

To what extent is
Singapore meritocratic?

Equal
Opportunities

Educational resources



Fair Distribution
of Outcomes

Income

Global, Top 20



| | | |
|----|----------------|------|
| 1 | Denmark | 85.2 |
| 2 | Norway | 83.6 |
| 3 | Finland | 83.6 |
| 4 | Sweden | 83.5 |
| 5 | Iceland | 82.7 |
| 6 | Netherlands | 82.4 |
| 7 | Switzerland | 82.1 |
| 8 | Austria | 80.1 |
| 9 | Belgium | 80.1 |
| 10 | Luxembourg | 79.8 |
| 11 | Germany | 78.8 |
| 12 | France | 76.7 |
| 13 | Slovenia | 76.4 |
| 14 | Canada | 76.1 |
| 15 | Japan | 76.1 |
| 16 | Australia | 75.1 |
| 17 | Malta | 75.0 |
| 18 | Ireland | 75.0 |
| 19 | Czech Republic | 74.7 |
| 20 | Singapore | 74.6 |

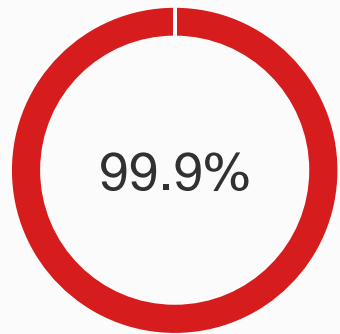
Education Access Pillar

8th

Global
Ranking

84

Index
Score



Adolescents and young
adults still in school

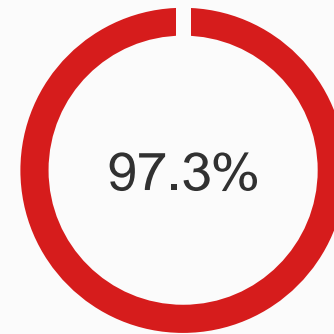
Education Quality & Equity Pillar

4th

Global
Ranking

86

Index
Score



Children above
minimum proficiency

0

Disadvantaged students
report lack of
educational materials

Education Access Pillar

8th

Global
Ranking

84

Index
Score



99.9%

Adolescents and young
adults still in school

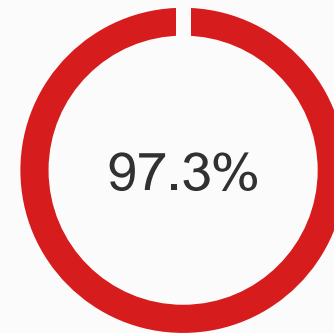
Education Quality & Equity Pillar

4th

Global
Ranking

86

Index
Score



97.3%

Children above
minimum proficiency



“Average household spending on tuition amounted to a less striking **S\$88.40** per month in 2017/2018 (1.35 million households).”

Source: <https://www.todayonline.com/commentary/tuition-has-ballooned-s14b-industry-singapore-should-we-be-concerned>

Disadvantaged students
lack of
educational materials

Fair Wage Distribution Pillar

51st

Global
Ranking

45

Index
Score

Bottom 40%

Top 10%



1:48.0

Income Share

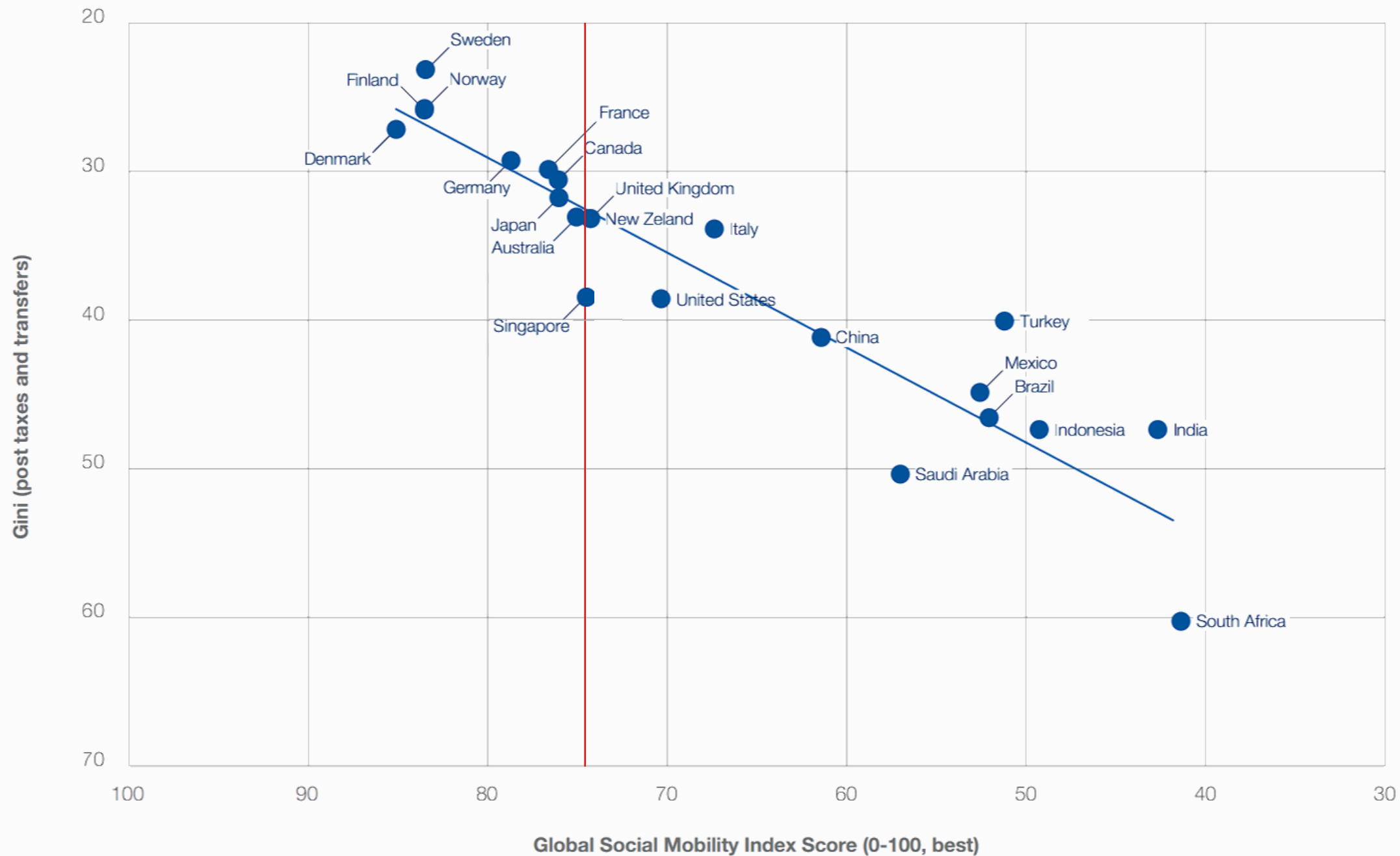
Bottom 50%

Top 50%



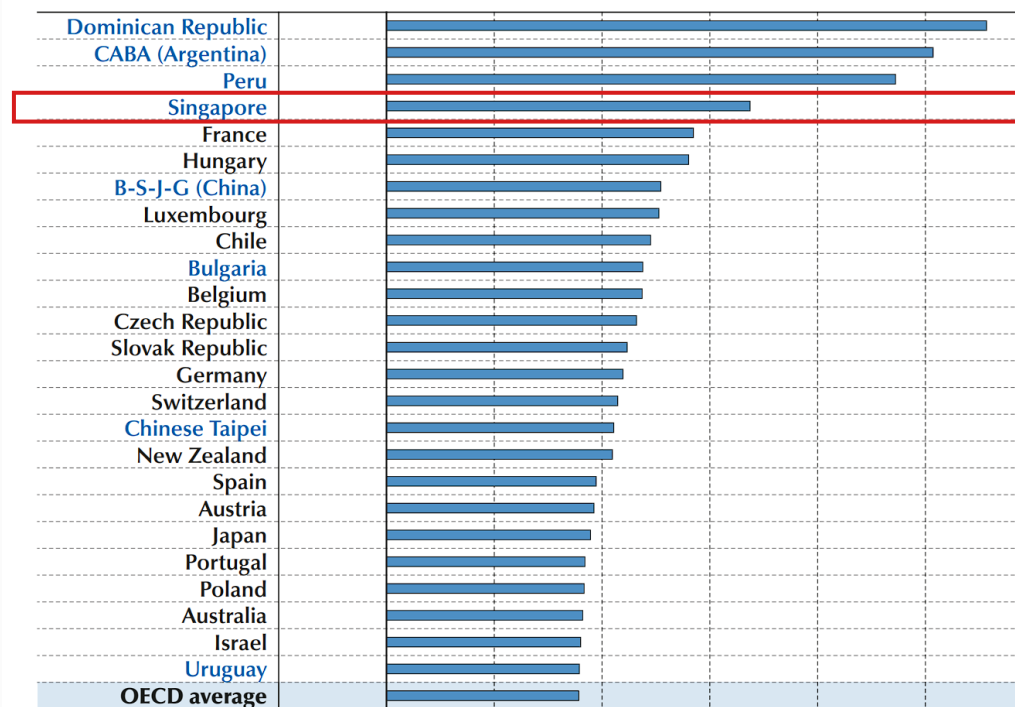
1:25.7

Income Share



| | Science, reading and mathematics | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Share of top performers in at least one subject (Level 5 or 6) | Share of low achievers in all three subjects (below Level 2) |
| | % | % |
| OECD average | 15.3 | 13.0 |
| Singapore | 39.1 | 4.8 |
| Japan | 25.8 | 5.6 |
| Estonia | 20.4 | 4.7 |
| Chinese Taipei | 29.9 | 8.3 |
| Finland | 21.4 | 6.3 |
| Macao (China) | 23.9 | 3.5 |
| Canada | 22.7 | 5.9 |
| Viet Nam | 12.0 | 4.5 |
| Hong Kong (China) | 29.3 | 4.5 |
| B-S-J-G (China) | 27.7 | 10.9 |
| Korea | 25.6 | 7.7 |
| New Zealand | 20.5 | 10.6 |
| Slovenia | 18.1 | 8.2 |
| Australia | 18.4 | 11.1 |
| United Kingdom | 16.9 | 10.1 |
| Germany | 19.2 | 9.8 |
| Netherlands | 20.0 | 10.9 |
| Switzerland | 22.2 | 10.1 |
| Ireland | 15.5 | 6.8 |
| Belgium | 19.7 | 12.7 |
| Denmark | 14.9 | 7.5 |
| Poland | 15.8 | 8.3 |
| Portugal | 15.6 | 10.7 |
| Norway | 17.6 | 8.9 |
| United States | 13.3 | 13.6 |
| Austria | 16.2 | 13.5 |
| France | 18.4 | 14.8 |

Figure I.6.9 ■ **Likelihood of low performance among disadvantaged students, relative to non-disadvantaged students¹**



On measurements the reports identify as problematic because they tend to intensify socioeconomic inequality — **early tracking** of students; focus on academic results; **segregation of students into different schools** by academic performance; **segregation of socioeconomically advantaged and disadvantaged students** into different schools — Singapore is at one end of the spectrum in having a high degree of all four.

~ Teo Yeo Yenn “Education Inequality and Development” (2022)

Ong Xiang Ling and Cheung Hoi Shan found in a study that — as measured by parents' educational attainment, housing type, and monthly per capita household income — students in “elite” schools are disproportionately from higher socioeconomic status households compared to students from “neighborhood” schools

~ Teo Yeo Yenn “Education Inequality and Development” (2022)

Equal
Opportunities



Fair Distribution
of Outcomes



References

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