

# Younger men seeking foreign brides

Most want a simple woman willing to be a housewife





# Singapore's Population Policy

*Changing Times, Changing Needs*

# Singapore's Population Policy

## Control population growth

“Stop at 2” policy  
Financial disincentives  
Other measures

### Reasons for decline in population:

- **Success of govt policies**
- **Social factors**
- **Economic factors**

### Impact of decline in population:

- **Unattractive to MNCs**
- **Defence**
- **Ageing population**

## Encourage Population growth

Graduate Mothers Scheme  
Three or More if You can afford it  
Pro-family measures  
Attracting Foreign talent

## Prepare for an ageing population

Senior citizens as assets  
“Many Helping Hands” approach

### Reasons for ageing population

- **Post-war baby boom**
- **Declining birth rate**
- **Longer lifespans**

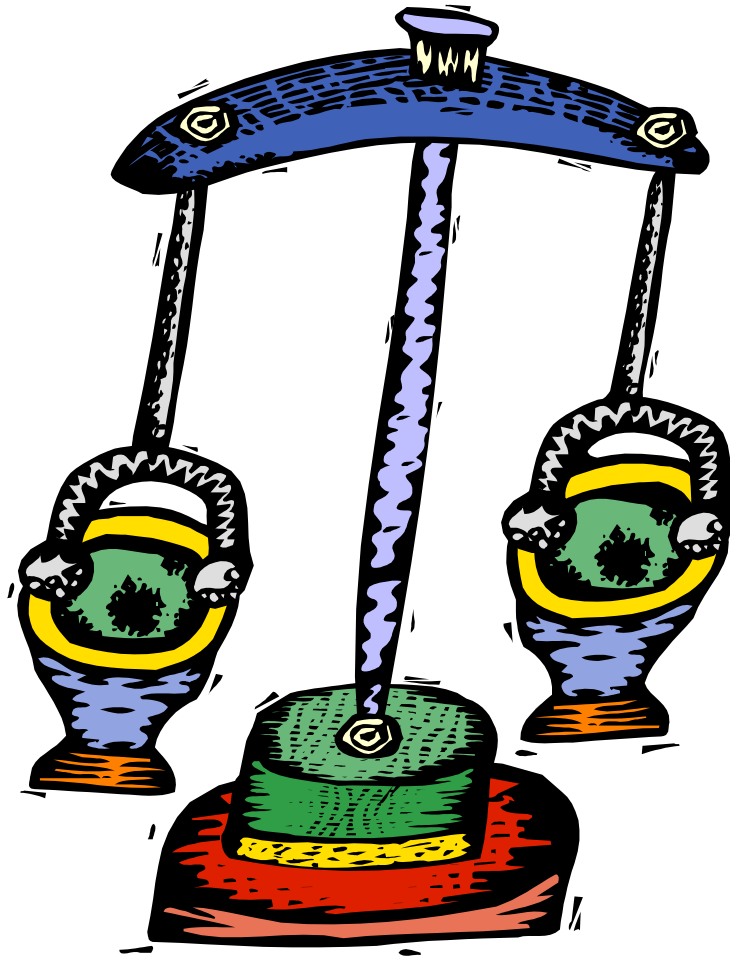
### Impact of ageing population:

- **Strain on working population**
- **Reduction in competitiveness**
- **Increased demand for healthcare & social services**
- **Smaller security forces**

# Optimal population growth rate

Rapid  
population  
growth  
(1950s-1960s)

- Control  
population  
growth



Declining birth  
rate  
(from 1980s)

- Promote  
population  
growth



# 1950s- 1960s: Post-war “Baby-Boom”

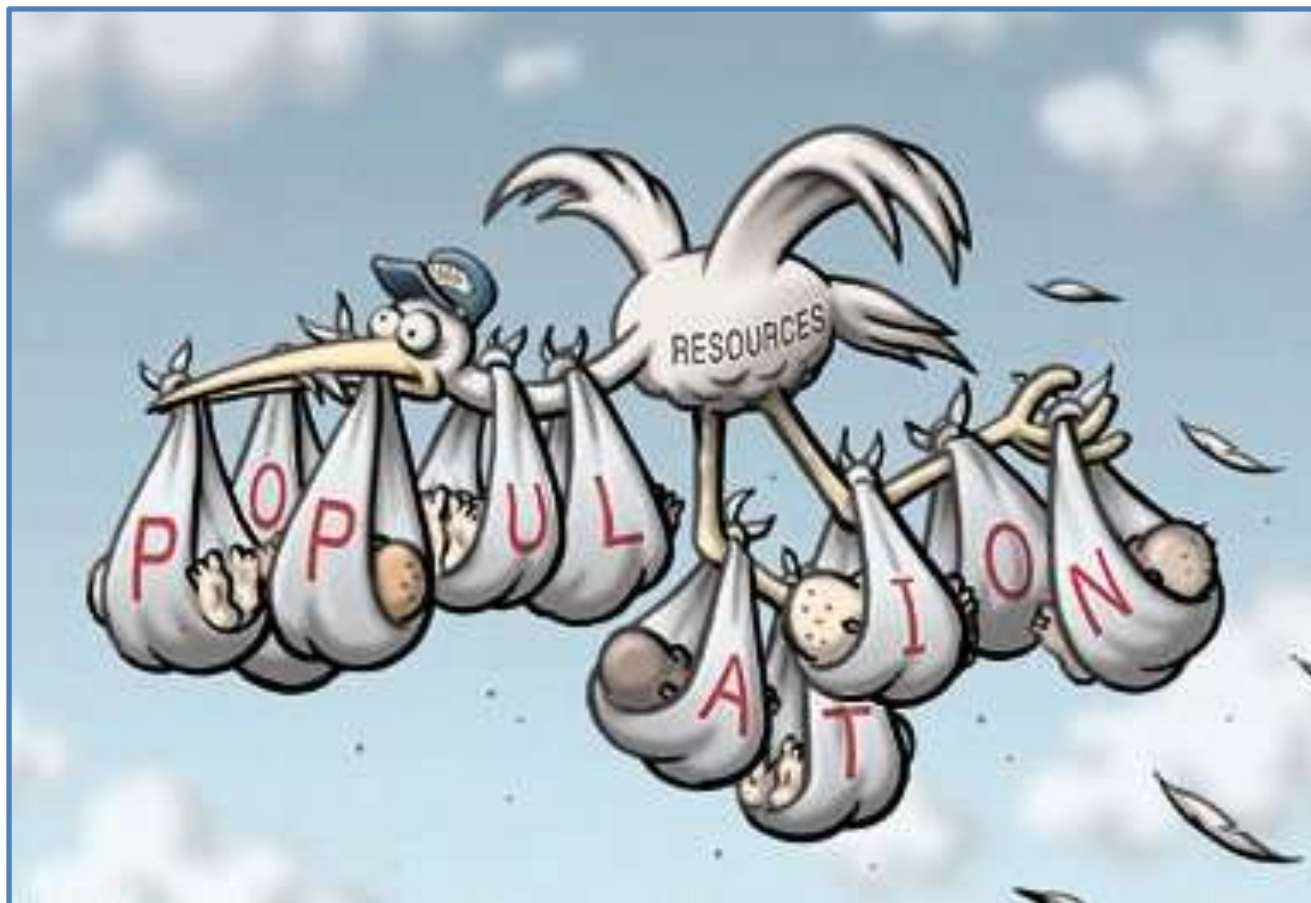


# 1950s- 1960s: Post-war “Baby-Boom”

- Peace and stability
- More children = more security in old age
- Grew by more than ½ million from 1950-1960







Unemployment

Insufficient healthcare  
services

Shortage of housing

Insufficient education



**Source A – An observation by a family planning pioneer about women who visited family planning clinics in the 1950s.**

There was a Chinese woman who had had 19 pregnancies before she found her way to a family planning clinic in 1955 but she was not a record holder; there were others who out-produced her! Volunteers manning the clinics learnt from patients that all too often, babies had to be given away. In every case, poverty was given as the reason.

The overwhelming majority of the patients came from families whose monthly income were not more than \$200. Particularly worrisome was the finding that the lower the income, the greater the number of children born. The women's common reply, "I don't know what to do!"

**Study Source A.**

**What does Source A tell you about the population problem that Singapore faced in the 1950s?**

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# Government strategy: Reduce & Control

- Implementation of five-year plans
- Legalizing use of contraceptives & sterilization
- Legalizing abortion
- Financial disincentives



# Five-year plans- Campaign to “Stop at Two”

- 1st plan: *need for smaller families*
- 2nd plan: *stop at two policy*
- 3rd plan : *maintain at 2.1*







**A Family Planning Clinic**

## Source B & C - Posters from the Family Planning Information Service

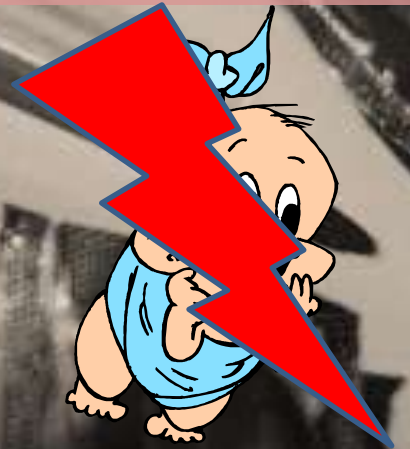


Study Sources B & C.

What are the similarities and differences in the two sources?

# Other measures:

- Legalize use of contraceptives and sterilization
  - *Prevent unwanted pregnancies*
- Legalize abortion
  - *Get rid of unwanted pregnancies*





# Other measures:

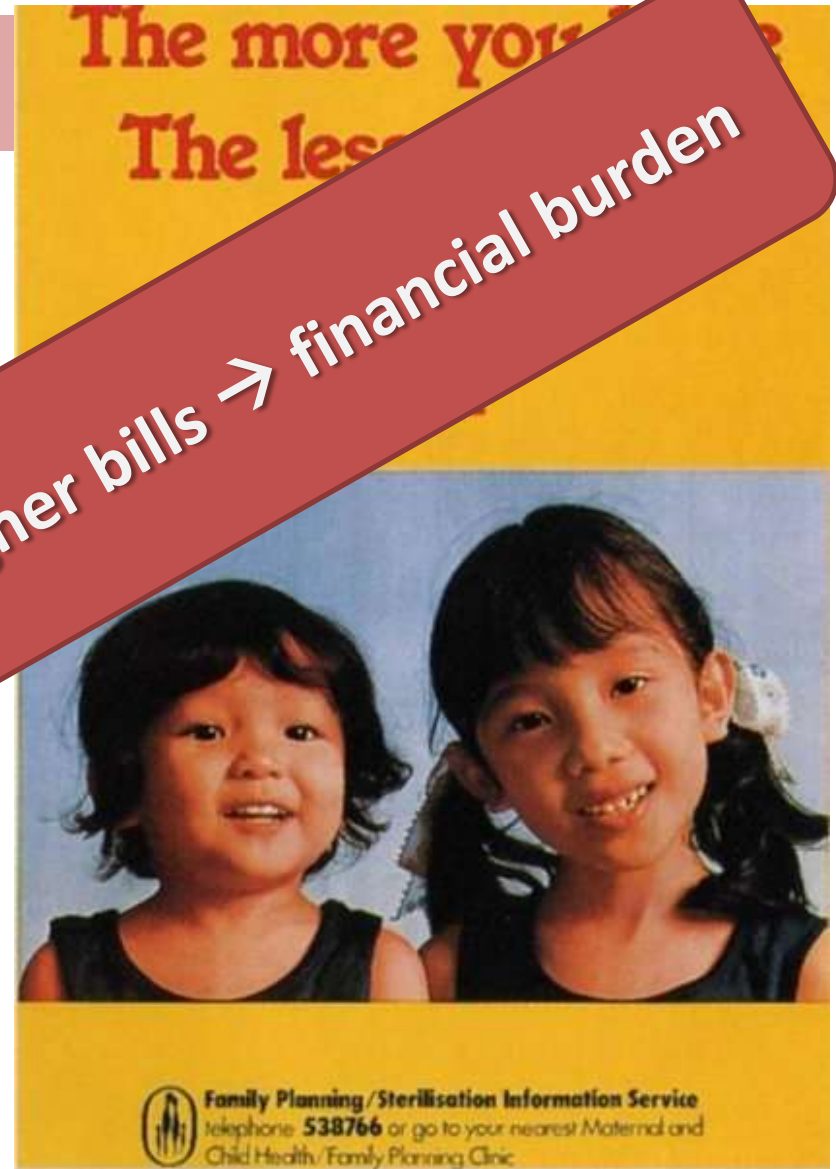
- Financial disincentives

No paid maternity leave for third & subsequent children

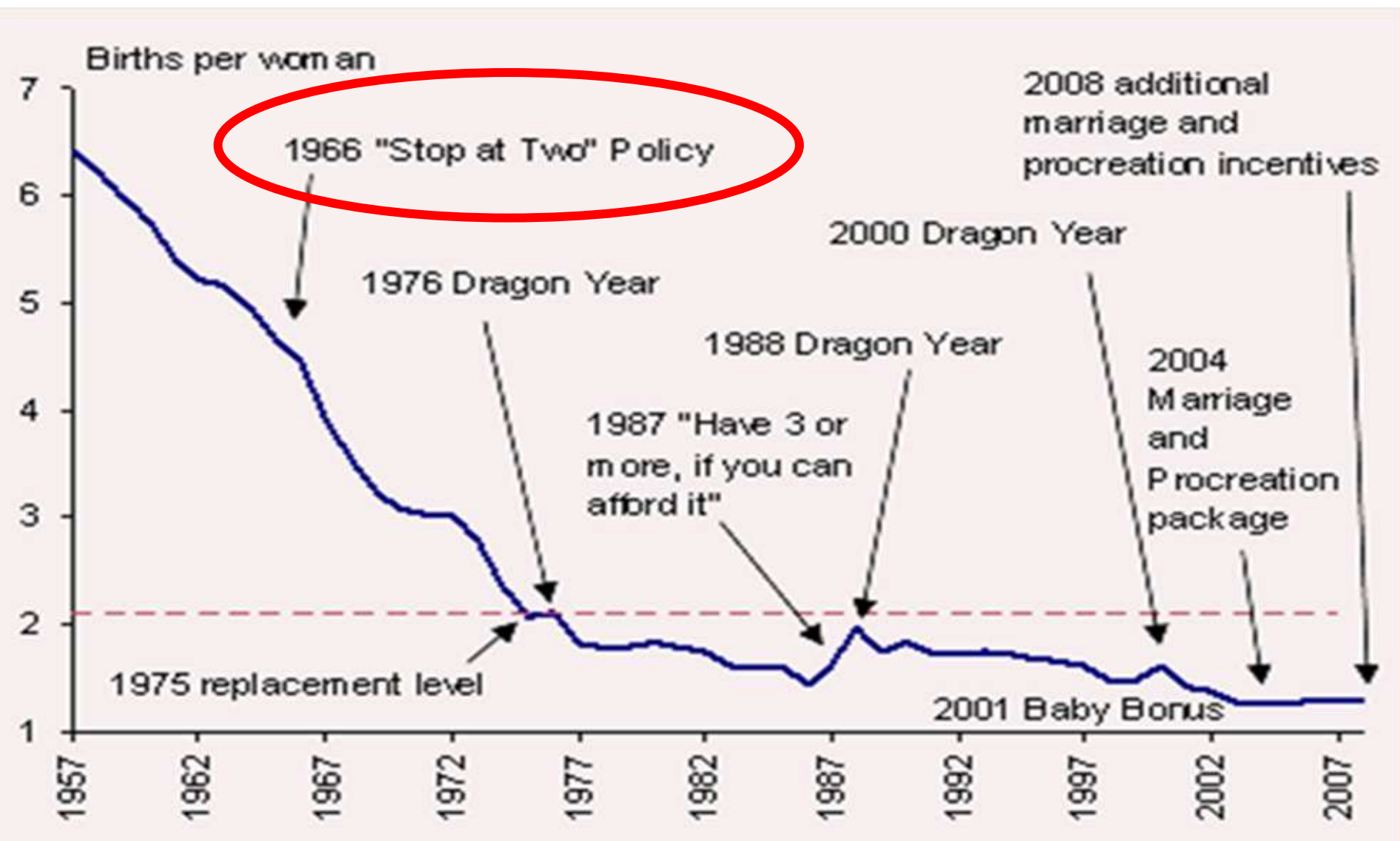
No priority given to large families in allocation of government flats

No income tax relief for fourth and subsequent children

No charges in hospitals for increased with additional child

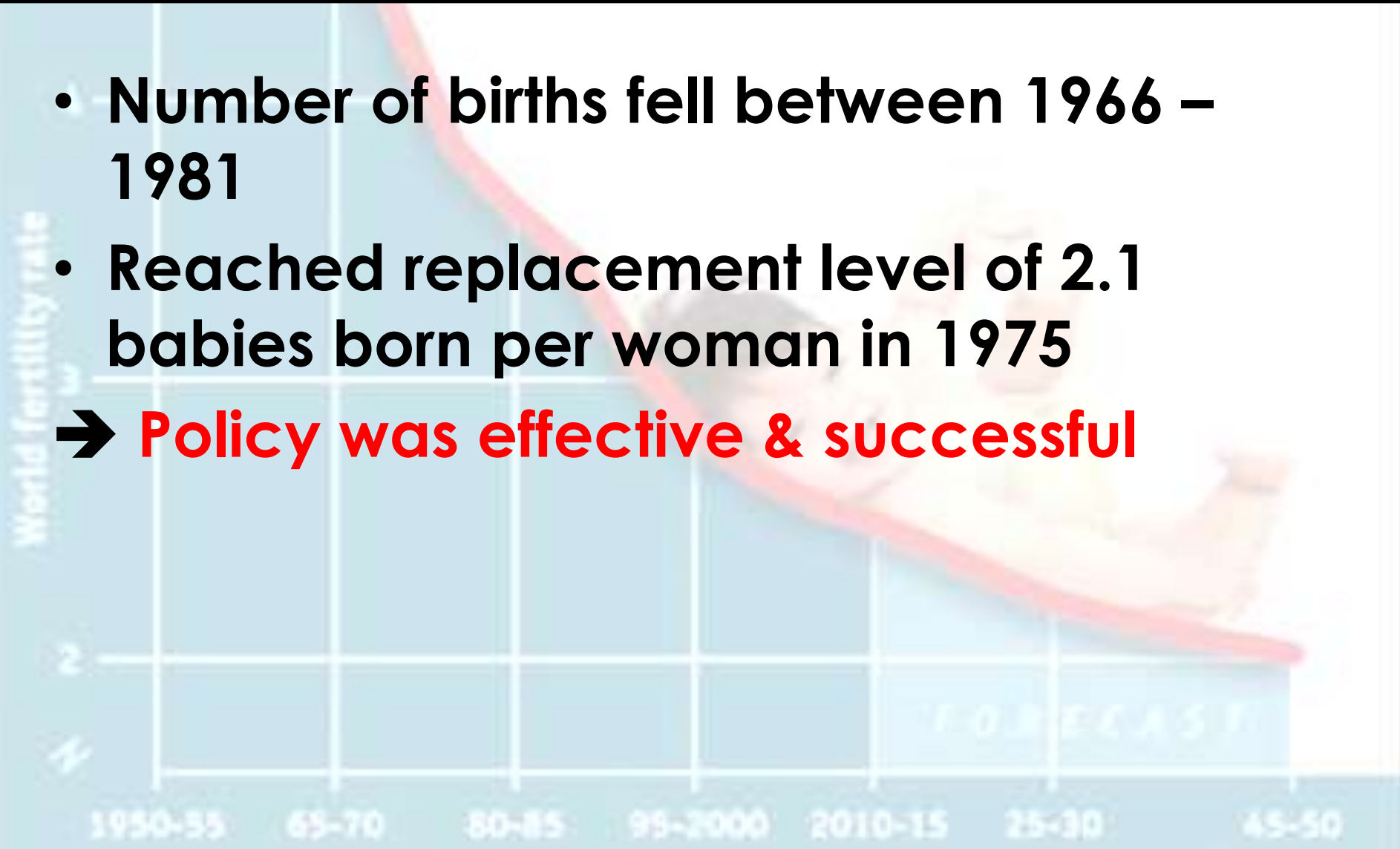






# Result of the Population Policy in the 1950s – 60s

- Number of births fell between 1966 – 1981
  - Reached replacement level of 2.1 babies born per woman in 1975
- **Policy was effective & successful**





# Declining birth rate from 1980s





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- **Increased demand for healthcare & social services**
- **Smaller security forces**

# MM Lee: Population in Singapore could halve in 20 years

SPHRazorTV

289 videos

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# Declining birth rate from 1980s

- Success of government policies
- Social factors
- Economic factors



# Economic & Social Factors:

- “Time for a cultural shift”
- “Having children not top priority: Survey”
- “Number of Single Singaporeans on the rise”
- “Late (great) expectations”





# Declining birth rate from 1980s

- Success of government policies
- Social factors
- Economic factors



# Social Factors:

## Singles; Babies at later age, No babies

- Change in attitude towards marriage & children
- Prefer to remain single, marry later or have children at a later age
- For example, more women are highly educated & enter the workforce & women felt that their careers are more important



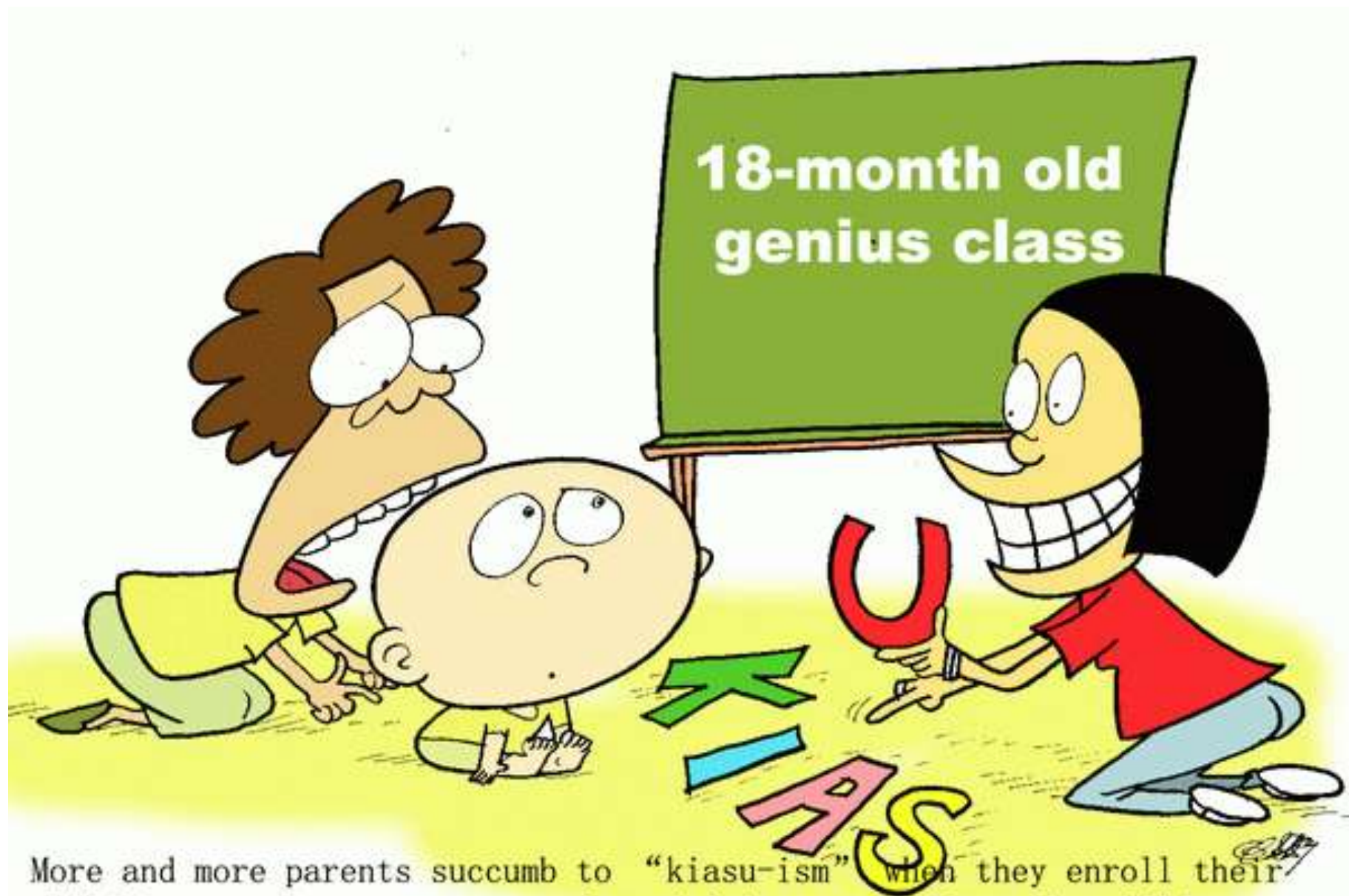
# Economic factors:

## Higher costs of living/education

-People realized that having more children is additional burden due to the high cost of living & increasing standard of living

-Education/Housing is increasingly more costly





More and more parents succumb to “kiasu-ism” when they enroll their child in countless programs and activities even before the child can walk.





# *Problems of Slow Population Growth*

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# Problem 1: Unattractive to Multinational Companies

- Smaller talent pool
- Fewer people in the workforce
- Lower productivity
- Smaller consumer market → less attractive to businesses

How does this affect Singapore?

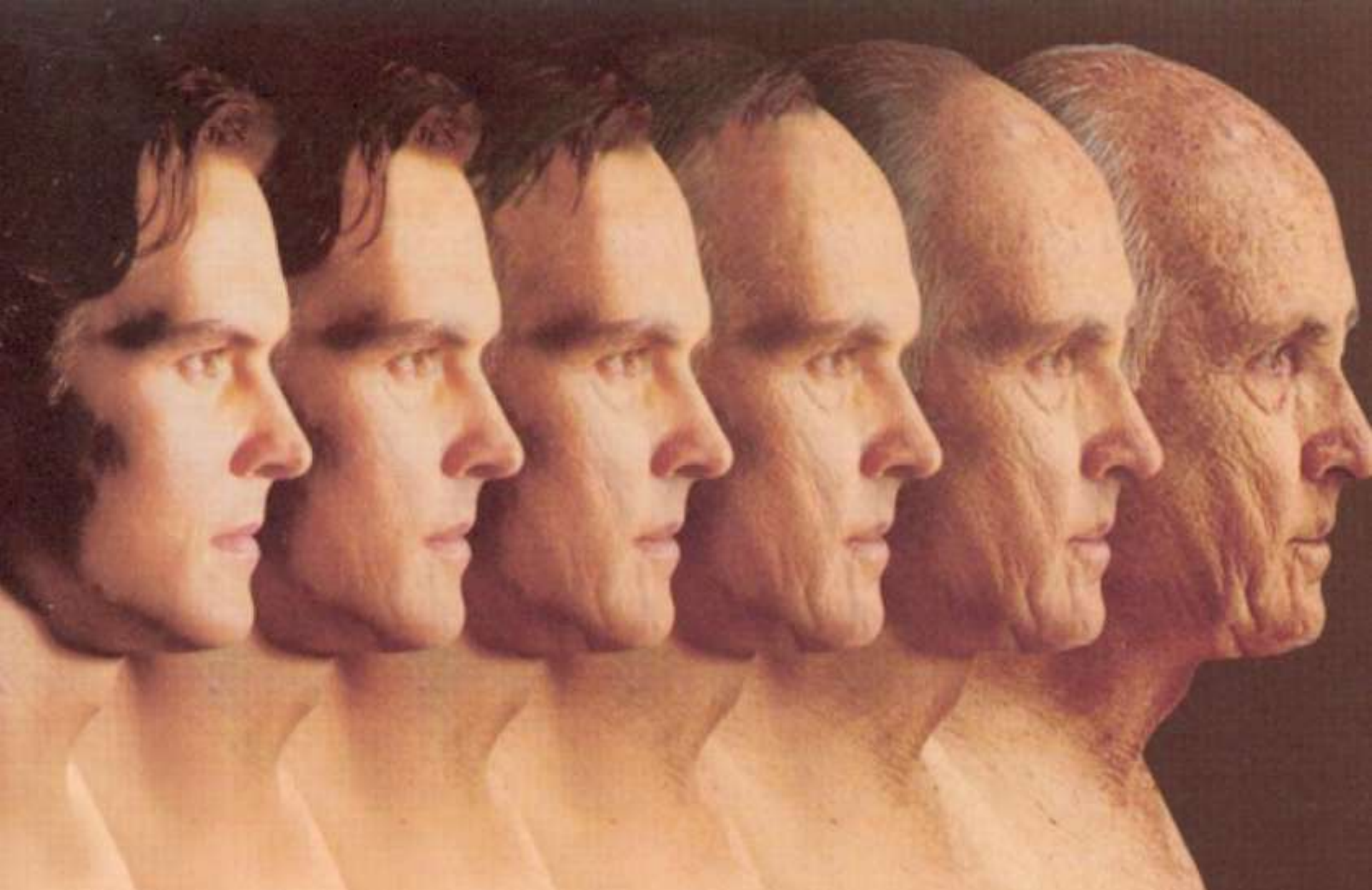
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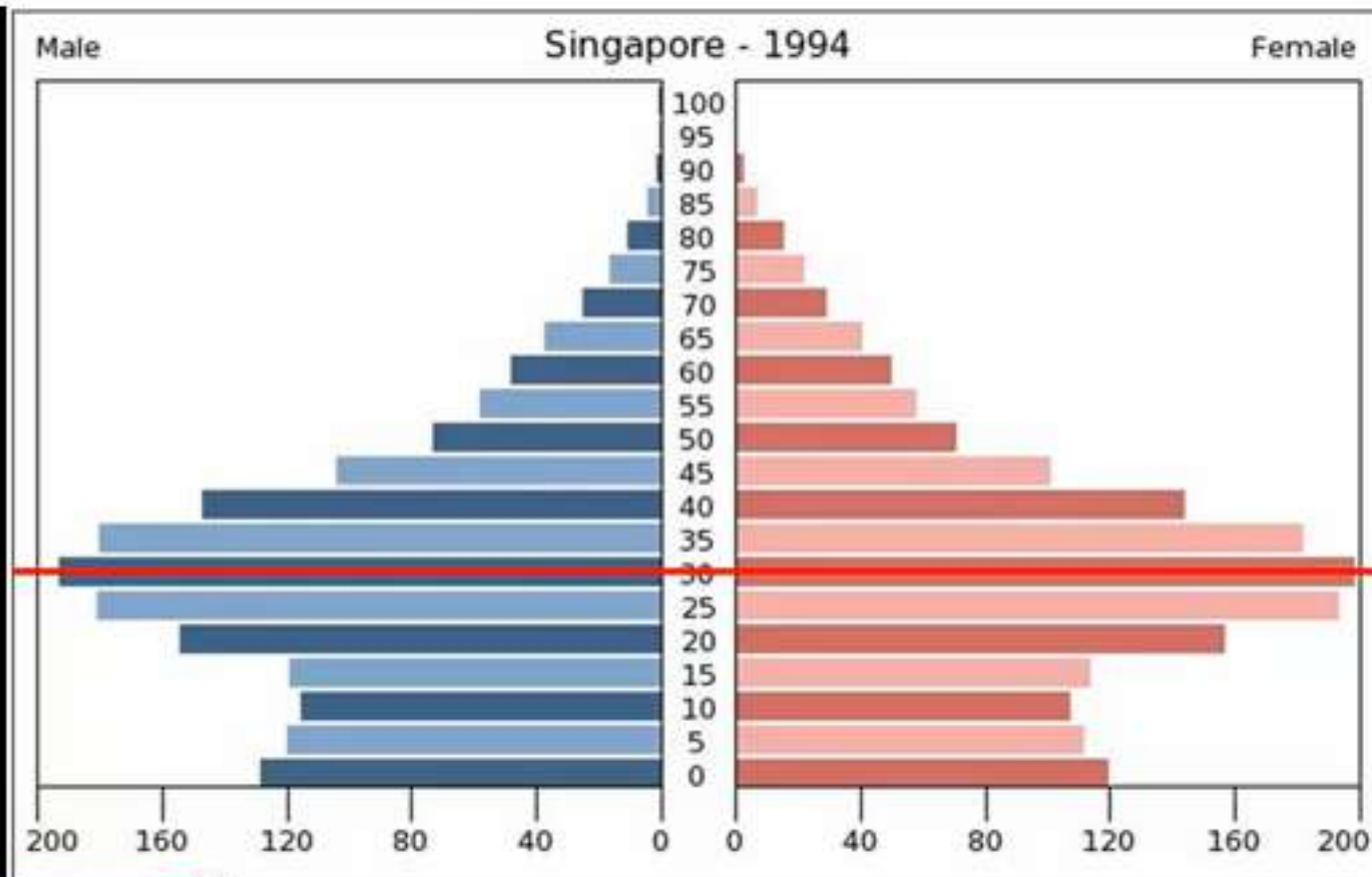
Less investments → slower economic growth



# Problem 2: Ageing population



# Population Changes in Singapore 1990 - 2050

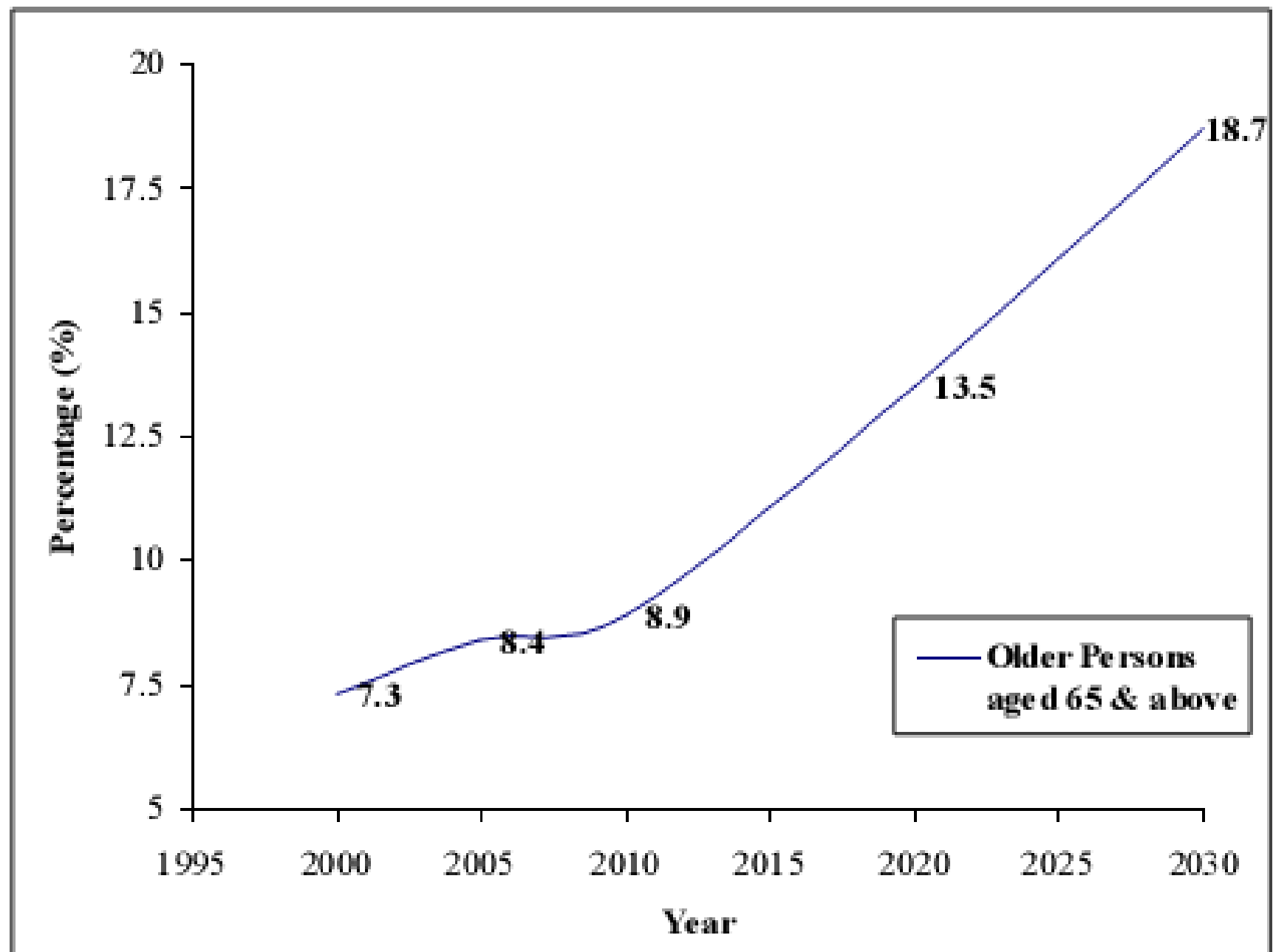


0:09 / 0:45

360p



Chart 1.1: Proportion of Resident Population<sup>6</sup> Aged 65 & Over From 2000 – 2030



# Problem 2: Ageing population

- Fewer younger people, disproportionately larger number of older people
- Greater need for healthcare & social services
- More resources needed to take care of increasing no. of senior citizens

# Problem 2: Ageing population





# Problem 2: Ageing population



Greater stress  
on working  
population



How does it affect Singapore's development?

# Problem 2: Ageing population

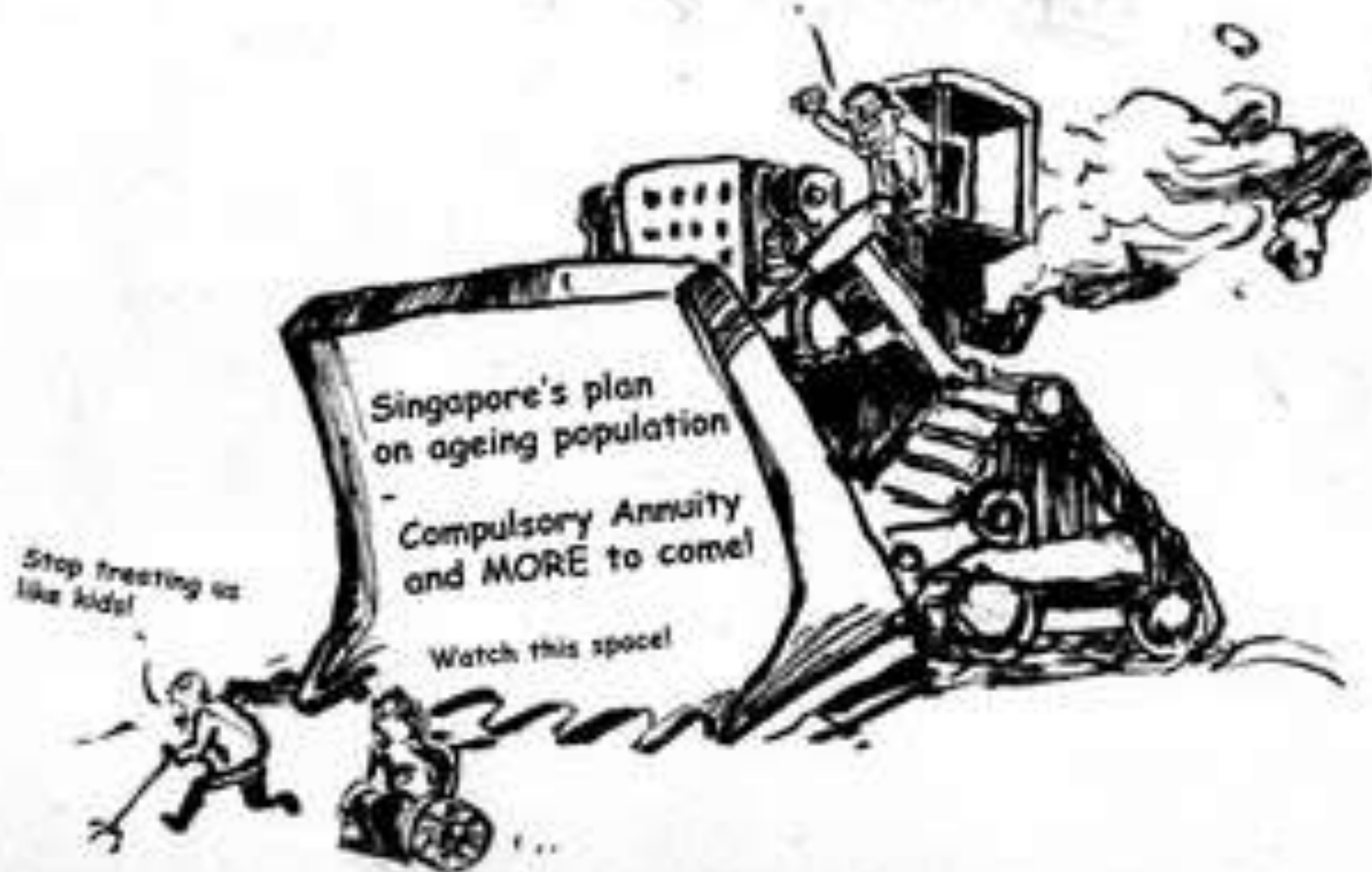


Greater stress  
on working  
population



**Heavier taxes on working population**  
**More resources spent on taking care of aged**  
**Less resources for development of nation**

It's either OUR way or OUTTA my way!  
That the way it works in this town!



# Problem 3: Defence

- Fewer people to recruit for NS
- Weaken defence force



# MM Lee weighs in on Singapore's record-low fertility rate

NewsSingapore

751 videos

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Struggles of making babies; Need for immigration



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# Government strategy: Promote Population Growth

- The Graduate Mothers Scheme
- Three or More if You can Afford It
- Pro-family measures
- Attracting foreign talent



# 1) The Graduate Mothers Scheme

## TREND

- Marrying later
- Bearing fewer children



# 1) The Graduate Mothers Scheme

- PM Lee: **female graduates** should have more children → **new generation will be more educated**



# 1) The Graduate Mothers Scheme

- Introduced in 1984
  - Encourage marriage and children amongst graduates





This is unfair to Singaporean mothers like me, who do not have university qualifications! As long as we are all Singaporeans, we should be treated equally. Why deny me of incentives when I can bring up my child as well? I need the financial incentives more than graduate mothers who are better off in many ways!



## Source E

In his 1983 National Day Rally speech, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew lamented that declining birth rates and large number of graduate women remaining single or not marrying their intellectual equal could see Singapore's talent pool shrink. The PAP government then proceeded to launch the "Graduate Mother Scheme" to entice graduate women with incentives to get married. These were said to have caused a big dip in PAP's support for this GE and its share of votes plunged by more than 10% to below 70%, the biggest fall and the lowest for PAP since the 1963 GE.

### Study Source E.

**What does Source E tell the impact of the Graduate Mothers Scheme on the PAP?**

## 2) Three or More if you can afford it

- Launched in 1987
- Aimed at bringing population growth back to 2.1 children/woman



## 2) Three or More if you can afford it

- Encouraged to have three or more children *if they could afford it*
- Introduced measures such as allowing the use of Medisave to pay for the delivery charges of the first three children



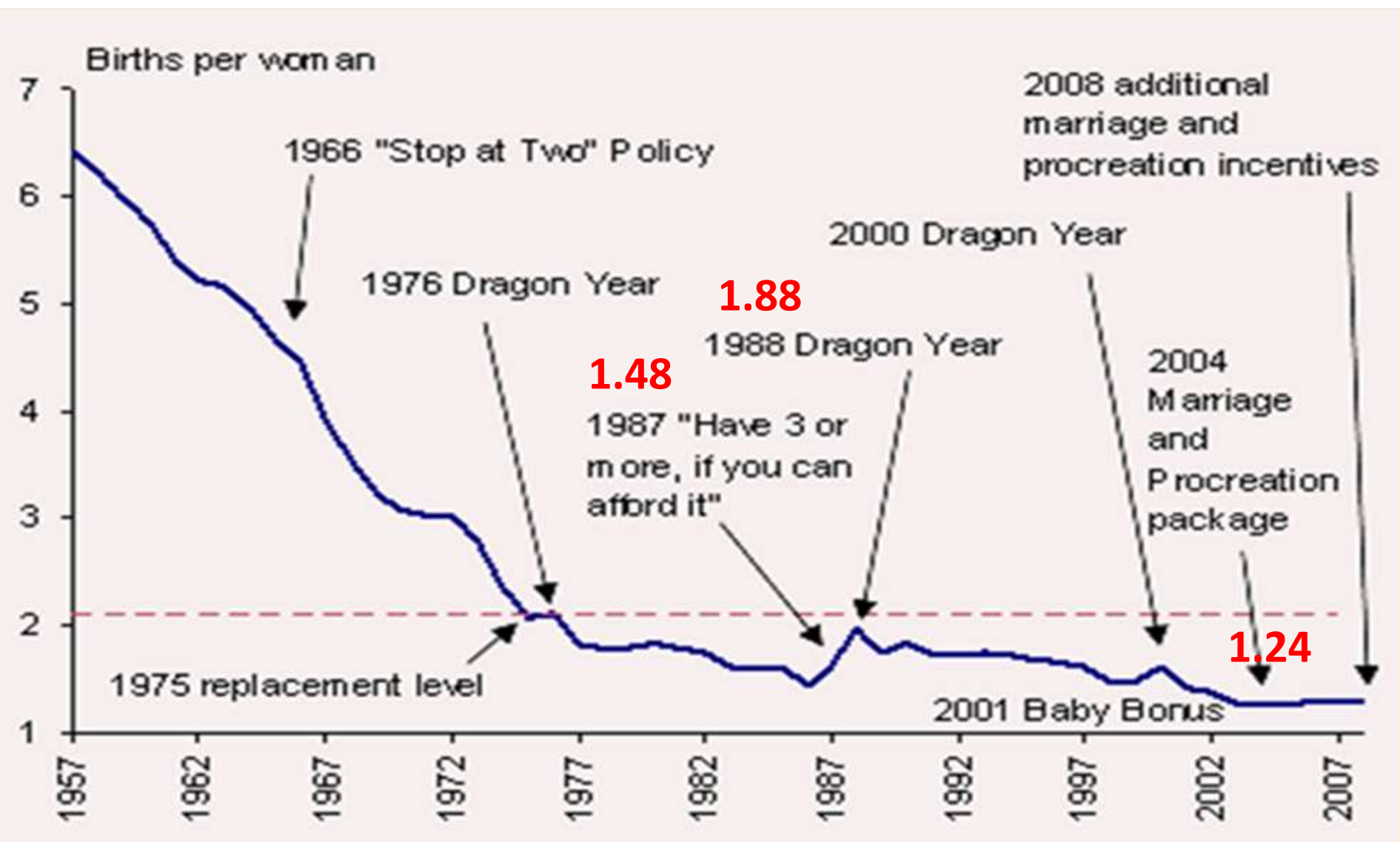


**Children. Life would be empty  
without them.**



Study the source.  
Why was this poster printed?





### 3) Other Pro-Family measures

- Equalized medical benefits for both parents
- 5-day work week for Civil service (work-life balance)
- Grandparent caregiver relief (tax relief of \$3000) for caring for child
- Extended maternity leave from 8 to 12 weeks



### 3) Other Pro-Family measures

- Reduced financial burden
- Less expensive to have kids
- More time to care for kids
- *Encourage parents to have more children*



## 4) Attracting Foreign Talent



# 4) Attracting Foreign Talent





# 4) Attracting Foreign Talent

- **Develop attachment to SG**
- **Encourage permanent residence or citizenship**

**Relaxed immigration policy**  
**Easier entry into Singapore**  
**Subsidized housing**  
**Attractive education package**



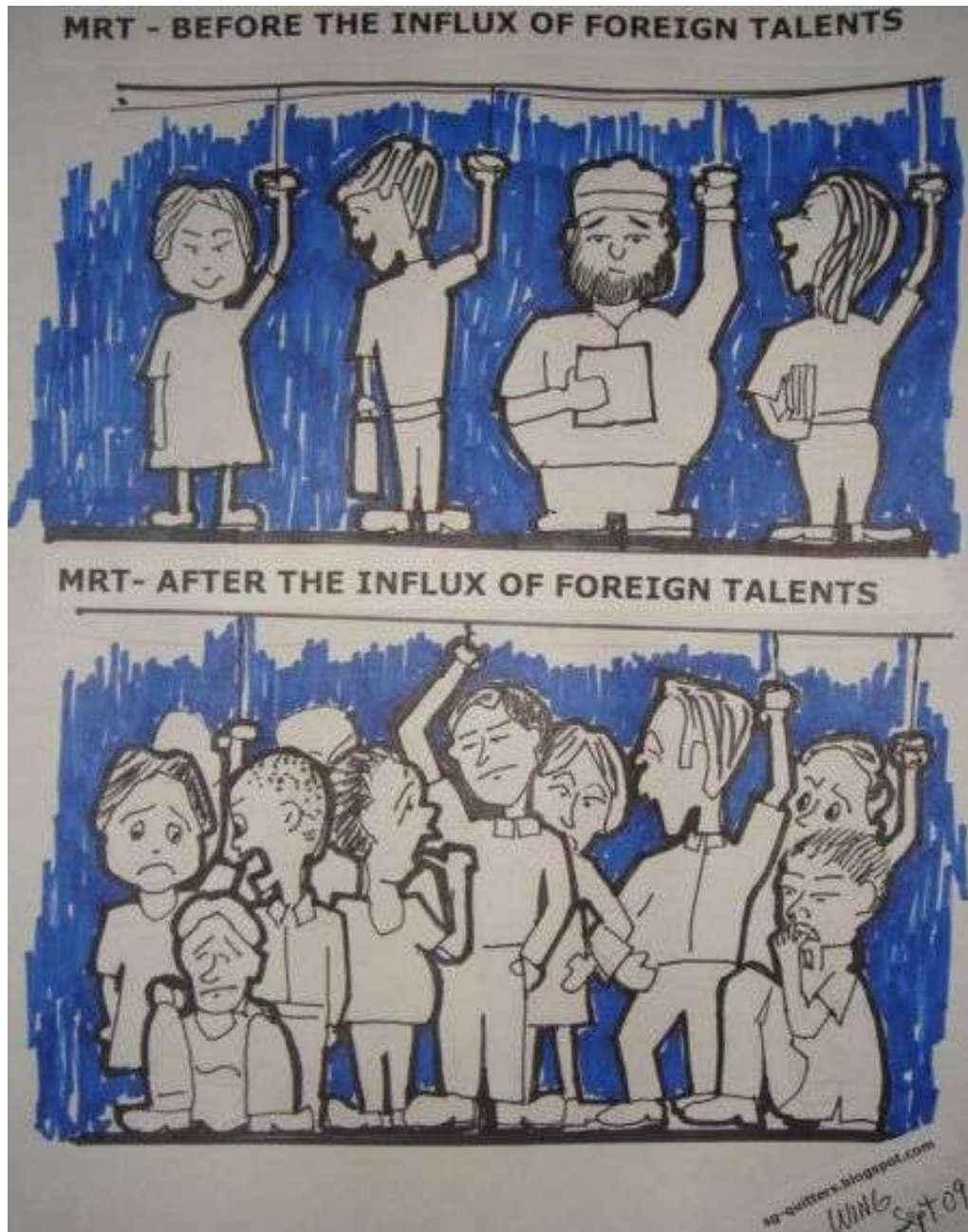
# 4) Attracting Foreign Talent

## **Foreign talents help to:**

- ✓ **create more jobs & increase productivity**
- ✓ **boost quality of workforce**
- ✓ **attract MNCs → investments and income**
- ✓ **increase total population of Singapore**
- ✓ **make Singapore a more cosmopolitan country**



## Source F



**Study Source F.**

**What does Source F tell you about how Singaporeans perceive foreign talents?**



## 4) Attracting Foreign Talent



# PREPARING FOR AN AGEING POPULATION





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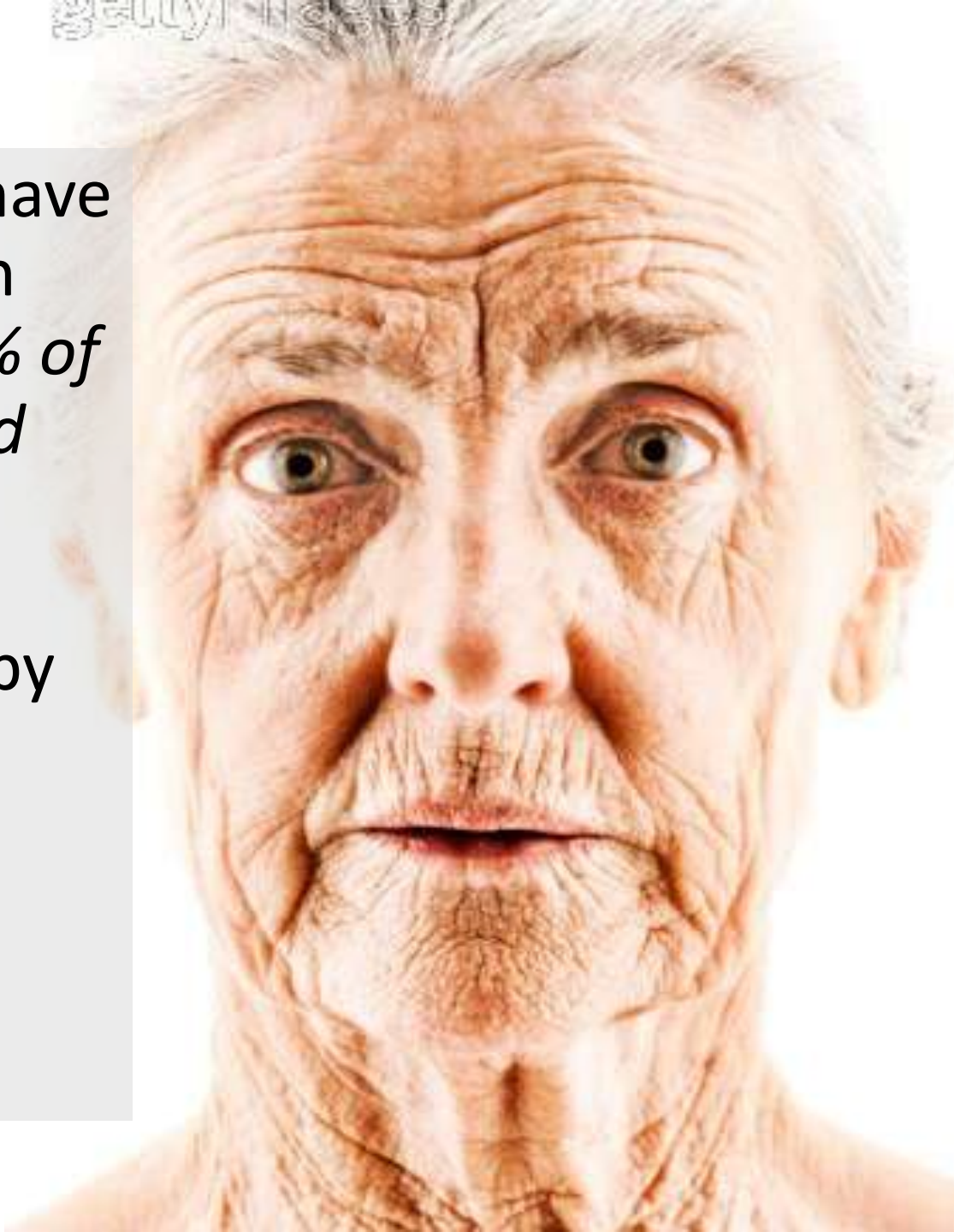
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- **Strain on working population**
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- A country is said to have an ageing population *when more than 14% of its population is aged **65 years and above.***
- In Singapore's case, by 2030, this figure is estimated to reach 796,000 or **18.9%** of total population = ageing population.



# Reasons for Ageing Population



**1) Post-war baby boom: these Singaporeans will be 65 and above by 2030**

# Reasons for Ageing Population

## **2) Declining birth rates:**


- Proportion of young people is shrinking, while proportion of senior citizens is increasing**



# Reasons for Ageing Population

- 
- 3) Singaporeans are living longer than before**
- Improved health and nutrition**





*How will this  
affect  
Singapore?*

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# How will an ageing population affect Singapore?



**Demand for more healthcare  
and social services**

**Smaller security forces**

**Reduction in competitiveness**

**Strain on working population**

# How will an ageing population affect Singapore?

## Demand for more healthcare and social services

- More prone to age-related illnesses  
→ need more healthcare services
- Fewer children to depend on to take care of needs and expenses



# How will an ageing population affect Singapore?

## **Demand for more healthcare and social services**

- More money spent on building elderly-friendly facilities





## Studio Apartments



## Lift Upgrading



# How will an ageing population affect Singapore?

## Demand for more healthcare and social services

- Increase in demand for community-based services (*day care, nursing, befriender service*)
- Demand for trained welfare staff

More resources spent on meeting these needs,  
less funds for development of the nation

# How will an ageing population affect Singapore?

## Smaller security forces

- Fewer babies → fewer men to serve in the army
- Weakens the strength of our defence and makes us more vulnerable



# How will an ageing population affect Singapore?

## Strain on working population

- Government gets revenue from taxes paid by working population
- Fewer babies born → smaller working population

For example, the number of working people supporting one senior citizen will drop from 9.8 in 2000 to 3.5 in 2030.

# How will an ageing population affect Singapore?

## Strain on working population

- Government gets revenue from taxes paid by working population
- Fewer babies born → smaller working population

**Each working person has to pay more taxes to provide what the senior citizens need → Great financial burden**



# How will an ageing population affect Singapore?

## Reduction in competitiveness

- Increase taxation will increase the financial burden of the working people
- Some choose to migrate
- Reduce the size of Singapore's workforce

*How does it affect our economy?*

**Labour shortage & Lower productivity → less competitive workforce & attractive to foreign companies**

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# Meeting the Challenges of an Ageing Population



- Senior citizens as assets to the society
- “Many Helping Hands” approach
  - *Individual responsibility*
    - *Family support*
    - *Community help*
    - *Government support*

# Senior Citizens as Assets to the Society







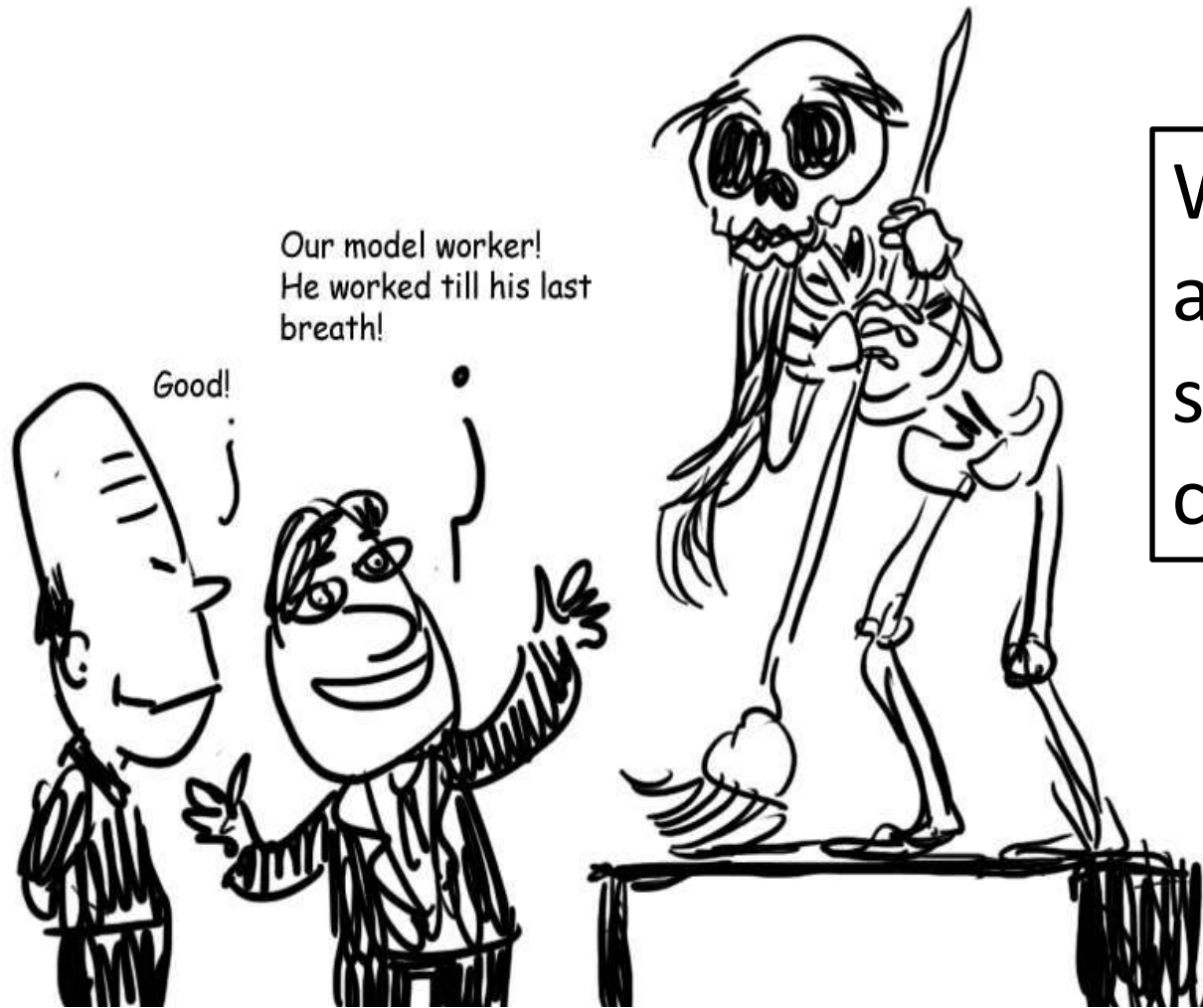
- Reemployment Act (effective 2012)
  - Reemploy workers beyond age of 62
  - Official retirement age raised to 65
  - MOM actively preparing companies for this shift



# *Blazing the trail in rehiring retirees*



**Source G:** A cartoonist's illustration, titled "No retirement age in Singapore", 28 July 2010.




What is the author trying to say through this cartoon?

# Senior Citizens as Assets to the Society



**Ensure they remain contributing members of the society**

- **Have valuable skills, knowledge, talent and working experience**
- **Add value to public and private organizations**
- **Boost family life**



The diagram features a central orange rounded rectangle with the text "Many Helping Hands Approach" in bold yellow font. Four black arrows point from this central box to four surrounding colored rectangles: a blue rectangle at the top-left, a green rectangle at the top-right, a red rectangle at the bottom-left, and a purple rectangle at the bottom-right. Each of these four rectangles contains white text. The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones being stacked on top of each other, resting on a bed of green grass.

**Individual  
Responsibility**

**Community  
Help**

**Many Helping Hands  
Approach**

**Family  
Support**

**Government  
Support**



# Many Helping Hands *Approach*



- Everyone has a part to play in helping the nation prepare for an ageing population
- Shared responsibility → government's burden is eased
- Resources saved can be used to meet other needs

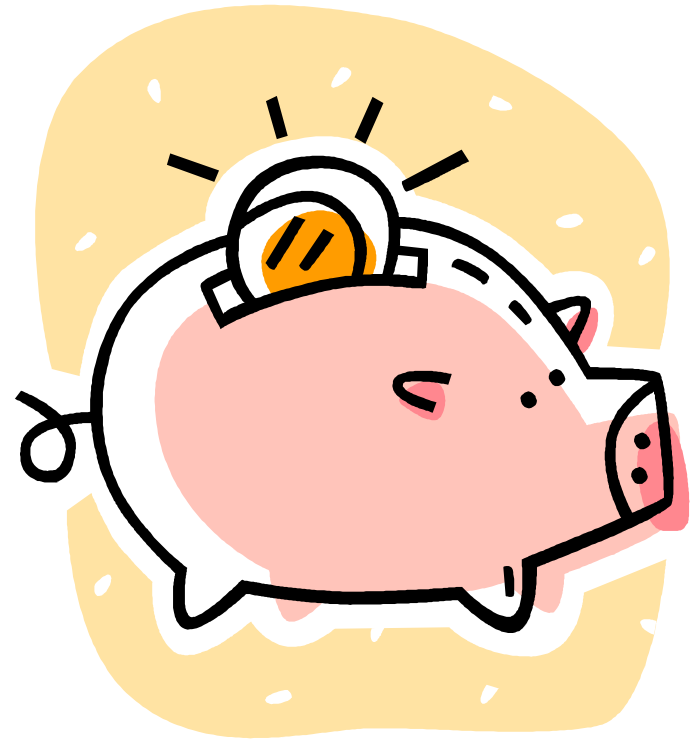


# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Individual Responsibility**

Healthy lifestyle



Financial planning



# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Individual Responsibility**

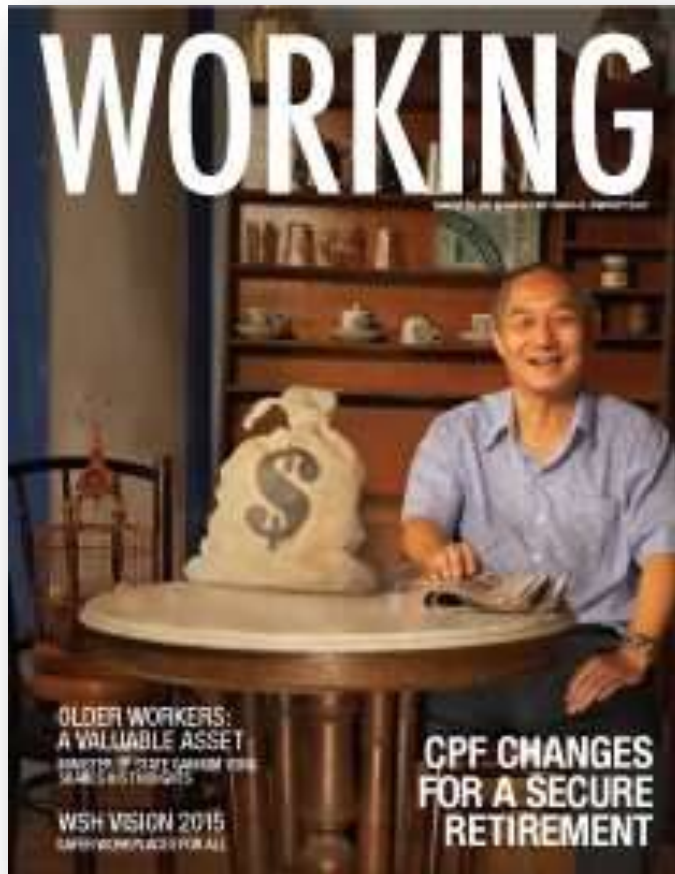
## Healthy lifestyle

- Watching diet
- Exercise regularly



# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Individual Responsibility**

## Financial planning



- Plan early and be financially prepared (retirement planning)

# SINGAPORE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAMME

Message to Singaporeans to make healthy living a way of life, so as to:

- Enjoy life to the fullest
- Age gracefully and healthily
- Minimise ill-health
- Retain maximum use of physical and mental faculties, so as to

**ADD YEARS TO LIFE AND LIFE TO YEARS**



# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Family support**



- Promote strong and stable families
- Provide emotional and financial support





# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Family support** (examples)



- Senior Citizens' Week
  - Encourages elderly to stay active in family and community
  - Promotes positive attitude towards ageing and aged



- Grandparents' Day
  - Bring families together to show appreciation for elderly

# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Community help**



- Provide social and emotional support
- Provide healthcare and social services
- Encourage them to remain physically, mentally and socially active

- Govt provides subsidies to VWO to run community-based services
  - *Free health checks*
  - *Recreational activities*

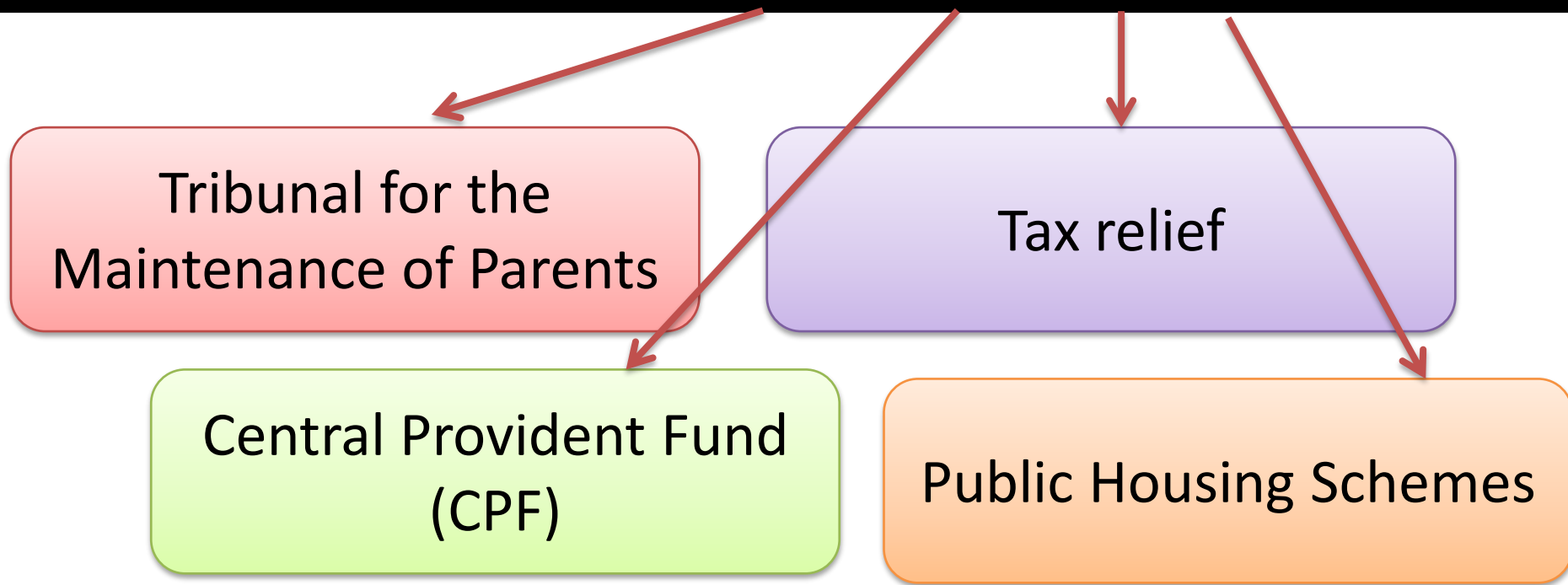


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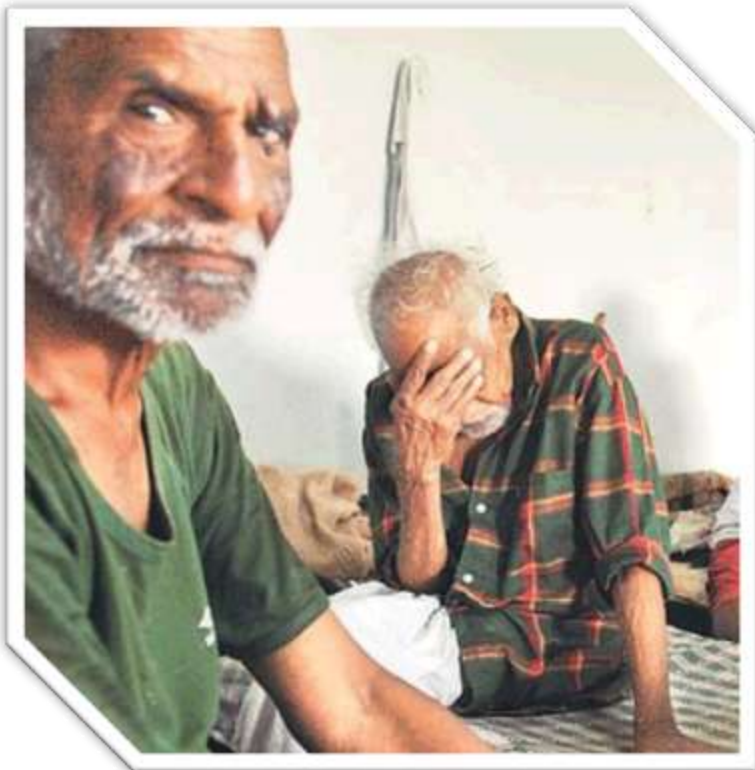
- E.g. **Home Nursing Foundation for Elders**
  - Involves members of the community (students, housewives, retirees etc)

# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Government Support**



# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Government support**

## Tribunal for the Maintenance of Parents



- Parents can get the court's help to seek financial support from children who are capable, but not supporting them
- Parents must be incapable of supporting themselves, and over 60 years old



# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Government support**



## Tax Relief



- Taking care of elderly parents, grandparents
- Contributing to these dependents' CPF retirement schemes
- Grandparents taking care of grandchildren while parents work

# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Government support**

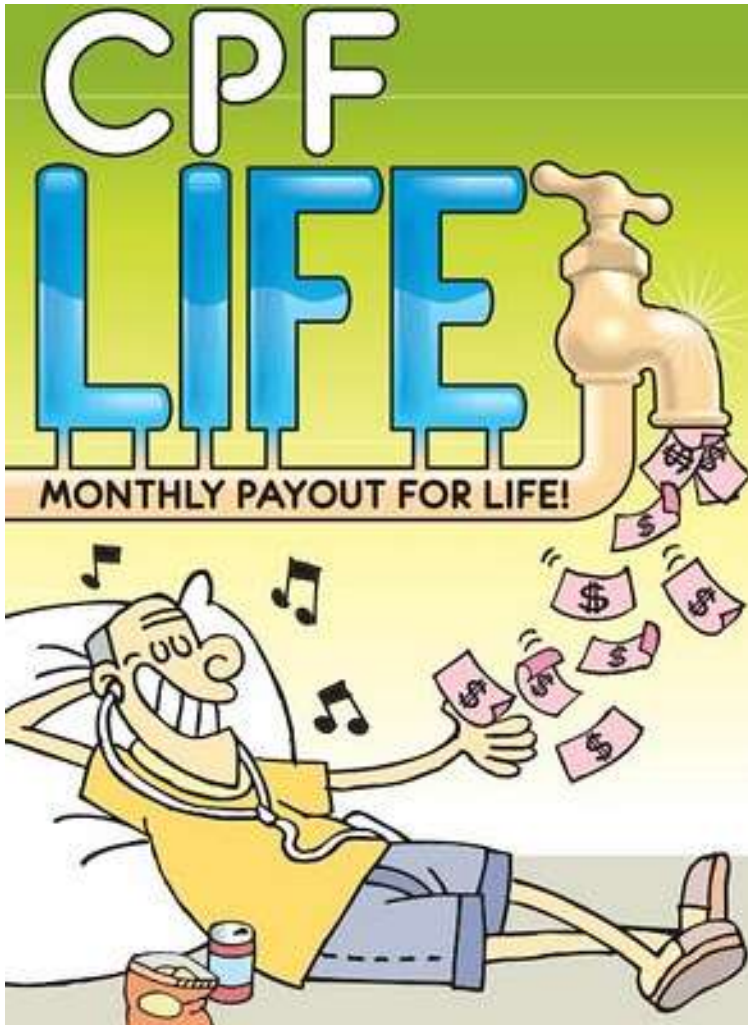
## Central Provident Fund

- Special Acct: Retirement, emergency & investment
- Medisave Acct: medical expenses
- Retirement Acct (at age 55)
  - 55 yrs: can withdraw savings
  - 62 yrs: receive monthly sum from retirement



They will then have enough money for medical and daily expenses & be self-reliant


## Source G



**Study Source G.**

**What does Source Q tell you about the impact of the CPF scheme on the lives of the elderly in Singapore?**

# Many Helping Hands *Approach:* **Government support**



## Public Housing Schemes



- **First-time buyers of government flats can get housing grant if they buy a flat in the area where their parents live**

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