

The social adjustment of youth in residential homes

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Abstract

While various studies have been conducted on social adjustment of youth, there are limited empirical studies on residential youth in Singapore. Boys' Town is conducting a comparative study to gain deeper insight to the social adjustment of residential youth in Singapore. The focus is on two groups of youths – youths from residential and non-residential settings, and investigate social adjustment based on the youths' perceptions of teacher support, peer support, sense of belonging to school, education and family bonding. The study aims to:

- a. Determine which independent variable(s) – Peer support, Teacher support, Family bonding, Attitudes to education, and Sense of belonging towards school – has the strongest correlation with the dependent variable (social adjustment);
- b. Attempt to address the differences between the social adjustment of residential and non-residential youth; and
- c. Explore recommendations to improve residential programmes and services.

The study utilises qualitative and quantitative study approaches, and comprises of self-administered questionnaire – with youth from residential and non-residential setting, and focused group discussions – with a proportion of the youth who took part in the survey questionnaire.

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