

Singapore's Strategy To Increase Birth Rate

A decrease in population poses many problems, although many countries strive to reduce their populations. The birth rates of most developed countries are way below replacement (2.1) which causes:

- a high proportion of the elderly population
- huge sums of money for retirement benefits must be paid
- high labour shortages

Causes of Low Birth Rate in Singapore

- long working hours which deprives time for family care
- expensive education which discourage people to have more children
- lack of elderly care (elderly homes).
- more burden as people have to care of their elderly parents

In Singapore, to curb population decline and the aforementioned problems the Government has :

- Encouraged single people to marry and have more babies
- Provided Social Development Unit that helps single people to meet each other
- Established more child care centers for working women
- Extended the period for maternity leave
- Introduced Flexible Working Arrangements (FWA) which allows employees to negotiate their working hours to cater for family care
- Reduced taxes for women with more than two children
- Given housing priority to couples with more than two children
- Advertised the benefits and joys of marriages on TV
- Shown stories of happy families in newspapers, magazines and billboards

Successes

Many implementations and initiatives have not been much successful.