

Civil society participation in Singapore and its impact on Social issues

Singapore is a country best described as an island, city state which is well governed by one party rule since its independence in 1965. The government is described as 'paternalistic' and 'big' in its governance of the country. Government grassroots organisations that facilitate civic participation through Citizens Consultative Committees and Residents Committees in Neighbourhood Community Centres is the largest network of Citizens as volunteers. While this well-oiled machinery runs alongside the political structures, there have been a growing number of citizen action groups and individuals who attempt to influence policy and law. These groups function largely online and have been drawing support. We will explore how these voices compare vis-a-vis the dominant culture of 'government knows best' that the older generation staunchly believes in.