

**Closed-Door Roundtable Discussion
on
Issues Impacting the Malay Community in Singapore
Session Six: The Education of Malay Students — Impacts & Outcomes**

Tuesday, 27 June 2023

Conference Room, Level 1
Oei Tiong Ham Building
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore (*Bukit Timah Campus*)

PROGRAMME

2.45 pm – 3.00 pm

Registration

3.00 pm – 3.05 pm

Welcome and Introduction

Dr Mohamad Shamsuri Bin Juhari
Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

3.05 pm – 3.35 pm

Presentations

Speaker

Dr Teng Siao See
Assistant Dean
Office of Education Research
National Institute of Education

Discussant

Mdm Sabrena Abdullah
Assistant Director
Education
Mendaki

3.35 pm – 4.45 pm

Discussion

- What are the challenges faced by Malay students in wanting to excel in their studies?
- What current initiatives have been undertaken to overcome these challenges?

- What more can we do as a community and as a nation to enhance these existing efforts?

4.45 pm – 5.00 pm

Summary Remarks

5.00 pm

End

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SYNOPSIS

In his keynote address at the sixth Mendaki Symposium focusing on the theme of “Rethinking Education”, Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam pointed at the early academic gaps that appear because of students’ different starting points in life. He elaborated on the experiences of students from different ethnic group, and highlighted how, within the lower socio-economic groups, there was a greater proportion of Malays who started off weak at the beginning of their education and continued to remain weak as they move forward in their schooling. Data from the 2020 Singapore Census further suggests that these academic gaps remain unresolved even as these students advance to subsequent levels of learning. The Malay community represents the youngest demographic group in the country, and projected statistics tell us that that more Malays will join the workforce in the coming years, forming a higher proportion of the labour force.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

MOHAMAD SHAMSURI Bin Juhari is Research Fellow in the Society and Culture Department at the Institute of Policy Studies. Prior to his foray into the field of research, Dr Mohamad Shamsuri had acquired a wide range of work experiences in the education service, ranging from classroom teaching to senior management and leadership positions in various academic institutions. He has taught students across diverse backgrounds and abilities, from at-risk youths to those in the Gifted Education Programme. He has also designed and facilitated curricula at the Secondary, International Baccalaureate Diploma, Undergraduate and Masters levels. Following a previous portfolio where he headed the Centre for Research on Islamic and Malay Affairs, Dr Mohamad Shamsuri’s scope of research at the Institute of Policy Studies focuses on issues pertaining to the local Malay-Muslim community, specifically in relation to identity, family and education. He received his PhD in education from the University of Birmingham. He holds a bachelors and masters in Sociology from National University of Singapore as well as a postgraduate diploma in Education from National Institute of Education.

TENG Siao See is a researcher at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. Trained as a sociologist, she has taught in and beyond Singapore and conducted research in both academic and think-tank settings. The research projects she has led supported by competitive grants include studies on vocational students’ school-to-work transitions, youths’ navigation of diversities in Singapore, and migrant parents’ educational involvement. She has also worked on low progress learners, ethnicity and intercultural relations and knowledge production. She was a Managing Editor of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Education* and a current Associate Editor of the Springer Book series, *Studies in Singapore Education: Research, Innovation & Practice*. Her research has been shared beyond academic and education circles via media platforms and public forums.

SABRENA Abdullah is the Head of the Education Department/Perform In School at Yayasan MENDAKI. She oversees its flagship MENDAKI Tuition Programmes, which run over 100 centres for close to 10,000 students annually. She also heads the Education Empowerment Unit that oversees enrichment and joint self-help group programmes for families and school-going children. She is a board member of Spectra School and the Ministry of Education Compulsory Education Board, where together with the team, she participates in policy decisions towards uplifting the importance of education and learning especially for needy students and families. Her areas of interests lie in education empowerment and learning; counselling and guidance; and community upliftment where she spent over seven years heading the Research and Planning Department, documenting research studies, policy digests and evaluation of programmes prior to her current appointment in MENDAKI.

Last modified on 12 June 2023

