workforce in the country. (Berrada, 2017).

Kishore Mahubani (2015) in his article on why Singapore is a successful community, speaks about how MPH, i.e. Meritocracy, Pragmatism and Honesty is the secret that has made Singapore one of the most developed country in the world. Meritocracy suggests that Singapore is ruled by the best citizens picked by the people rather than by a certain ruling party; Pragmatism refers to not

reinventing what already is practiced and Honesty states that the country is corruption free with those in power lying less about what they have and what they do. From increasing their GDP to reducing infant mortality, Singapore has grown extremely well in the past 50 years of its existence. Also, the education level in Singapore has contributed a lot to its benefit and people don't leave the country to be anywhere else. This makes a lot of difference in the development as the talent born, remains. (Mahbubani, 2015)

Siau Ming En (2015) in the article states that the Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong has given three reasons why Singapore is a success today. The first reason is that the citizens should strive to be Singaporean before defining their race, language and religion. Secondly, it is important to have a rugged society where people are robust and strong. The Prime Minister believes if the people are soft and flabby, they will be "eaten up". Thus, there should be adventure training in order to make people strong and grow together. Lastly, there should be a bond between the people and the government. The government has been honest and the people expect it to keep their interests in mind. (En, 2015)

Olivia Siong (2015) in her article writes about the beliefs of the Singaporean Education Minister Heng Swee Keat, who understands that the people should be outward and forward in their approach when responding to societal challenges and international developments. He has observed a lot of cohesion and community spirit among the citizens and believes that this will be the foundation for a successful society. He also states that technology is a challenge and that the people should be well educated and well equipped for the coming years as it will play a great role in determining their position. Lifelong learning is more important than mere school and college education. Singapore needs to have leaders who can act as the "stewards of the community" and take them forward. (Siong, 2015)

Jim Zarroli (2015) In this article, Mr. Jim describes what led Singapore to be one of the most developed and rich countries in the world, competing with economies like Japan, US and UK. The social success indicators are all high whether it is life expectancy, education or the housing. Although it had no natural resources except a really good harbour, it developed its citizens in order to achieve global success. The people are given economic freedom and free trade has also added to everything. The government also provides a variety of social services. The quality of living is great but the per capita difference in income sometimes creates barriers but the government is working on reducing that too. (Zarroli, 2015)

3. CONCLUSION

Singapore became an independent country in 1965, and 53 years since it has become one of the most powerful nation in the entire world. It started as a country in the same line as Ghana and now it competes with the big shots like the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada.

The entire credit of Singapore's success goes to its people. Due to the lack of natural resources like land or fuel, Singapore only had one choice, and that was to develop its people. The government has been a crucial part of this process as they have given a lot of help and support to the people. Whether it is education, trade, finance or health, Singapore has been able to deal with everything effectively due to the bond between the people and their government. The honest policies and the transparency maintained between both parties have created the economy that Singapore boasts about today.

The small population of a few million people has made the meritocratic government feasible in the country. The Singaporeans understand what they need and they have set up an environment for themselves to achieve all of that. It has been a hub for the past 6-7 years for countries like US and Japan. The people are well-off and the gap between the rich and the poor isn't much. Due to everyone's economic conditions being supreme, the people are able to purchase high quality housing, clothes, food, education, healthcare, services and other essentials. With availability of all the necessities for all, the people only focus on developing the country and the community.

Technology has also played a great role in forming the economy. Social media applications like Whatsapp have helped the younger and the older generations communicate more and this has reduced the gap between the people. Through the injection of technology, the community has come closer and the citizens are able to find out each other's problems more easily and also solve them as fast as they can.

In conclusion, the success of the Singaporean society lies in the hands of the people itself. They have created a lifestyle for themselves amidst the fantastic infrastructure and resources that the only way for the country to move now is upwards. They are true followers of the kampong spirit, the spirit of togetherness in a community where people, even though different from each other, understand and compromise for the others.

4. REFERENCES

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