

Ageing, Intergenerational Equity and Solidarity: Setting the Stage

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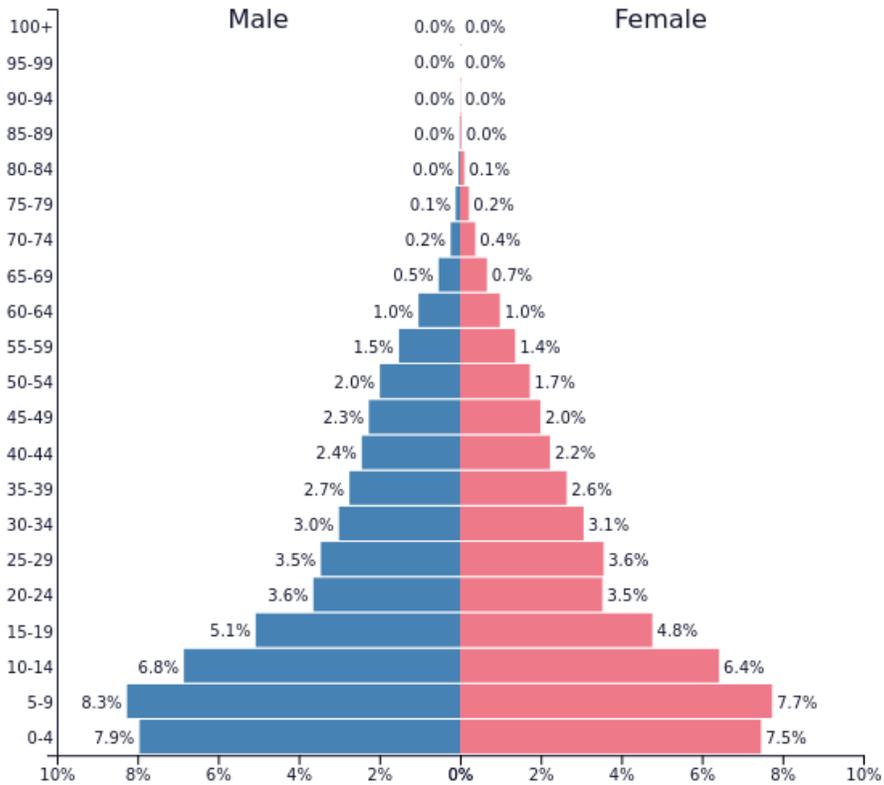
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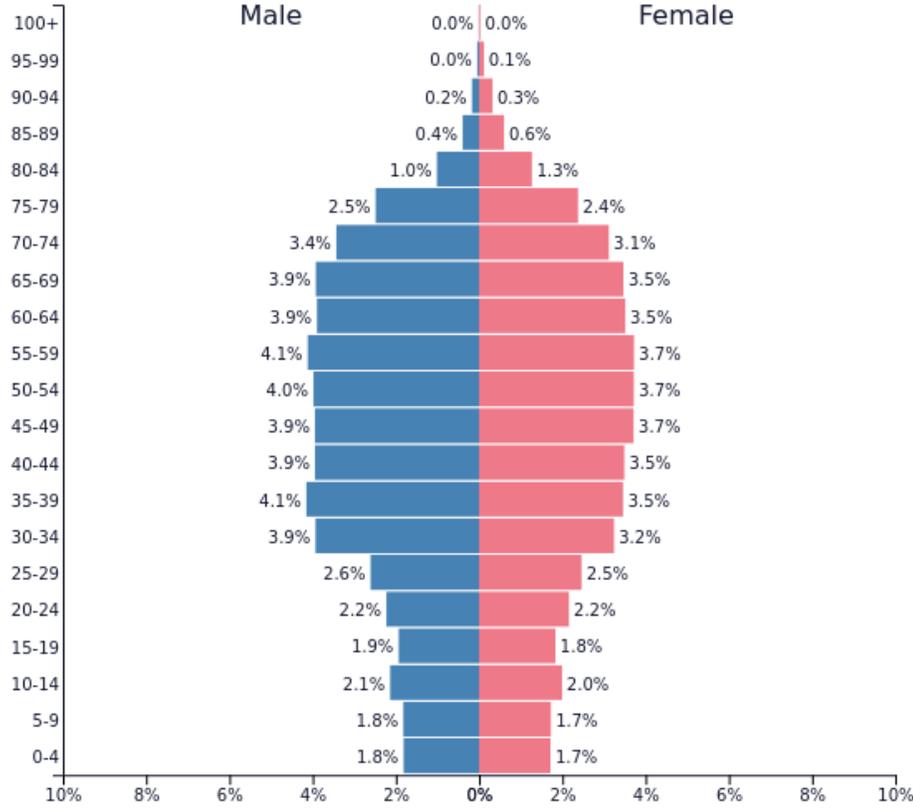
UN DESA-ESCAP EGM 10-11 October, 2023

SINGAPORE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE 1965 – 2030



PopulationPyramid.net

Singapore - 1965
Population: **1,860,651**



PopulationPyramid.net

Singapore - 2030
Population: **6,251,987**

“We live in an historical age of the greatest age diversity in human history, with the arguably the most age segregation ever seen...we need to learn to live and work together”

- Marc Friedman, CEO, Encore.Org

A FIRST IN HUMAN HISTORY FOR AGEING SOCIETIES

- A first in all of human history - we have never had such an equal distribution of peoples from all age groups right across a population
 - Where older people were once a minority, we now find children, youths, middle aged and older people are equally represented
 - Traditional structures upended
 - Human society has to learn to live with a historically unusual structure that is age equal
 - Different generations have to hear each other, share and work with each other, re-learn communication across generations

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

- Essential to a life-course based approach to whole-of-society and policy planning
- UN (DESA) Definition: “The principle of intergenerational equity holds that, to promote prosperity and quality of life for all, institutions should construct administrative acts that balance the short-term needs of today's generation with the longer-term needs of future generations.” (2023).
- Fairness between generations is embedded in the concept of sustainable development – essential to SDGs 2030

INTER-GENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY + EQUITY TO ENABLE:

- Age-inclusive employment and livelihoods opportunities
- Life-long learning for all
- Adequate social protection and social health protection
- Health and care needs/services for older adults and children in a joined-up health and social care system
- Work-life balance across the life course
- Addressing cultural issues: e.g., filial piety pressures
- Social cohesion and inclusion for whole society
- Gender and gender equality
- Communications and mutual respect of age diversity
- Cooperation and collaboration

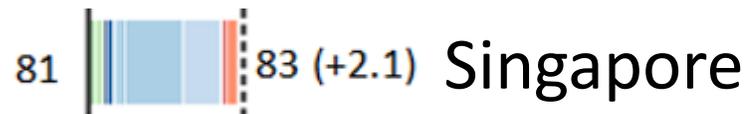
TWO DEEPLY INTERTWINED CONCEPTS

- Healthy Intergenerational relationships require both concepts to become part of life-course based policy making and national planning
- Inter-generational Solidarity + Inter-generational Equity = Genuine inter-generational Society

ONE EXAMPLE, ONE PEOPLE, NOT US VS THEM –

INTERGENERATIONAL AND JOINED UP PERSPECTIVE TO HEALTH SYSTEMS
PLANNING FOR WHOLE LIFE COURSE AND DEVELOPMENT CHANGES

Life expectancy gains (from improvements in major disease burdens) in MDG era 2000 - 2015



Red –
Communicable/Maternal/Children
Blue –
Non-communicable/Neurological
Green –
Violence/Accidents

DATA: IHME (2023) Global Burden of Disease

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Imagine a 5-year old in Cambodia today then becoming middle-aged in a more developed Cambodia, and then growing old in Cambodia as a developed nation, similar to Singapore today. It is one and the same person

ONE PEOPLE – NOT US VS THEM

- Foster interactions across the generations
- Enhance awareness of diversity, but also of commonalities
- Focus on common challenges to be faced to build a functional society in the 21st Century
- Focus on joined up policy planning to build a society fit for longevity