



AGING IN SINGAPORE



**SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK**

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DESTINATION

The Republic of Singapore:

By 2017:

- 5.61 million people on 719.2 km² (7,797/km²)
- 65 Years & Over: 487,600
- Median Age: 40.0 years
- Ethnically Diverse:
 - o Chinese: 74.3%
 - o Malays: 13.4%
 - o Indians: 9.1%
 - o Others: 3.2%
- 11,230 Hospital Beds
- 555,284 Hospital Admissions (65-Year & Above: 30.5%)

Pressures on Singapore Health and Social Care:

By 2030:

- 1 in 5 Singaporean will be over 65

By 2050:

- Singapore will be among the world's demographically oldest countries with median age of 54



FIELD PLACEMENT

AMKFSC Community Services:

Founded in the year of 1978, AMKFSC is one of the largest Singaporean local community-based Social Service Agency which provides a holistic range of services that cater to children, youths, families, and the elderly residing in Ang Mo Kio, Sengkang, and Punggol who are facing financial, marital, parenting, as well as other personal and family-related issues and life challenges.

Community Network Senior Services:

Through a spectrum of preventive, developmental and remedial services, COMNET Senior Services supports the needs of vulnerable seniors who experience financial difficulties, social isolation, and mental health issues.

COMNET Special Programs:

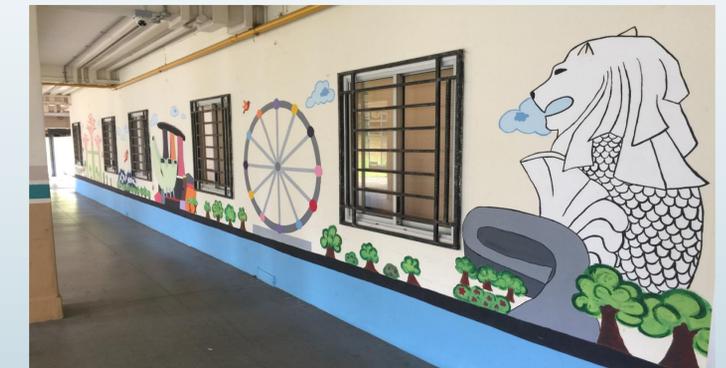
Gardening as a form of Social Engagement / Cluster Support / One Room Rental Flats / Befriending Services

REFLECTIONS

- Singapore has a holistic and integrated health & social care system cater to the elderly population; (However more improvements can be done!)
- Singaporeans are consistently trying to improve and innovate their service delivery;
- There is much government support (e.g. MOH and MSF) given to organizations;
- As funding is tied closely to government agencies, community providers have little say in innovation, which limits their ability to pilot new programs. Little bottom-up innovation;
- Communication between community-based and hospital-based service providers can be improved to allow seamless transition of care;
- Medisave funding (Similar to US Medicare) do not cover community-based services. Therefore most elderly have to pay these services out of pocket;
- More could be done to support informal and community based caregivers;
- High turnover of community providers- Training and career advancement pathways can be relooked to retain talents.

ADVICE

- Acknowledge differences between the social welfare systems of Singapore and the United States;
- Be an open-minded listener and observer;
- Read as many articles and books in terms of therapeutic methods in the field of social work and social interaction of older adults;
- Take advantage of personal connections, no matter how small.



CONNECTIONS

Classroom:

• SW616 (Adulthood and Aging) - This course provided me with a better understanding of how older adults develop psychosocially across their lifespan. I am especially interested in social interactions and its effects on mental and health well-being of formal and informal caregivers of older adults. Multicultural and diversity issues were discussed- opening the floor to discussion, different ideas by challenging assumptions and transforming thinking.

Career:

I am interested in the promotion, prevention, and rehabilitation of older adults. I hope to bolster informal social support networks to assist individuals and their families to live productive lives.

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