Essay Outline

“Young people today have never had it so good.” Is this true of youth in your country?

Introduction

“You (Singapore teenagers) are a generation that is especially blessed.” MM Lee Kuan Yew mentioned this in his speech in 2007. It seems to suggest that the youths today are blessed with a good life both materially and non-materially. While it is true that Singapore teenagers are living in an especially vibrant and prosperous time in our country, we may not be blessed with as ‘a good life’ as our parents or grand-parents in the non-material sense.

Main body

Opposing view – why young people today have never had it so good

The opportunities in improving out standards of livings, education and job prospects are more abundant than ever before. Thus, teenagers today are a blessed lot, especially if we continue to contribute and participate in this rapid growth and evolvement of our city state, and reap the ‘good fortune’ that it affords us.

· Economic growth – even after Asian Financial Crisis, post September 11-crisis, global sub-prime mortgage crisis in 2009

· Education – changes in education landscape with more choices (IP, IB, niche schools, new university etc.)

· Vibrant Singapore – integrated resort, introduction of Formula One racing, Mosaic Festival, Esplanade

Rebuttal – why opposing view is wrong

While the essay so far has shown the material blessings and apparent ‘good fortune’ that the economy and opportunities have afforded us, this wealth does come with its price and opportunity costs.

(Must show why the youths are unable to reap these benefits of ‘a good life’)

Supporting view

· Stress: Some of the considerations would include the increasingly unhealthy stress levels faced by our teenagers and working adults in this frenzied pace to keep up with change and evolution of our society. Our mental and physical health has to be monitored more closely with these increased stress levels.

· Aging population: youths today face the burden of having to support many elderly dependents eventually

· Youths have to keep up with many changes today – whether in terms of technology or education for instance. They face more stringent expectations as compared to their parents and grandparents; academically for example, there is more competition and greater emphasis placed on CCAs and one’s portfolio.

Conclusion

Though youths may enjoy much material happiness and seem to enjoy a better life than their predecessors, they do face their unique sets of challenges and problems though these may be not as easily discernible and tangibly quantified. Hence, it is difficult to compare the lives of youths today and youths yesterday and fairly judge who has it better.