Work Aspirations of Singapore Youth



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Acquiring new skills & career success rank consistently high

Top 5 'Very Important' Life Goals

Strong family relationships (68%)

Have a place of my own (65%)

Learn / acquire new skills (53%)

Successful career (51%)

Travel the World (41%)

Source: National Youth Survey 2019, NYC

2 Aspire to jobs which offer (a) development opportunities and (b) financial security

Top 3 criteria when considering jobs

Pre-Covid

2021

Opportunities for advancement

Opportunities for advancement

Interesting Job

Job security

Job Security

Meet immediate need of paying the bills/ keeping afloat

Source: Youth STEPS Waves 2/3 (2018-19), NYC & IPS

Source: Youth STEPS Wave 5 (2021)

3 Increased signaling of importance of work-life balance and meaning in their jobs

1 in 2 aspire to have jobs which offer work-life balance

66% will not stay in their jobs if the work they do is not meaningful

Source: Youth Sentiment Polls 2022, NYC

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Rank	21 to 34	35 to 54	55 & above
1	Pay adequacy	Pay adequacy	Workplace ethics
2	Work conditions	Workplace ethics	Work conditions
3	Growth/learning	Work conditions	Social interaction
4	Social interaction	Social interaction	Pay adequacy
5	Workplace ethics	Job autonomy	Job autonomy
6	Achievement	Achievement	Achievement
7	Career advancement	Growth/learning	Leisure
8	Leisure	Leisure	Skill variety
9	Job autonomy	Skill variety	Task significance
10	Skill variety	Task significance	Workplace diversity
11	Task significance	Job security	Growth/learning
12	Workplace diversity	Career advancement	Job security
13	Recognition	Workplace diversity	Task variety
14	Job security	Recognition	Recognition
15	Task variety	Task variety	Career advancement

Job & Educational Pathway Concerns Youth desire greater career support and guidance



- Career uncertainty + sufficiency of opportunities are persistent concerns
- 37% uncertain about career paths
- 70% More competition from foreign talent
- 55% Inability to keep up with skills required in the ever-changing nature of work/economy
- Over 2 in 5 believe there are insufficient opportunities/ avenues to pursue jobs aligned with their interests and passion

- Open to re/up-skilling + alternative pathways to improve prospects
 - Over 1 in 3 considered learning new skills or upgrading to improve employability
 - 1 in 5 would explore employment opportunities in alternative industries
 - 28% feel there should be greater social acceptance to pursue alternative career pathways

- More support for development, guidance and career switches
 - Top areas to address:

Availability and accessibility of development opportunities to remain employable & relevant (36%)

Career guidance, mentorship and support during the school-to-work transition and beyond (34%)

Support for switching fields/industries (30%)

Connecting the Dots

Aspirations + Concerns

Attributes
Mindsets
Values

What kind of workforce do we want for SG?

What kind of students/ youth are transiting into the workforce?

4 States | 5 Modes



