
Title	Key education reports: 1956 -1987
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Source	<i>Commentary: Journal of the National University of Singapore Society</i> , 8(1 & 2), 73-74
Published by	National University of Singapore Society

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KEY EDUCATION REPORTS: 1956 -1987

S. GOPINATHAN

	Socio-Political Context	Key Issues Tackled	Key Recommendations	Key Changes to System
1956 All Party Report on Chinese Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moving towards self-govt. • disaffected non-English educated majority • political & cultural identity of new state yet to be determined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to overcome disparity in educational provision and vocational opportunities • how to use the schools for more effective ethnic integration & building of new identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equality in terms of access, structure, standards • common content curriculum • bilingualism • Malay as National Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • school expansion • second language requirements became compulsory • development of common content curriculum • move to unify/standardize the system
1961 Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Vocational and Technical Educ. in Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moving towards a more self-reliant economy with less reliance on entrepot trade and more on manufacturing • need to lessen unemployment • need for skilled manpower for industrialization plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to provide systematic training within a general education system • how to ensure that technical education is seen as a viable alternative to liberal education • how to improve in-service training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secondary commercial and vocational schools should be established • Singapore Polytechnic should develop into a college of advanced technology • vocational institutes should be set up • the public sector should take the lead in apprenticeship training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishment of commercial and vocational schools • beginning of public campaign to highlight value and relevance of technical and vocational education
1979 Report on the Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concern over educational quality due to rapid expansion • concern over poor language attainment • rapid industrialization leading to need for skilled manpower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoidance/reduction of wastage • inadequate bilingualism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • streaming • ability-differentiated curriculum • changes to length of courses • changes to examination structure • establishment of Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction of streaming • changes to curriculum & curriculum materials • changes in bilingual requirements

Key Education Reports : 1956 — 1987 (contd)

	Socio-Political Context	Key Issues Tackled	Key Recommendations	Key Changes to System	
1979	Report on Moral Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concern with societal integration • ill effects of westernization, adolescent anomie, rise of counter-culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • content of moral education • methodology — how to teach, who to teach and how to evaluate • in what language to teach moral education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emphasis on key, common values • to allow use of English in moral education courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction of <i>Being Becoming</i> and <i>Good Citizen</i> • introduction of Religious Knowledge options for upper secondary students
1987	Report of the Economic Committee*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economic recession, lay-offs • need for economic re-structuring into high-tech. to maximize use of human resources • need to promote creativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to ensure a well-educated, competitive work force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade median education level of workforce • emphasize flexible skills, innovation • stress need for continuous training & re-training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction of BEST, WISE and MOST courses
1987	Towards Excellence in Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concern to ensure that S'pore's best resource can be adequately developed • from economic survivalism to excellence and a "Swiss standard of living" by end of 1990s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to provide schools with more autonomy to improve education qualitatively • how to balance competitive academic orientation with pastoral care • career guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to establish independent schools • to promote pastoral care and career guidance • single session schools • smaller pupil-teacher ratio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • several schools to become independent • implementation of pastoral care and career guidance programme • introduction of Special Elective courses in Art and Music • promotion of Thinking Skills Programme

* Though not an education report many of its recommendations have significant implications for the education system.