

Issued on 28 Nov 2020

MEDIA FACT SHEET ON THE SINGAPORE TOGETHER EMERGING STRONGER CONVERSATION IN TAMIL

The Singapore Together Emerging Stronger Conversation (ESC) held on 28 November 2020 is the first Tamil ESC to reach out to Singaporeans who might prefer to converse in their Mother Tongue.

2 **[Update]** Since the commencement of the Singapore Together ESC in June 2020, more than 2,850 Singaporeans have participated in 45 Singapore Together Emerging Stronger Conversations (ESC) organised by the whole-of-government.

3 This Singapore Together ESC in Tamil, involving some 50 Singaporeans on the 28 November 2020 is organised by REACH. **[New]** Please see **Annex A** for a snapshot of the participants.

Emerging Aspirations from the ESCs

4 Singaporeans have undergone a shared experience which will shape the attitudes and worldview of an entire generation. These conversations have yielded fruitful insights on the challenges and opportunities facing Singapore in a post-COVID-19 world, and suggestions on how we can emerge stronger from this crisis. For instance, participants shared their aspirations for working together on supporting the vulnerable, equipping both younger and mid-career workers with necessary skills and digital tools, and having greater civic participation across all segments of society. Please see **Annex B** for a snapshot of the topics discussed at recent Singapore Together Emerging Stronger Conversations. Through these Conversations, there was a common thread of aspiring towards a more caring, resilient and cohesive Singapore, and the belief that by working together, and pooling together our experiences, expertise and efforts, we can emerge stronger as a society and country.

5 Outside of these Conversations, Singaporeans can also share their reflections and aspirations at www.singaporetogether.gov.sg/reflect.

Singapore Together Alliances for Action¹ (AfA)

6 There will be ongoing ESCs between now till February 2021 – Singaporeans can register for upcoming ESCs at <https://go.gov.sg/ESconversations>. **[New]** There will be a Pre-Budget 2021 ESC to be held on 2 Dec, 7.15pm – 9.30pm, for the public to sign up. As key issues emerge from the Singapore Together Emerging Stronger Conversations,

¹ Previously referred to as Singapore Together Action Networks

Singapore Together AfAs will be formed to work on them and give effect to the aspirations shared by participants.



QR code to the Emerging Stronger Conversations Registration

<https://go.gov.sg/esconversations>

7 The AfAs will bring together a diverse group of people from different sectors – Government, community, businesses – to co-create, and co-deliver ideas and solutions. They will be important drivers to mobilise our collective energies and expertise and exemplify the Singapore Together governance approach of working in partnership, towards Singapore’s recovery and future. Some examples of the Singapore Together AfAs include UPLIFT, Youth Mental Well-being Network, SG Cares, and most recently, the Beyond Covid-19 Taskforce.

8 There will also be new partnerships between Government and Singaporeans to build the society we want to become. For instance, during the Covid-19 period, two citizen workgroups convened to look into sustainability topics.

9 We encourage all Singaporeans to play a part in the Singapore Together efforts. We can stay united amidst the challenges ahead and emerge stronger together.

Annexes

- A. **[New]** Snapshot of the participants at the Singapore Together ESC in Tamil held on 28 November 2020
- B. Infographics - Snapshot of the topics discussed at recently held Singapore Together Emerging Stronger Conversations

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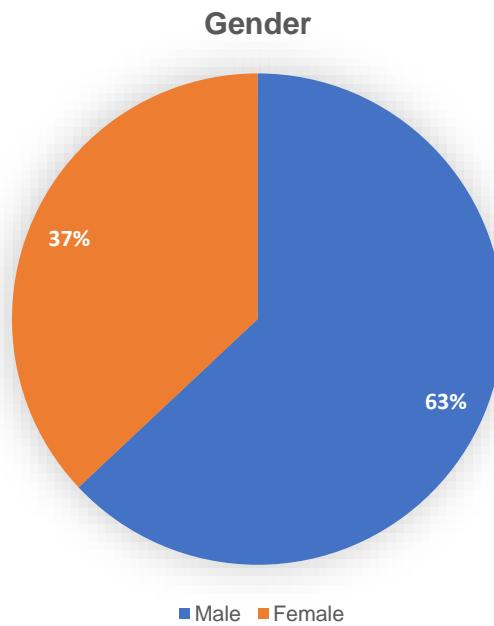


About Singapore Together

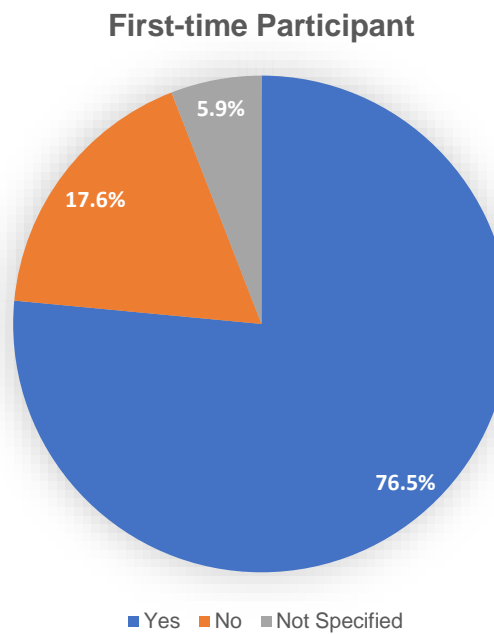
Singapore Together is about the Government working with Singaporeans, and Singaporeans working with one another, to build our future Singapore. The Government will open up more partnership opportunities for Singaporeans to participate. The Government also hopes to support more citizen-led efforts. Whatever our background or interests, we can each step forward to contribute in areas that we care about. By working together, we can turn diversity into strength and transform challenges into opportunities, to build a Singapore that present and future generations of Singaporeans will be proud of. For more information, visit www.singaporetogether.gov.sg.

**[NEW] SNAPSHOT OF THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE
SINGAPORE TOGETHER EMERGING STRONGER CONVERSATION IN TAMIL
HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2020**

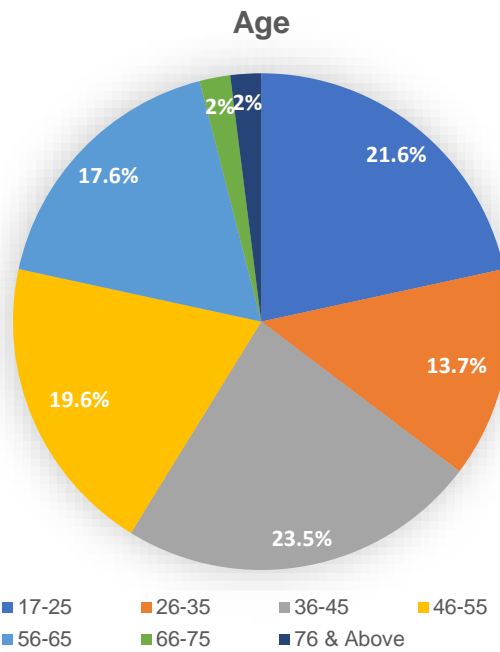
Gender	
Male	63%
Female	37%



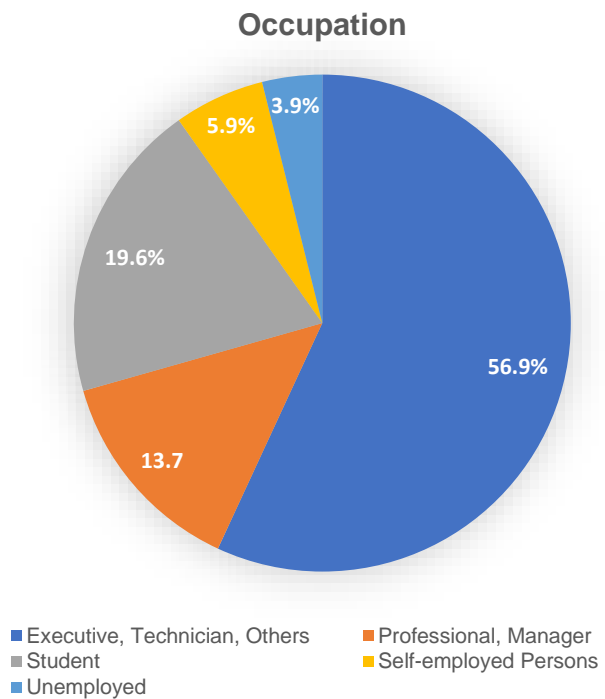
First-time Participant	
Yes	76.5%
No	17.6%
Not Specified	5.9%



Age	
17-25	21.6%
26-35	13.7%
36-45	23.5%
46-55	19.6%
56-65	17.6%
66 – 75	2%
76 & over	2%



Occupation	
Executive, Technician, Others	56.9%
Professional, Manager	13.7%
Student	19.6%
Self-employed Persons	5.9%
Unemployed	3.9%



INFOGRAPHICS - SNAPSHOT OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AT RECENTLY HELD SINGAPORE TOGETHER EMERGING STRONGER CONVERSATIONS



EMERGING STRONGER CONVERSATIONS

A series of conversations for Singaporeans to come together to reflect on their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, and garner ideas on helping Singapore emerge stronger from the crisis. As part of the Singapore Together movement, we aim to turn these insights and ideas into action and partnerships.

SINGAPOREANS WHO PARTICIPATED TO DATE: 623 (As of 18 September 2020. Cumulative since June 2020)

5 KEY ISSUES RAISED

SOCIAL SUPPORT



- Concerned that social inequality and mobility will worsen as COVID-19 continues. Increased support from ground-up movements, corporates, and promotion of the social sector is needed.
- Feel the need to hear from those who are harder to reach e.g. the elderly, and offer timely help.
- Care about mental health and wellness (among caregivers, elderly living alone and youths), in view of the increased domestic violence and mental health issues during the circuit breaker period.

PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENTS



- Agree with the government's shift towards engagement and co-creation, but more can be done to create platforms for people to talk to one another.
- The government could facilitate constructive discourse and partner the community in implementing solutions.
- Want more safe spaces to hold face-to-face conversations on difficult/uncomfortable topics.
- Hope that migrant workers would be better cared for through a multi-stakeholder approach.

NATIONAL IDENTITY & SHARED VALUES



- Hope that society can be more empathetic, and that Singaporeans can put themselves in others' shoes before judging or making online comments.
- Hope for more Singaporeans to show care and look out for one another, and policymakers to have greater human touch in their work.
- Feel that we should strengthen our belief in meritocracy and ensure it is done strictly and fairly for everyone.

JOBS & ECONOMY



- Feel that Singapore needs new areas of growth to stay competitive in the tech space.
- Feel the need to rethink pre-employment training and skills upgrading to equip local workforce for the future economy.

DIGITALISATION & TECHNOLOGY



- Feel that COVID-19 steered us towards a new norm of digital savviness, e.g. Zoom helped many stay connected and enabled work efficiencies.
- Appreciate the government for helping seniors pick up new skills.
- Hope that digital access can be provided to more disadvantaged families.

OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY...

“We need to identify entrepreneurs and leaders of community initiatives who acted during COVID-19 and empower these individuals. They have potential to become leaders of change.”

“My hopes are for more people to get out to help others, be it big or small. Teach others to use Zoom to communicate better during this crisis. Be kinder. Embrace ways to build 'digital' kampung spirit. Anyone could be connected easily be it young or old. Adopt technology transformation. Embrace change.”

Note: This infographics represent the issues raised at the conversations held between 6th and 18th of September 2020.



#SingaporeTogether #EmergingStronger
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