

SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES 2010

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Goodness Gracious Me!: Living Graciously in Singapore

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Outline

- Singapore's history:- Gotong Royong, Communitarianism versus Pragmatic Living
- Did Something Give? What was the price?
- Re-claiming: Measures Taken – Swan-like, high culture, fun city, leaders' comments, movements Campaigns
- Attributes of Graciousness: Living Graciously vs Gracious Living
- Stakeholders – Private Sector, People Sector, Government
- Recommendations



Past Practices

- Concept of Community
- Concept of 'Gotong Royong'
- Poor and developing countries; religion; culture; literatures
- Action - Tan Tock Seng; clans; village brings up a child



To Present Day

- Shifts in Practices
- Impact of development policies, emphasis on economic gains, pragmatics
- What Gave? Trade-Offs
- Today
 - New Challenges
 - Concept of Communitarianism
 - Concept of Gotong Royong
 - Notion of “Kurang Ajar”
- Concept of Graciousness today
- Living Graciously versus Gracious Living



Reclaiming: Interventions

- Former Prime Minister, Goh Chok Tong's comments – the Singaporean with a Swan-like Grace
- Infusion of high Culture, Fun City
- Campaigns – Courtesy Campaign, Singapore Kindness Week, Four Million Smiles
- Grassroots for Communitarianism
- Training Programmes



Attributes of Living Graciously....

- Personal Values
- Strength of Civil Society
- Role of Private Sector
- Government's Role; Government's structures
- Signifiers eg Rule of Law; Concept of Dignity, equality, UDHR



Dilemmas

- Consistent Messaging
- Policies
- Notions of Identity
- Being gracious versus as a national call



Recommendations

- Values – conceptual re-framing towards non-discrimination and social justice principles
- Re-inforce attributes of Living Graciously
- School-based curriculum that discusses ‘deeper’ issues at a younger age....not a GP topic
- BRING BACK LITERATURE
- Laws on non-discrimination
- Understanding Civil Society
- Shatter Myths with More Open Discussions: Changing Dynamics in Singapore
- Targeted messaging to claim one positive social habit each year
- Accountability on Double Standards