

WHAT DO YOUTH CARE ABOUT?

A DIGITAL SENSING OF YOUTH CONCERNS



WHAT'S YOUTH CONVERSATIONS?

Youth Conversations provides youth with opportunities to hear the diversity of views among their peers, understand considerations in national policies, and pursue initiatives in areas that they are passionate about.



SAY WHAT MATTERS



MEET WITH PEERS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE



TOGETHER, COME UP WITH IDEAS FOR CHANGE



HOW'S YOUTH CONVERSATIONS DIFFERENT?



FOCUS ON CO-CREATION & ACTION

Youth will be active participants in deliberating, co-developing, and co-delivering solutions with one another and with public agencies.



OPEN & CANDID CONVERSATIONS

Youth will walk away from each session with a better understanding of the perspectives, considerations and trade-offs over a particular policy or issue. Youth also have the opportunity to interact with peers from different backgrounds, and appreciate each other's perspectives.



ENGAGING EXPERIENCES

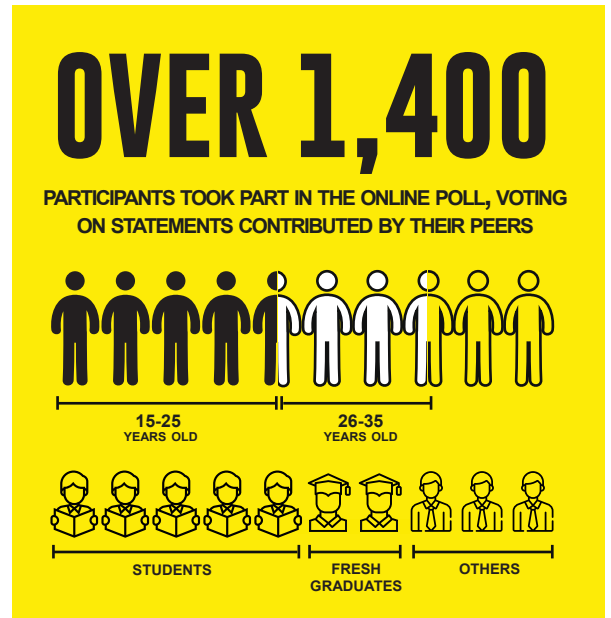
The sessions will be more experiential in nature, using a variety of modalities, such as simulations and gamification, to enable youth to discover the range of perspectives around every issue, and to achieve mutual understanding with one another. Youth Conversations will also experiment with innovative ways of engaging youth via digital platforms.



A DIGITAL SENSING OF YOUTH CONCERNS

To facilitate responsible and respectful online conversations among youth, we piloted digital engagement on an interactive crowdsourcing and consensus-building platform.

Through this experiment, we could get a real-time sense of issues important to youth, understand the range of views they have, and expand the reach of Youth Conversations beyond a physical audience. The digital engagement tool allows participants to contribute their views around a particular topic by submitting statements. They then get to express their opinions on their peers' statements through voting, i.e. whether they agree or disagree with the statement, or they have no view on it. Real-time visualisations provides youth with a sense of the diversity of viewpoints, by showing them the opinion groups and where they stand in relation to others.



The findings in this report provide a broad sensing of issues that resonated with youth and will be used to guide the design of future engagements. As a sensing tool, the findings reflect the views of youth who responded to the online poll, and hence is not a statistically representative survey of the youth population.



WHAT DID WE HEAR?

Here's a look at the top 10 topics youth voted for, a sensing of the diversity in opinions, and sample statements they voted on.



1. INCLUSIVITY

Youth are calling for a more inclusive society in areas such as race and social class. They want platforms to have conversations with a broad diversity of youth about these issues. They value the opportunity to hear perspectives different from their own, even if the topic could be uncomfortable for some groups to discuss.



“ I want to be able to chase my passion in Singapore but everyone expects me to follow a traditional career (e.g. lawyer, banker, doctor). ”

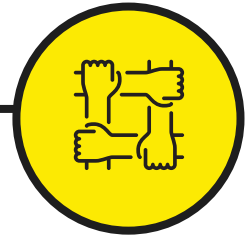


“ I believe I can move up the ladder in life if I work hard. ”



3. ACTIVE CITIZENRY

Youth are concerned about a sense of apathy among Singaporeans about current affairs and issues within our society. They feel that Singaporeans should be more concerned about these issues, and are seeking opportunities to work together to contribute to society.



“ There should be more opportunities for voices from across a broader spectrum of society to be heard in the national forum. ”



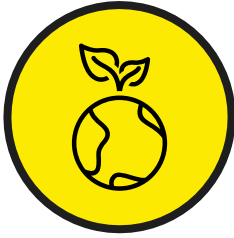
2. PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Youth feel pressured by people around them to conform to traditional notions of success; even as they seek to broaden the definition of success in Singapore. They want different aspirations and pathways to be respected and valued. While many believe that working hard will lead to attaining their life's ambitions, some are sceptical and do not agree that hard work alone is sufficient.



“ I feel that we should be given more opportunities to lead and serve the community. ”





“I am concerned about how Singapore can be a zero-waste country!”

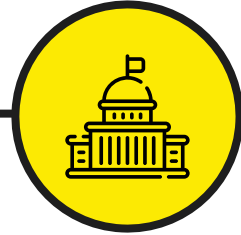


AGREE

DISAGREE

4. ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Youth are concerned about environmental sustainability and want Singapore and its residents to take more action towards environmental initiatives.



5. GOVERNANCE & POLITICS

Youth are concerned about future leadership of the country, and desire for them to address pressing issues, including those that may be considered sensitive.

“The government and society needs to be willing to keep an open mind and realise pressing upcoming issues”



AGREE

DISAGREE



“I don't know enough about planning my finances.”



AGREE

DISAGREE

6. EDUCATION & LEARNING

Youth want the Singapore education system to give equal opportunities to students from different educational institutions, and equip youths with a more diverse set of skills in order to prepare them for the future.

“Education needs to gear more towards emotional and global intelligence.”



AGREE

DISAGREE

7. JOBS & ECONOMY

Youth aspire towards a well-paying job, but feel that the education system does not adequately equip them to make informed career choices. They also find it challenging to be entrepreneurial in Singapore.



“It's difficult to be a student entrepreneur in SG because need to repay tuition fee, and lack of fuss-free funding and risk-averse customers.”



AGREE

DISAGREE



8. COST OF LIVING

Youth are concerned about the cost of living and pace of life in Singapore, as well as the ability of the country to cope with issues associated with an ageing population.

“Singapore is facing ageing population. How are we going to tackle these issues with rising costs and medical services provided?”

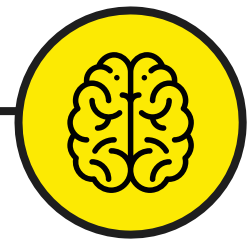


AGREE

DISAGREE

9. MENTAL HEALTH

Youth want greater awareness and conversation on mental health issues, and are concerned in particular about mental health issues for students.



“I am concerned about mental health issues among our students in our education system.”



AGREE

DISAGREE



10. MARRIAGE & PARENTHOOD

Majority of youth polled want to get married and have children at some point in life. However, they feel that more can be done beyond monetary incentives to support them in forming their own families, and to be better-equipped in parenting.

“I want to get married at some point in my life”



AGREE

DISAGREE

“I would like to have children at some point in my life”



AGREE

DISAGREE