

National Youth Council (NYC) x Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Webinar Series 2024-2025: Webinar #3 - Is Success One-Size-Fits-All?

21 May 2025 | Online (Zoom)

On 21 May 2025, 888 youths from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) participated in a webinar on diverse paths of success which discussed: (i) the evolving definitions of success, (ii) potential strategies to overcome challenges that hinder them from pursuing their definition of success, and (iii) the resources youths can tap on to achieve their passions.

This session was co-organised by SP and the National Youth Council (NYC), and involved the following panellists and moderator:



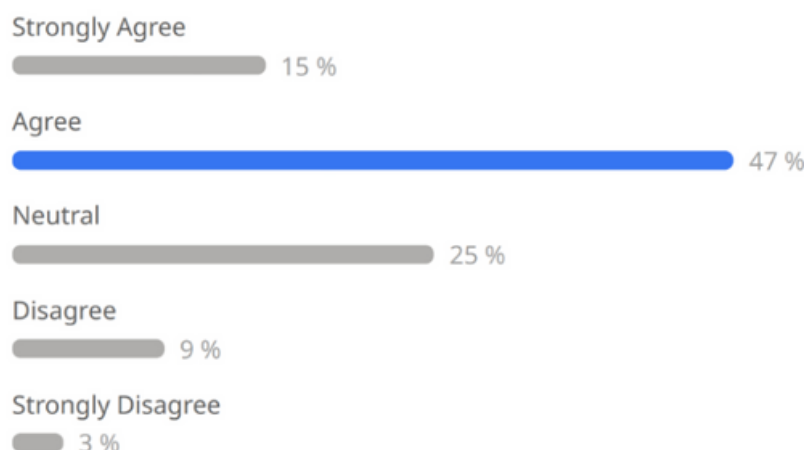
- Mr Mohamed Fayyaz, IMPROF member, and Government Advisory, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
- Ms Han Xin Ying Constance, SP Graduate
- [Moderator] Ms Yeoh Wan Qing, Co-Founder of Hatch, and NYC INSPIRIT member

The moderator began by sharing that NYC and its Government and non-Government partners were conducting a year-long series of engagements, one of which was the NYC x SP webinar, to develop the SG Youth Plan. She said that the SG Youth Plan was an inclusive action blueprint that intended to capture the hopes and aspirations of young Singaporeans, to empower them to co-create the future Singapore they want to see by catalysing opportunities, platforms, and resources for youths and others to take action together.

i) Exploring the evolving definitions of success

Participants were asked (*via Slido*) whether they could choose their own definition of success.

I can choose my own definition of success in Singapore.

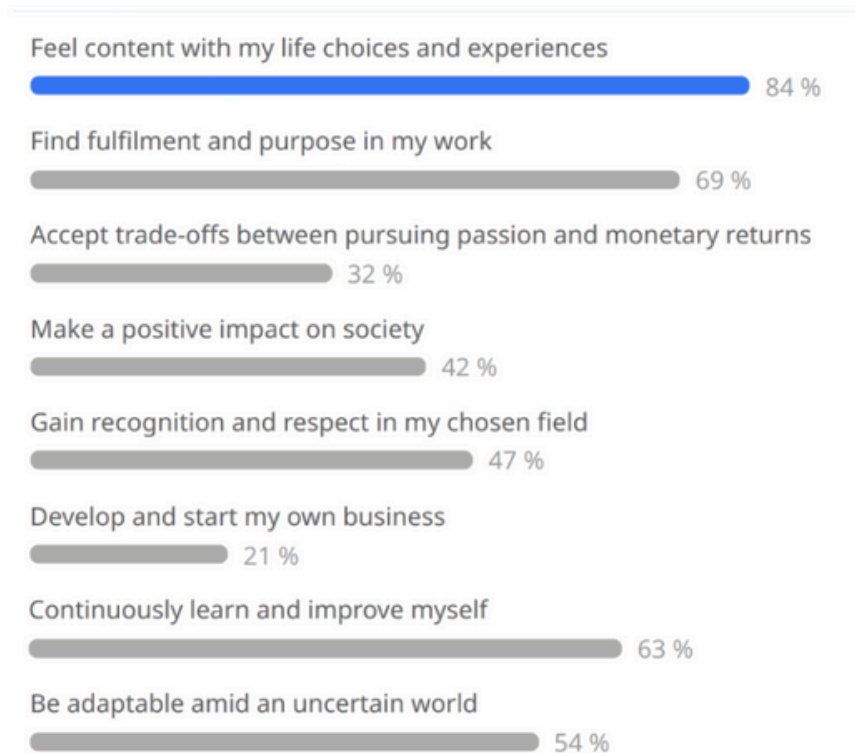


- The top response was “**Agree**” (47%).

- Mr Fayyaz said that he observed that youths' definitions of success had evolved. He said that when he was a student, success was narrowly defined by academic grades due to a "survival mindset" that led to competition among peers. He said that participants should reflect on their personal definition of success instead of traditional interpretations.

Participants were asked (*via Slido*) to share what they wanted to achieve in charting their desired pathway.

What are your hopes and aspirations in charting your desired pathway? I want to...



- The top response was "[to] feel content with [one's] life choices and experiences", at 83%.
- Mr Fayyaz said that in order for youths to reach their aspirations, they needed to understand that trade-offs had to be made, and to be strategic about their goals.

(ii) Strategies to overcome challenges that hinder youths from pursuing their own definition of success

Participants asked (*via Zoom Webinar Q&A*) what were some challenges they might face when pursuing non traditional goals.

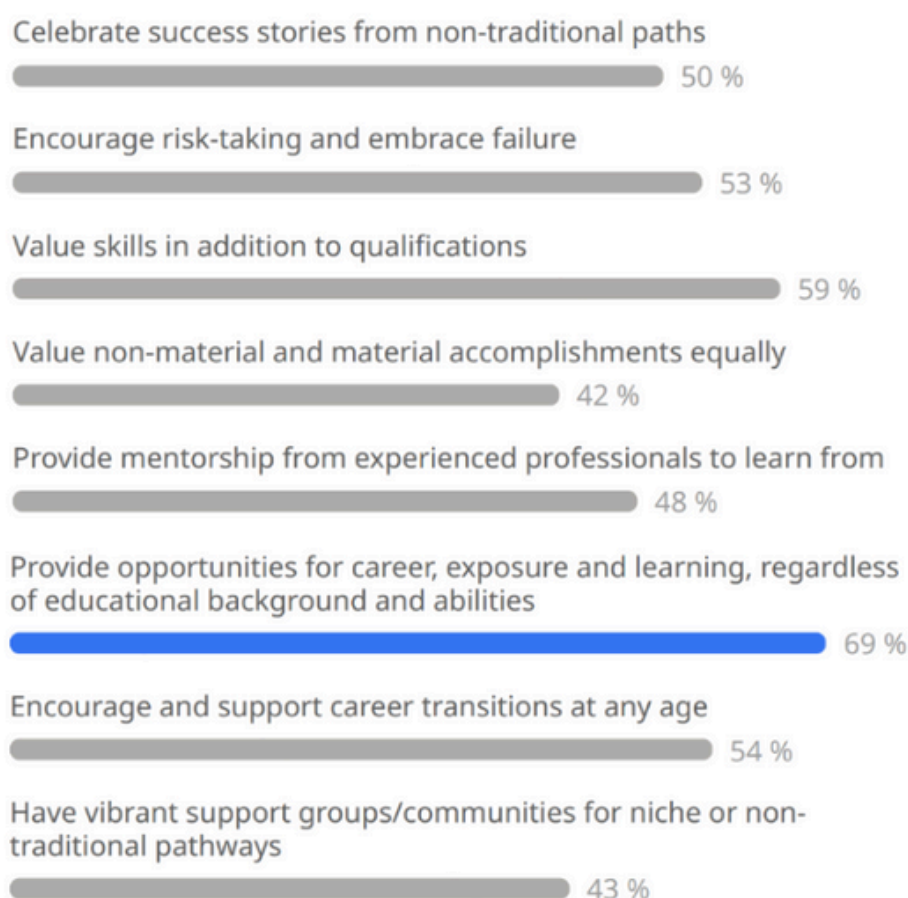
- Ms Han said that youths were likely to face societal pressure to prioritise stability over passion and peer comparison which could lead to self-doubt. She said that youths should view challenges as learning opportunities and focus on exploring different interests while maintaining a growth mindset, and find supportive communities while pursuing their goals.
- Mr Fayyaz said that youths would face tensions such as time constraints. He said that youths should identify what truly made them happy and focus on achieving their goals through breaking them down into short, medium and long-term targets.

The moderator asked Ms Han how she managed her time between different commitments during her time at Singapore Polytechnic, and what youths should do to avoid burnout.

- Ms Han said that she experienced burnout from juggling too many responsibilities but overcame it by reflecting on what she truly wanted to pursue, such as weighing the pros and cons of her desired industry. She advised participants to plan their time efficiently and adjust their commitments when necessary.
- Mr Fayyaz said that by having multiple definitions of success, and understanding that they could constantly re-evaluate what success meant to them, youths could avoid mental distress and feeling burnt out when they were unable to achieve their goals.

Participants were asked (*via Slido*) about their hopes and aspirations for Singapore in charting diverse pathways for youths.

What are your hopes and aspirations for Singapore in charting diverse pathways for youths? I wish for Singapore to...



- The top response was for Singapore to **provide opportunities for career, exposure and learning, regardless of educational background and abilities (69%)**.

Participants asked (*via Zoom Webinar Q&A*) about the challenges of pursuing non-traditional goals and how to manage them.

- Ms Han said that youths were likely to face societal pressure to prioritise stability over passion and peer comparison which could lead to self-doubt. She said that youths should view challenges as learning opportunities and focus on exploring different interests while maintaining a growth mindset, and find supportive communities while pursuing their goals.
- Mr Fayyaz said that while academic achievements remained an important marker of success in Singapore, there was growing acceptance of different pathways. He said that individuals should focus on excelling in their areas of interests regardless of stigma, and could seek mentors to help navigate challenges. He said that recognising diverse pathways of success would help shift mindsets from comparison to appreciating different strengths. He also said that youths should adopt a growth mindset and treat the pursuit of success as a journey.

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Participants were asked (via Slido) what would youths do to achieve their aspirations in charting diverse pathways in Singapore.



- The top response was to **“develop skills and knowledge to pursue my desired pathway”** (63%).

(iii) Resources that youths can leverage to pursue their version of success



Participants asked (via Zoom Webinar Q&A) what success meant and if it was a journey or destination. They also asked how to measure progress towards personal success.

A participant asked (via Zoom Webinar Q&A) what were future career trends and essential skills that youths needed to pursue non-traditional paths.

Closing Remarks

The moderator asked the panellists what advice they would give youths.

- Ms Han said that youths should embrace uncertainty when pursuing their passions, even in the absence of support. She said that taking initiative could lead to new opportunities, and that failure was part of the process. She said that youths should support each other and celebrate different paths to success.
- Mr Fayyaz agreed that failure was a natural part of achieving success. He said that mistakes provided learning opportunities and adopting a “failing forward” mindset would help youths build resilience. He also said that youths should focus on growth, find support networks, and remain open to unexpected opportunities.
- The moderator summarised that success was a personal journey that evolved over time. She said that as society became more accepting of different definitions of success, youths should take small steps towards their goals, and leverage mentors to seek guidance and surround themselves with supportive communities.

Here are some available resources for youths looking to start defining their own version of success and find their own mentors:

- **Discover: On My Way** <https://discover.nyc.gov.sg/omw>
- **MentoringSG** <https://mentoring.sg/>
- **Singapore Polytechnic Education and Career Guidance (ECG)** Students can request an appointment to consult their respective schools' Education and Career Coach (ECC) at <https://www.sp.edu.sg/student-services/education-and-career-guidance> by clicking on the “For Full-Time Students” button. Students can also walk into T127 ECG Consultation Rooms every Wednesday and Thursday during term time between 12pm - 3pm (no appointment required).

SG Youth Plan

To encourage a whole-of-society effort in supporting youths' aspirations, NYC will not only be engaging youths from all walks of life but also non-youth stakeholders from the rest of society.

- **Want to share your aspirations, voice your ideas, and connect with others who are just as passionate about making a difference to Singapore?** Find out how you can take part in the [SG Youth Plan](#) engagements and other opportunities in NYC! You can also lend your voice to issues youths are concerned about through completing online tasks on [CrowdTaskSG](#).