

# Diversity 2022

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## Assimilation

*When the government adopts **a policy of assimilation**, immigrants are expected to adopt the **beliefs and practices** of the **majority group** in the host country*

*With time, identity of the immigrants **indistinguishable** from the majority group in **cultural aspects***

### ▼ Secularism in France (examples included!!)



Secularism refers to the idea of not connecting governance with religious or spiritual matters.

- In France, there is a **separation of religious affairs** from governance and **no religion is favoured**
- ▼ Immigration rate in France
  - France has one of the **highest proportions of immigrants** in Europe, with immigrants made up about **5.5 million (8.7%)** of the total population in France in 2011

## Education

- Education system is secular.
  - No discussion about religions except in History and Philosophy classes.
  - No religious expressions or symbols
- Adaptation classes
  - For children of immigrants to improve their French and join regular French schools.

## Employment

- Immigrants
  - are committed to stay on in the country.
  - need to pick up French for communication with colleagues.
- Diversity Charter
  - Allowed companies to articulate support for discrimination-free workplace, to allow greater diversity to flourish in the workplace

## Naturalisation processes

- Since 1998, necessary for all immigrants to undergo French language courses, and attend a day of civic education about life in France before they gain

permanent nationality

- Help to assimilate immigrants by helping them to **develop basic knowledge about life in France**, and **what being a French national means**

## ▼ Tensions Arising Over Assimilation



Assimilation leads to tensions between **upholding** the influence of **national identity** and **recognising** the **impact of religion on national identity** and **respecting the rights of individuals to practice their religion**

- In France, new immigrants hold on to their religious identities
  - some French believe that French national identity is threatened
- ▼ 2004 French Law Banning Religious Symbols in Public Schools (2004)
  - In 2004, a law was introduced to **prohibit the display of religious symbols** in public schools
    - **Muslim** students cannot wear Muslim **headscarves** (tudung), **Jewish** students cannot wear **kippahs**
    - meant to **reinforce** the secular **French national identity**

## Integration

*This policy includes immigrants **retaining their unique identities** while **forging common ground** with the groups already in their host country, while creating **a sense of belonging** to the host country*

- Done via **promoting equality** without **granting special rights** to any particular **racial, ethnic** or **religious** group
- **Diverse socio-cultural identities complement** the Singaporean **national identity**

## Policies in SG to assist integration

## ▼ Bilingual Policy (a bit vague)

Students in Singapore learn English and another **OFFICIAL** Mother Tongue Language

- English:
  - Common language to communicate with one another
  - Fosters *sense of belonging* and *promote better integrations* across different ethnic groups
- MTL:
  - Preserve cultural identity and heritage

## ▼ Presidential Council of Minority Rights

Formed in 1970 safeguard to *ensure that laws passed* by the Singapore government is *not discriminatory* against races or religious community

## ▼ Naturalisation Initiatives (Singapore Citizenship Journey)

- 3 part journey
  - Singapore Citizenship e-Journey
  - Community Sharing Session
  - Singapore Experiential Tour
- Helps to integrate new citizens via creating an *emotional attachment* and a *sense of belonging* to Singapore, while developing a *better understanding* of Singaporean life

## ▼ Common Experiences (National Service)

- **All** Singaporean male citizens and PRs are required to serve NS to *ensure Singapore's security and sovereignty*
- New immigrants going through this distinctive *rite of passage* is key to integration
- It brings together people of *diverse* SES, educational and racial *backgrounds*
- Promotes *greater cohesiveness* & create a *strong national identity*

## ▼ Community Support (Community Integration Fund)

- Set up in September 2009 to support organisations in implementing ground-up integration initiatives
  - For example, some projects provide information and resources on Singapore society, norms and values to immigrants and foreigners through learning journeys, seminars, publications and productions
- This helps to **enhance interactions** between immigrants, foreigners and Singaporeans, **encourage emotional attachment** to Singapore via projects, creating a **strong sense of belonging**

## ▼ Tensions arising from Integration policy in Singapore



Integration has **strengthened bonding** between the ethnic groups, new immigrants and Singaporeans, but to manage tensions, we need to continue to **strengthen understanding**, so as to ensure that **Singapore continues** to remain **vibrant and diverse**

- Singapore is **welcoming** towards **foreigners** and **MNCs** → created numerous **jobs** and **bolstered economy**
  - Some SGreans feel foreigners **have not sufficiently integrated** and feel **uncomfortable** with the **influx** of foreigners
- ▼ Job security
- some Singaporeans feel that their **job security has been compromised** as they now have to **compete with the immigrants**
  - a survey conducted shows that **73.2%** of Singaporeans believe that job opportunities will be reduced for local-born Singaporeans if we have more immigrants

## Healthcare



The government is responsible for ensuring its citizens being able to enjoy certain rights in education and healthcare services.

- Assist **all the diverse** citizens (esp lower SES) in facing healthcare costs

## United States (Market Based Approach)

*Government gives citizens the **freedom** to decide how much they wish to pay for healthcare and allows the **market** to determine the provision of services to meet healthcare needs*

- **No single national policy** guiding healthcare system
- Does not intervene with **prices of healthcare providers** or **choices healthcare service of customers**
  - Prices can hence vary significantly
- Americans have to **deal with healthcare costs themselves** → Forced to **buy medical insurance** → **not everyone can afford** such insurance
  - In 2014, 41 million Americans were still uninsured
  - Middle-class and higher SES will receive medical insurance coverage **from employers**
  - However, these people will have a problem paying anyway

## Challenges

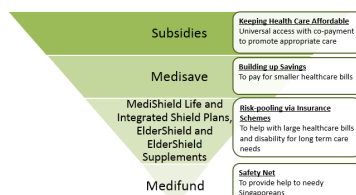
- Lower SES Americans will have health insurance premiums **deducted from pay** → many **choose not to buy** (needs the extra for **daily essentials**)
  - Difficult for **small firms** to provide insurance → **do not provide** insurance to low-skilled workers + **losing jobs = losing insurance**
  - Insurance companies **want profit** → **not motivated** to insure ill or previously ill people → people who **need it most cannot afford**/do not have
- ▼ Example of alleviating challenges (Medicaid)

- Form of health insurance available to **people** and **families** with **limited income** or **disabilities**
  - **Eligibility** may also depend on one's **age**, **pregnancy status** or **disabilities**
- ▼ Example of alleviating challenges (ObamaCare)
- Affordable Care Act or **ObamaCare** passed in 2014
  - families with **low to moderate** income are now **eligible for financial assistance** in obtaining insurance coverage

## Singapore (Shared responsibility approach)

*Government intervenes through **providing basic healthcare services** and **shares the cost of some** aspects of healthcare, with a **balance** between **personal responsibility** and the **government's provision for healthcare***

- Made of **both public and private** healthcare service providers
  - Public: polyclinics, subsidised hospital wards
  - Private: GPs
- Ranked 4th best in the World Index of Health Care Innovation for choice in 2021 (accessibility, affordability)



### ▼ Tier 1: Government subsidies

- Subsidies up to **80% of cost** for public hospital wards
- Heavy subsidies at public healthcare providers
- Community Health Assistance Scheme (**CHAS**) for private uses (dental, GPs, etc)

### ▼ Tier 2: Savings account (Medisave)

- compulsory medical savings account set aside from CPF
- saves for future medical needs

#### ▼ Tier 3: Insurance (MediShield Life)

- Helps all Singaporeans to pay for large hospitalisation bills for life
  - Previous MediShield program did not
- Allows all Singaporeans to share the responsibility of paying for large bills by risk-pooling financial risks of major illnesses
- individual responsibility is ensure by requiring co-payment

#### ▼ Tier 4: Medifund

- Acts as a safety net
- “Money” to pay for those who cannot afford even with all tiers of protection

- Mixed delivery model
  - Acute care sector dominated by public
  - General medical practice dominated by private
  - Long Term Care provided by welfare organisations funded by gov

## Challenges

- Healthcare system capacity must grow with Singapore’s ageing population
  - Longer lifespans + sedentary lifestyle → more chronic diseases → more coordination is needed → more focus on family doctors to manage the patients
- Rising healthcare costs
  - Global healthcare inflation



- More subsidies to assist low and middle SES with out-of-pocket payments
- Professionals and patients must be **responsible with healthcare spending** (expensive ≠ better)
- **Maintain a healthy lifestyle** to reduce healthcare expenditure

## Sweden pewdiepie's hospital (Government financed approach)

*In a government financed approach, the government provides **substantial subsidies** and services for **most** of the healthcare needs of the citizens*

- universal access
  - Everyone has **equal** access to healthcare services, **regardless of social class, income or residence**
- Largely owned and financed by the **government**
  - due to this, higher tax rate for the citizens
- Choice of having private insurance
  - VHI(Voluntary Health Insurance)
    - provides **faster** access to healthcare
    - usually offered by employers as optional part of employee remuneration

## Affordable how?????

	above 20	Little kids
Hospitalisation	9 euro per day	nil
out-of-pocket payments)/ max payment for drugs	122 euros per 12 month period	244 (for everything)
medical services	220 euro per 12 month	244 (12 months)

TLDR: there's a **cap** for spending on medical bills, therefore, very cheap as you cannot spend too much on it, unlike the US

omg example: daily out of pocket payments limited to 100 swedish krona or 14 sgd

## Challenges

- High taxation
  - ~31 to 31+25%
    - essentially, a lot
  - Also, GST for Sweden (VAT (Value Added Tax)) at 25%
- Growing number of people needing the healthcare
  - Cause: IMMIGRANTS, GLOBALISATION, aging population
  - Strain on healthcare services as people without paying the taxes(Immigrants, EU members) also consume the services
  - increase competition for medical resources