

## Impacts of globalization on elderly care in Singapore

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As Singapore celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year of independence in 2015, the past half-century also witnesses rapid demographic transition in Singapore - from one with a high fertility and low aging rate to become a country that will soon experience one of the most rapid rate of aging in the world. Between 2015 and 2030, the proportion of 65 years and above population is projected to increase 6.9% (from 11.8% to 18.7%), surpassing even Japan within the same period (4.8%). By 2050, Singapore's aged population is expected to reach 33.6% (Yap and Gee, 2014).

This chapter focusing on understanding aging issues in Singapore will begin with a discussion of the demographic pressure facing Singapore today and in the future. We will examine the reasons leading to such demographic pressure, including changes in gender relations, care and the impact of globalization. This is followed with an overview of the development of aging policies in Singapore. Beginning with the first report dedicated to address the problems of aged in 1984, the Singapore government has since developed a whole array of policies and measures under the successful aging framework with the "many helping hands" approach to address the pertinent challenges of who and how to finance and care for the aging population. What characterizes aging policies in Singapore, especially in areas relating to family support and care? How have the most recent national action plan for aging attempt to promote independence in later years and support family in caring for their elderly? The chapter will conclude with some critical reflections and policy suggestions.

### *Reference*

Yap, M. T., & Gee, C. (2015). Ageing in Singapore: Social Issues and Policy Challenges. In D. Chan, Singapore: 50 Years of Nation-Building (pp. 3-30). Singapore: World Scientific.

### *Keywords*

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