

About 40% Singaporeans in their 20s never dated the opposite gender as career aspirations and financial stability become a priority—IPS survey

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A recent survey conducted by the Singapore Institute of Policy Studies in collaboration with the National Youth Council has unveiled a striking trend among local youth.

The six-year follow-up study, which surveyed 3,000 individuals aged between 17 and 24, found that approximately 40% of young people in their 20s have never had any interaction with the opposite gender.

The survey, completed in 2022, reveals a shift in priorities among Singapore's youth. Health, career aspirations, and financial stability have been identified as more crucial than dating and marriage.

The primary obstacles to dating identified by the participants include not meeting the right person, having other significant priorities, and the pressures associated with dating.

Despite these findings, a substantial 80% of respondents acknowledge the importance of interpersonal relationships. They believe such connections are essential for motivating personal growth, facilitating problem-solving, and aiding critical decision-making.

This trend of limited cross-gender interaction among young people may have broader implications for Singapore's demographic landscape.

The country has been grappling with a persistently low birth rate, a situation exacerbated by factors such as high living costs and the demanding nature of professional life.

The data from this survey suggests that the reluctance or inability to engage in romantic relationships could further contribute to the country's declining fertility rates.

The survey's findings perhaps point to a need for a deeper understanding of the barriers faced by young people in forming romantic relationships. Addressing these issues could be pivotal in reversing the trend and improving the nation's demographic balance. /TISG