

Objectives

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRE

- Comparative study to determine common grounds and differences for facilitating interactions
- Understand how to encourage social interactions between in public spaces (specifically parks)

[BUR] Public Parks for FD...
Opened Feb 4, 2020

[IND] Public Parks for FD...
Opened Feb 4, 2020

Public Parks for FDWs!
Opened Feb 4, 2020

Public Parks: Space, Peopl...
Opened Feb 1, 2020

[PHI] Public Parks for FD...
Opened Jan 31, 2020

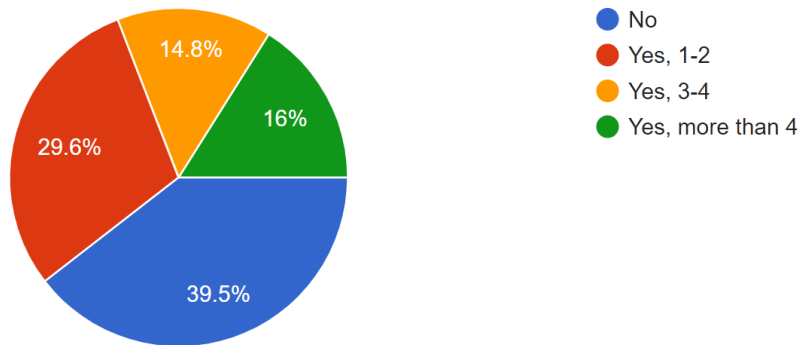
Sample profile

DISCLAIMER: Questionnaire was conducted through a mix of face-to-face interviews/informal guided conversations with FDW participants selected by convenience sampling. Not all data is captured within the form results. Analysis takes into account responses unofficially recorded in the form and documentary observation field notes.

Group 1: Singaporeans

Do you have/ have you had a foreign domestic worker before?

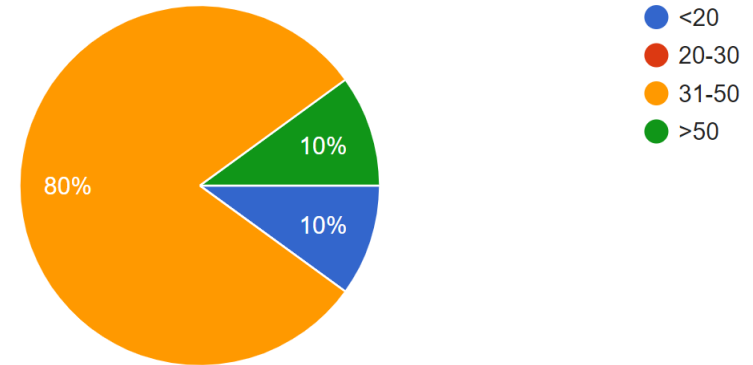
81 responses



SGN: responses mostly limited to own social circle
(university students, siblings, few parents)

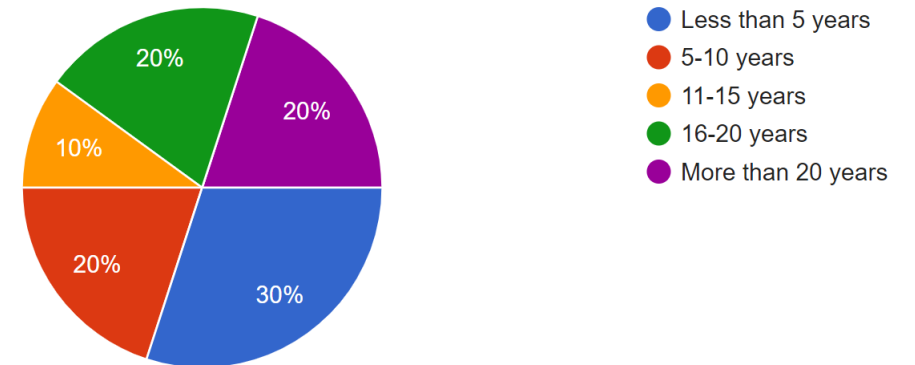
FDW: tried to get equal representation for each nationality

Group 2: FDWs



How long have you been working in Singapore?

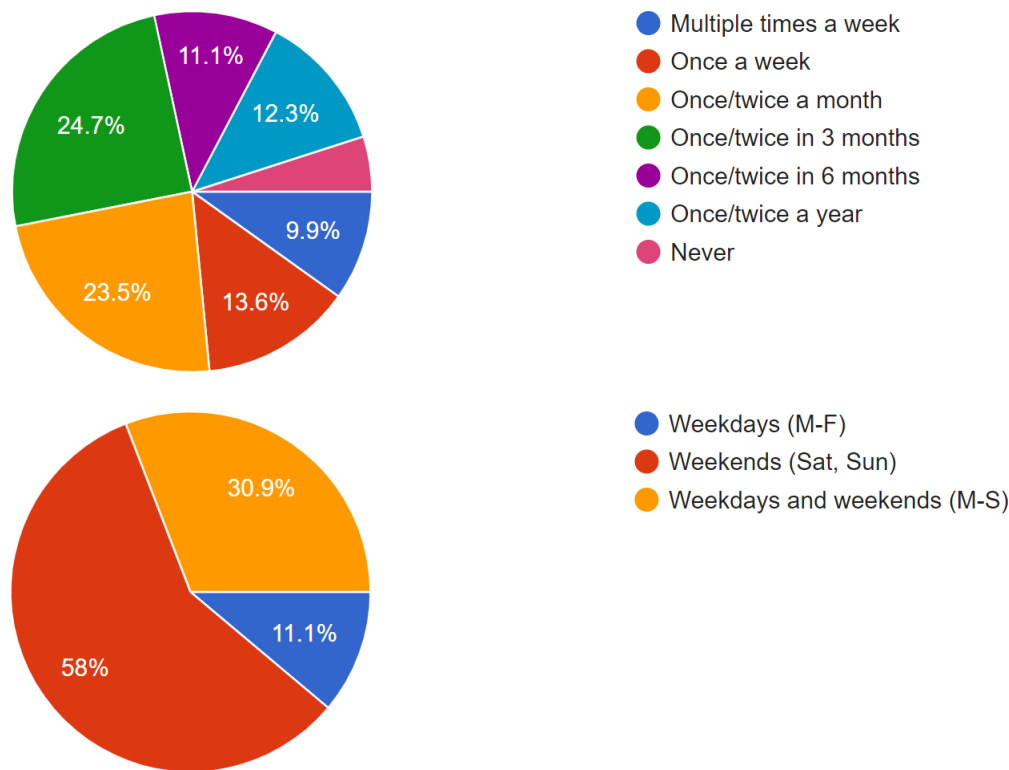
10 responses



SPACE: Time

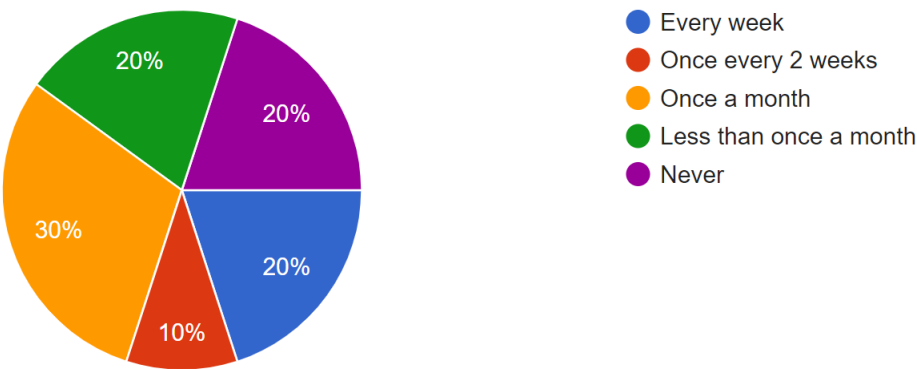
How often do you go to a park?
What day(s) of the week do you normally go?

Group 1: Singaporeans



Group 2: FDWs

How often do you go to a park on your day-off?
10 responses

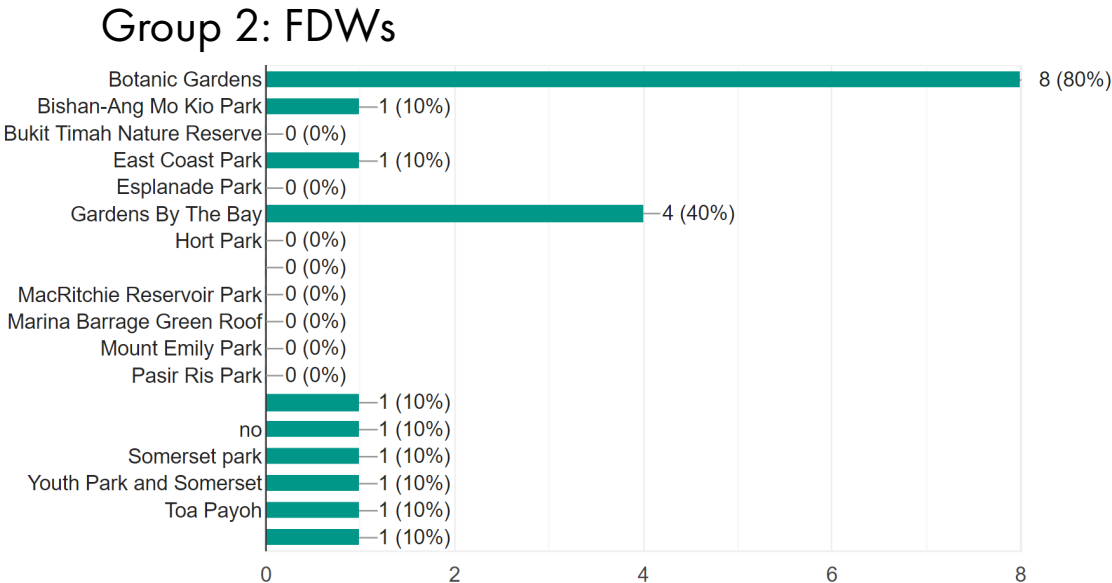
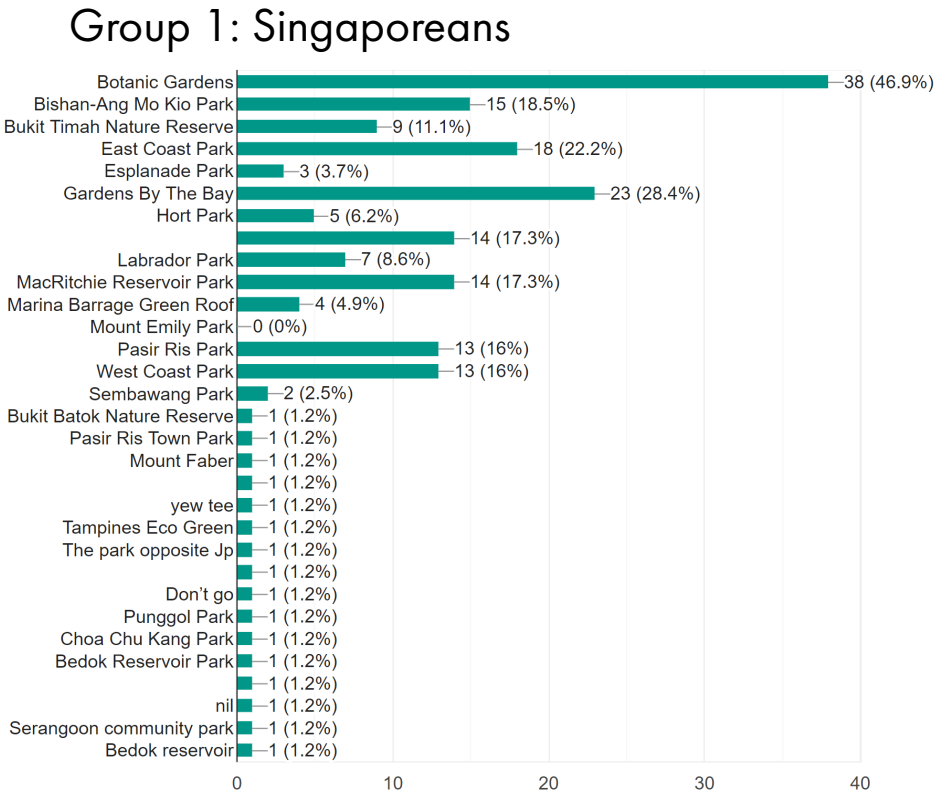


Analysis: Intervention can be organized on **weekends**, both Singaporeans and FDWs can be found in public parks

SPACE: Location

Which park(s) do you visit normally? (Top 3)

* Listed park options based on lit review & online research on parks frequented by Singaporeans / FDWs



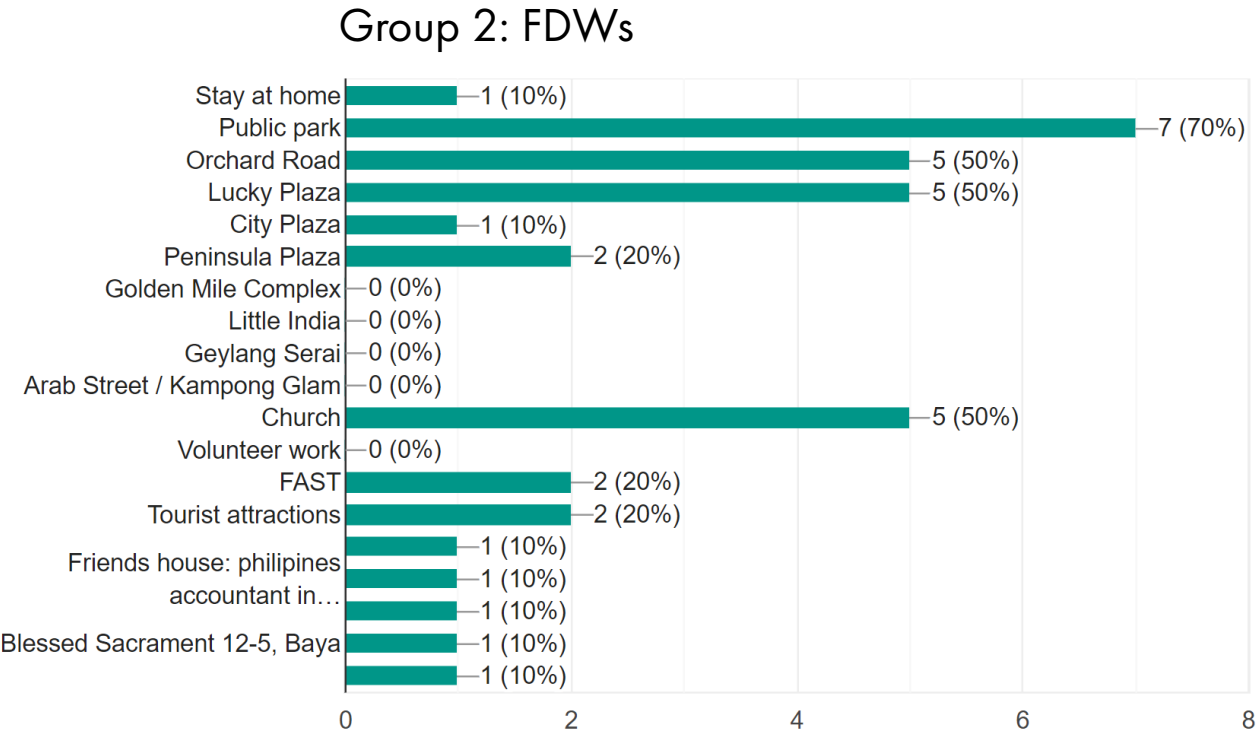
Analysis: **Botanic Gardens** identified as location with greatest potential
Only other park popular with Singaporeans too that is not an “enclave” park (Somerset, Esplanade, Youth Park)
Further analysis of whether they take notice of FDWs in parks they visit by comparing locations indicated by FDW respondents

SPACE: Location

Where do you like to go on your day-off?

Other spoken responses & documentary observation:

- PHI:
- MYA:
- IND:

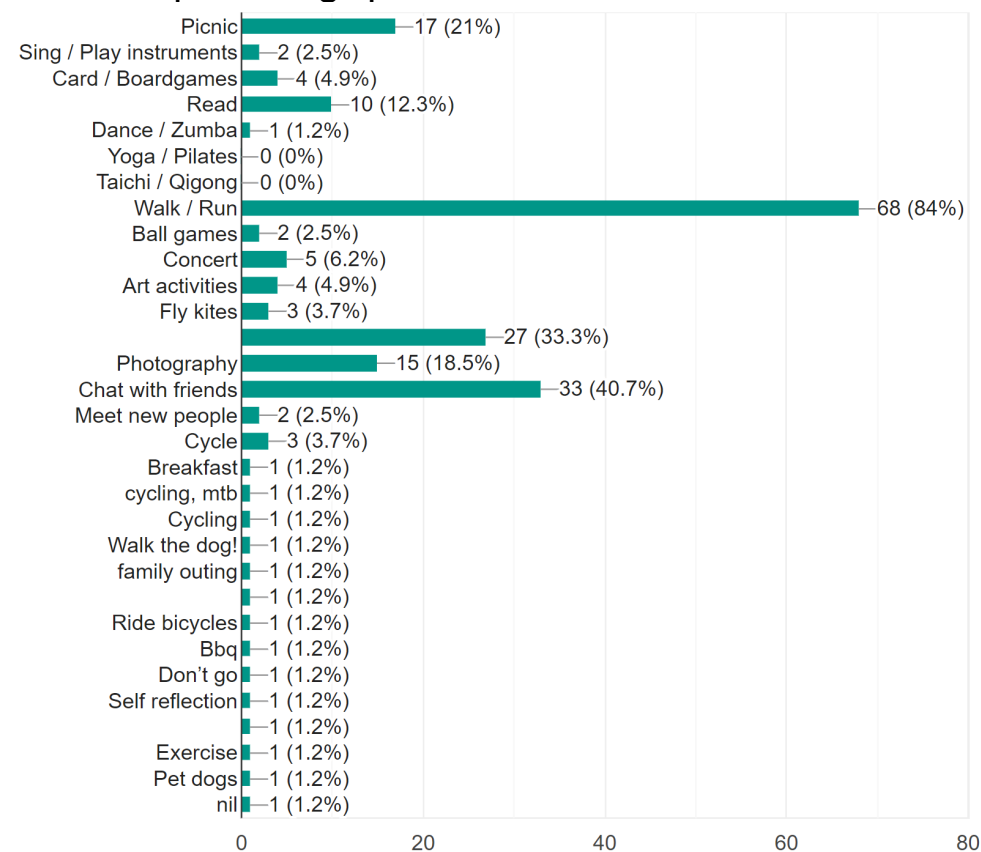


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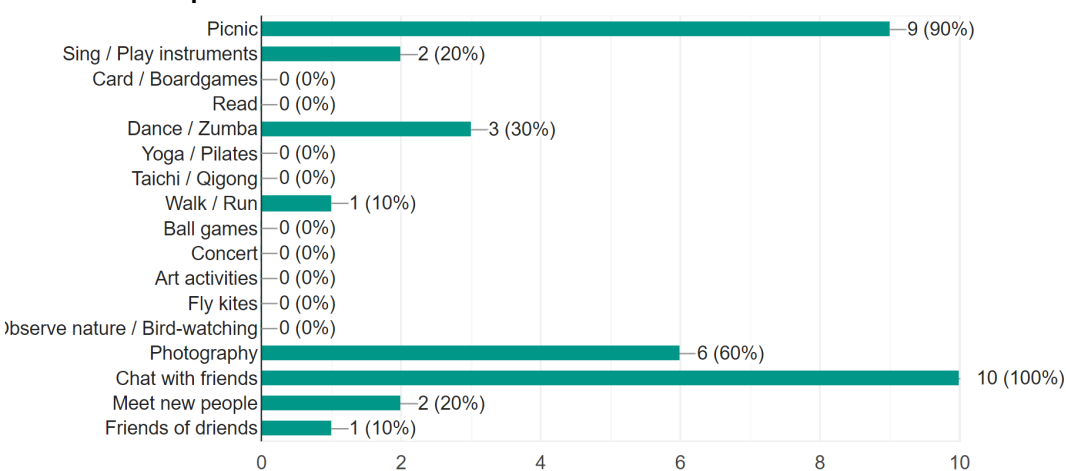
ACTIVITIES

What activities do you like to do at the park?

Group 1: Singaporeans



Group 2: FDWs



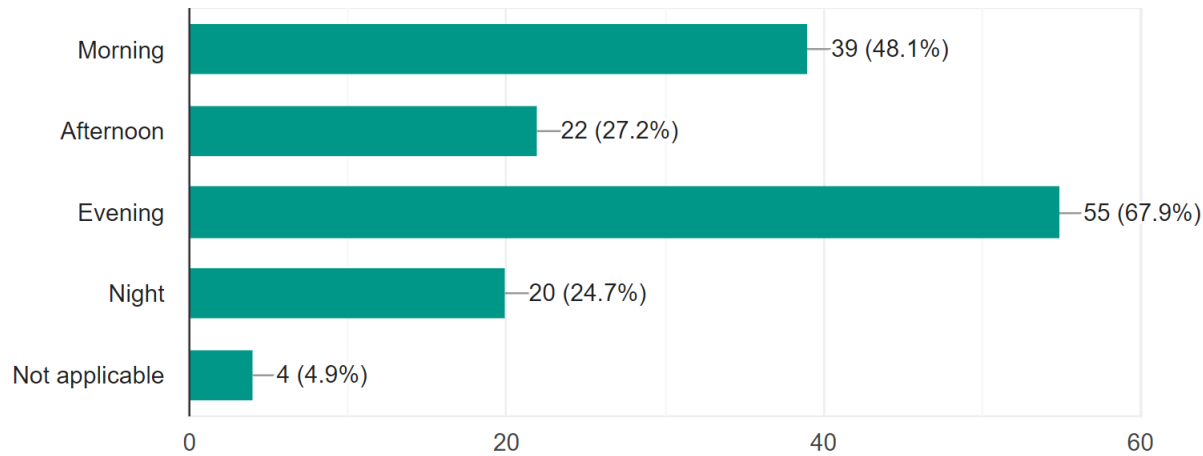
Field documentary observation:

Analysis: **Picnicking (food = binding agent), photography and chatting with friends** are common interests that can be tapped on (VS “lack of common interests” cited as reasons from both parties)

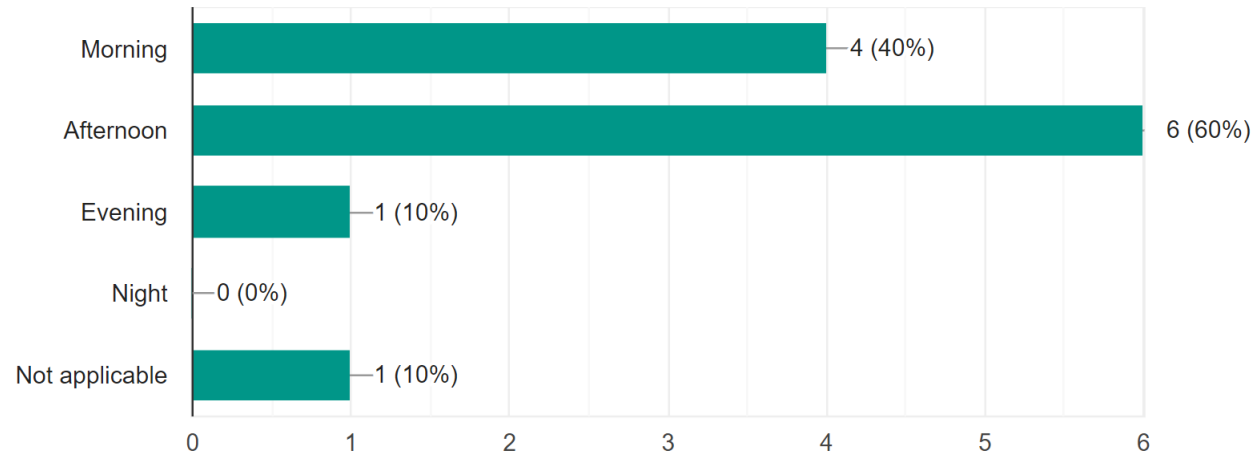
TIME

At what time(s) of the day do you go to the park?

Group 1: Singaporeans



Group 2: FDWs



Notes: 2 main patterns in visiting times from conversation

1. Arrival from early morning, leave mid-afternoon
2. Chores/church/errands in morning, arrival early/late afternoon

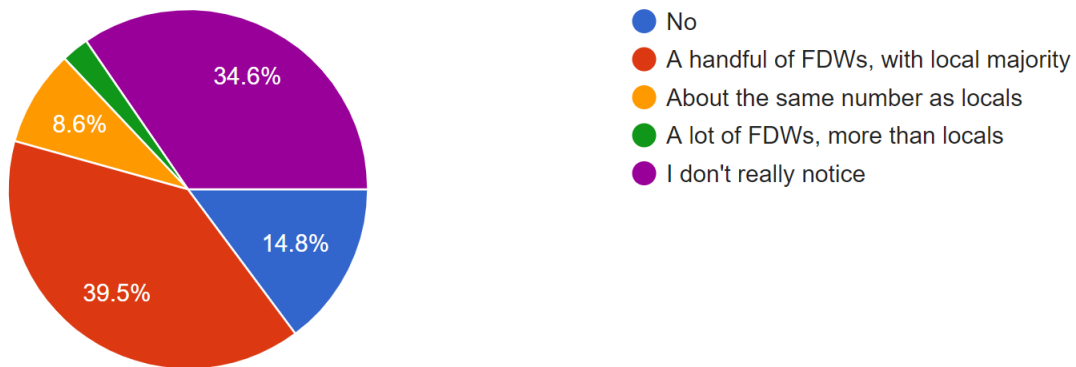
*leaving time varies depending on FDW's curfew and travelling time from park back to home, common curfew times are around 6/7PM

Analysis: Visiting times are dependent on activity, period from late morning to mid-afternoon has most potential (11AM-4PM)
Interactions can span any duration from 15min (spontaneous interactions) to 2hours (sustained event-based engagement)

VISIBILITY

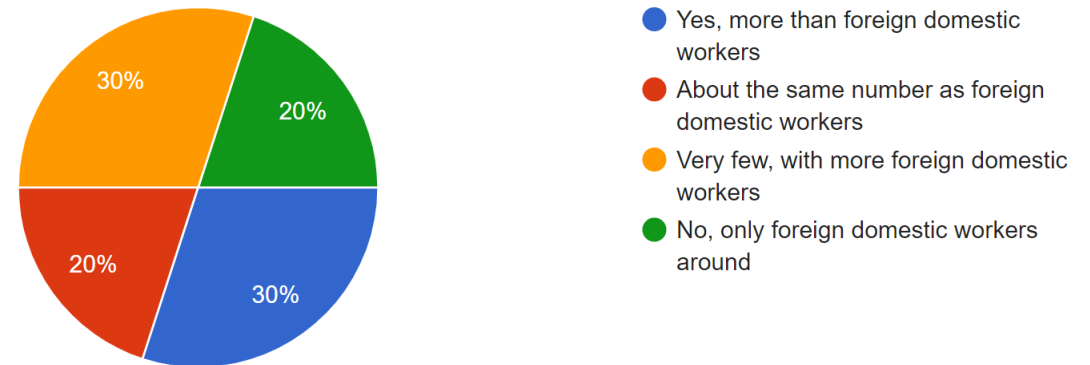
Do you find any FDWs in the parks you visit?

Group 1: Singaporeans



Are there many Singaporeans/expats in the parks when you visit?

Group 2: FDWs



Notes: talking to FDWs revealed that even in “non-enclave” parks like Botanic Gardens, they do not consider there to be many Singaporeans. With SBG, many responded that more expats and tourists can be seen.

Analysis: Singaporeans find that they usually make up the majority in parks they visit or *don't really notice FDWs*. Only other park popular with Singaporeans too that is not an “enclave” park (Somerset, Esplanade, Youth Park) is Botanic Gardens, although expats form a large part of the visiting group here too compared to **heartland parks**.

PEOPLE

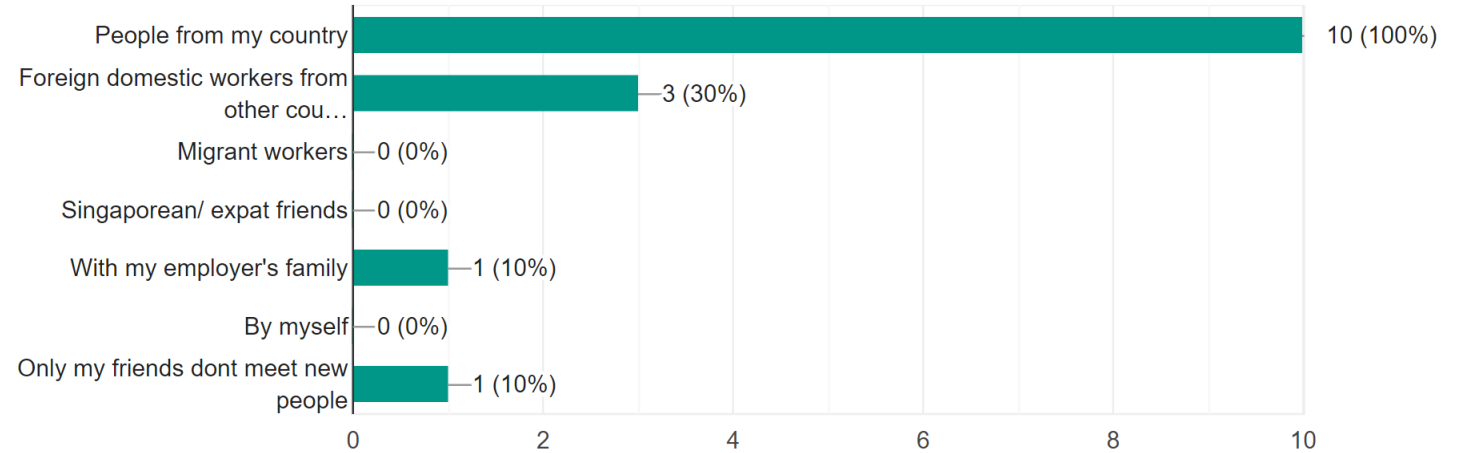
Who do you go to the park with?

Group 1: Singaporeans

Field observation:

- If not alone, time in parks are spent with family and friends
- Sundays = “family days”, largely families with young children enjoy picnics and ball games together

Group 2: FDWs



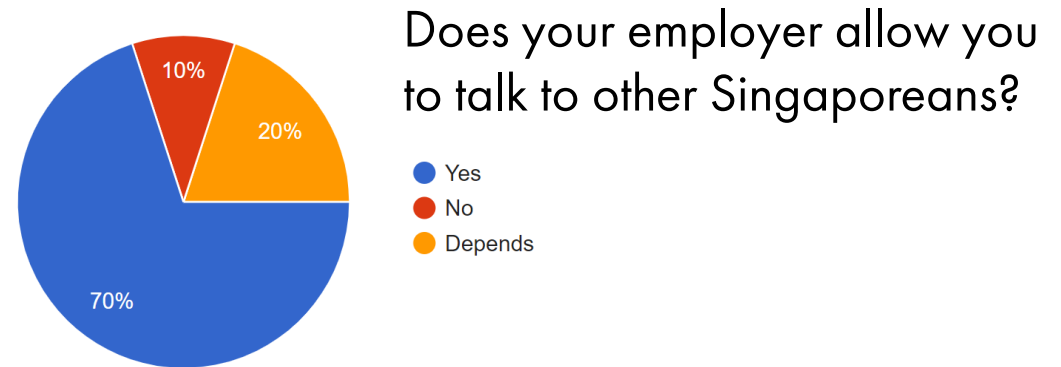
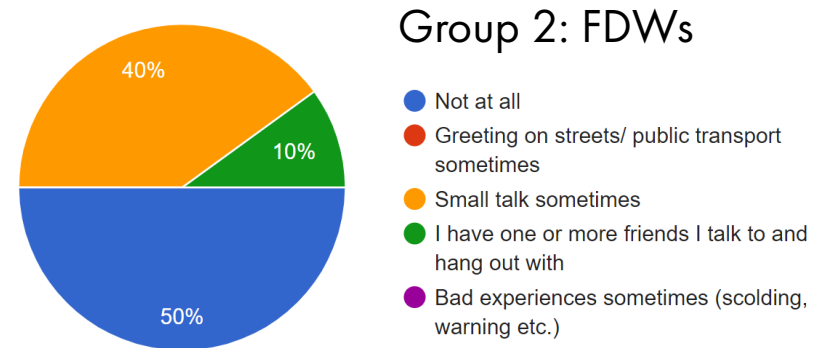
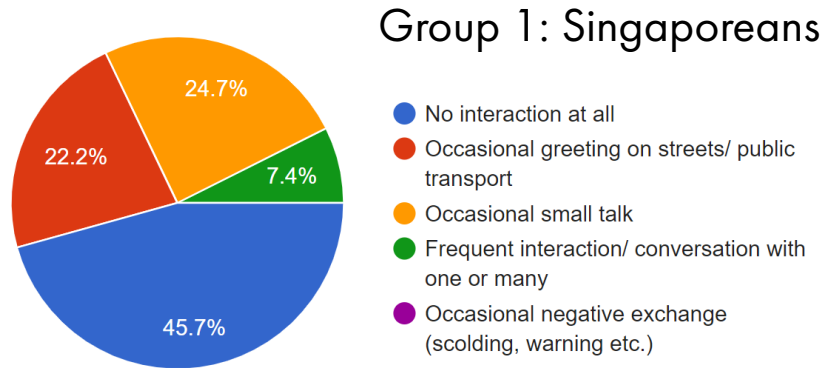
Field documentary observation:

- Without family, FDWs hang out with fellow countrymen and FDWs (limited social connections they have managed to find in their limited free time in SG based on common circumstances)
- Some FDWs can still be observed as “workers” following employers (taking care of children/elderly etc.) within parks (not day-off)

Analysis: Because Singaporeans necessarily designate weekends to spending time with family when they can be found in parks, any **deep/** meaningful interactions between SG-FDW might have better responses when **pre-organized than relying on spontaneous interaction (agreement and interest expressed before hand → sign-up)**

INTERACTION

What interactions do you have with FDWs/Singaporeans besides your own FDW/employer's family?



Analysis: Limited to no interaction between FDWs and Singaporeans
Among FDWs, examples of interaction given include greeting of neighbours and stall owners
* Questionnaire flaw- natural for participants not to indicate any negative experiences/ interactions (especially FDWs)

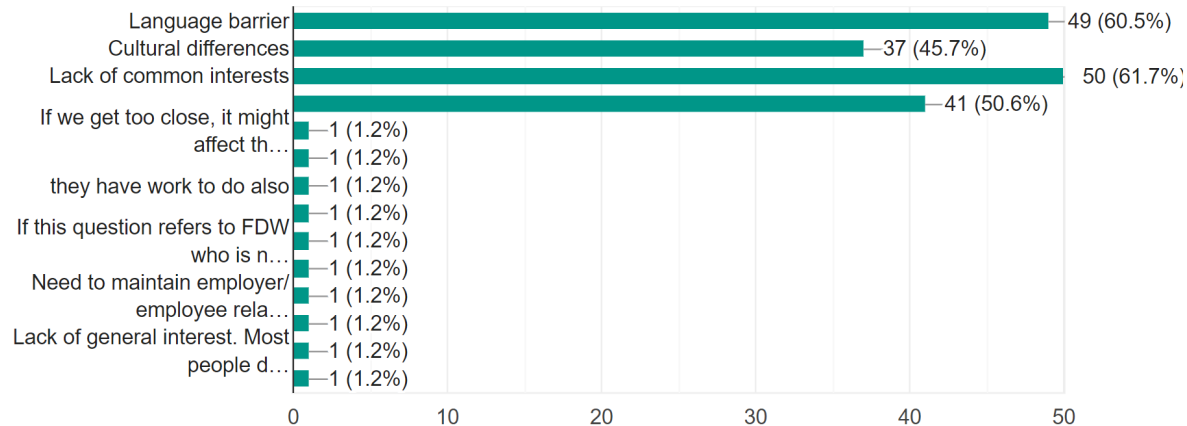
INTERACTION: Barriers

What barriers do you think there are in interacting with FDWs/Singaporeans?

Group 1: Singaporeans

What barriers do you think there are in interacting with foreign domestic workers?

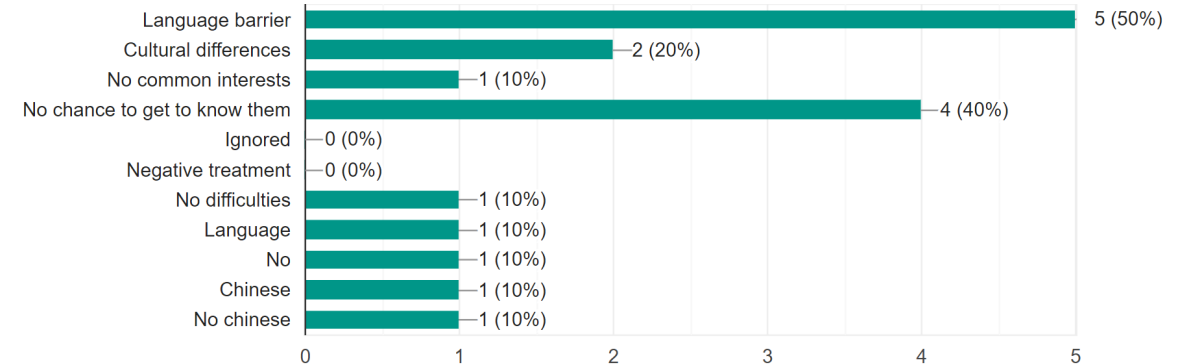
81 responses



Group 2: FDWs

What difficulties do you have when talking to Singaporeans?

10 responses



Analysis:

- New insights to other barriers besides listed options from Singaporeans: Lack understanding/knowledge on how to interact with them (**sensitivities**/how to approach differences), causing fear for some
- **Prejudice** and employer-worker/class differences are evident barriers: "Need to maintain employer/worker relationship"
- **General lack of interest** in interacting with all people/ no time

- Prejudice goes both ways*
Strong belief that Singaporeans and specifically Chinese are hostile and discriminatory in their treatment of FDWs ("No Chinese", "No")

- One sheepish suggestion on common interests: **"food"**? Filipinos and Singaporeans love food!"

INTERACTION: Value/Sentiments

Do you think it is important to integrate FDWs and make them feel welcome in Singapore’s society?
Why or why not?

Group 1: Singaporeans

Yes as they are here for long periods and need social support
Yes. They are giving up so much by leaving their families and contributing in their own ways to Singapore. The least we could do is definitely to make them feel at home and appreciated. Treating them like outsiders should be the last thing we do.
Yes because they also reside in Singapore for Long periods of time.
Yep!! So that there will be no misunderstandings
Yes but no. I think even among locals, we are not that integrated. So shouldn't we fix that before adding in others
There are still cultural/lifestyle differences between domestic workers and Singaporeans which makes it difficult for them to be seen as part of Singapore's society (especially since they are just here for work). Unless there are common interests, it is also difficult to have proper friendships with them.
It is because they will be/are working here and should feel safe and at home in the society.

Think integration is difficult, they have their own culture and we should respect that too. But welcoming them is important, or at least show that we don't hate them. They are the reason why our country and its people can prosper and also have buildings to stay in.
Probably. They're here just like any human, trying to make a living of their own so they should deserve the basic stuff that everyone has access to
Yes, multi-racial community
Yeah, maybe! After all households with domestic workers are slowly becoming a ubiquitous sight. Welcoming them could help them to adapt better as well as better support their employer's family since they understand our culture better.
I think it depends on the foreign domestic workers and whether they want to be actively integrated into the society! Some foreign workers would rather be supported but not integrated as they're more comfortable being around people with the same culture and eating their own food rather than being forced to try new things. Of course, there may be some who would like to be integrated, but either ways they should be made to feel welcome :)

INTERACTION: Value/Sentiments

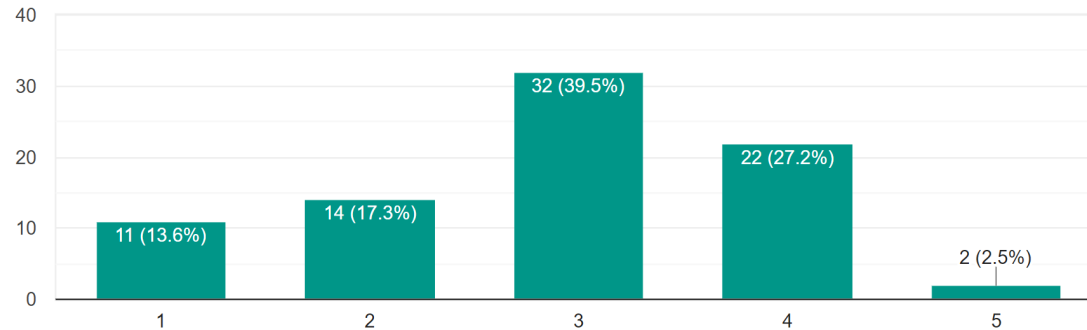
How interested are you in interacting with FDWs and getting to know them?

How interested are you in learning about their cultures?

Group 1: Singaporeans

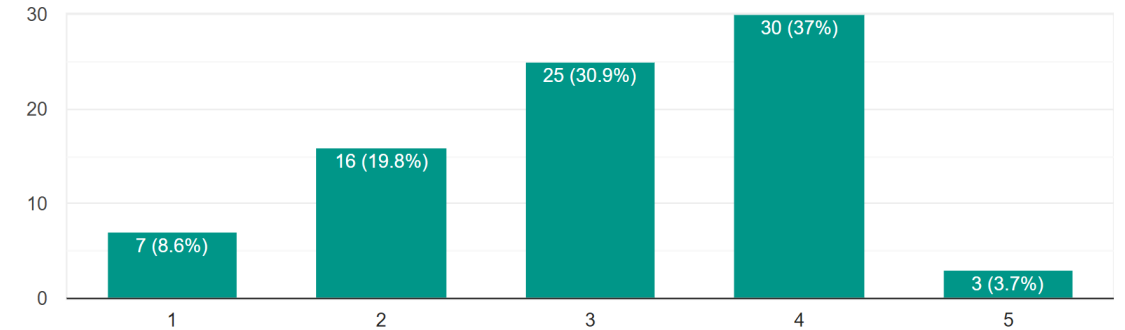
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81 responses



How interested are you in learning about their cultures?

81 responses



Analysis: Youths are surprisingly quite open to interacting with FDWs, more likely than respondents >31 also
Cultural exchange is a potential interaction/conversation topic to set-up

INTERACTION: Value/Sentiments

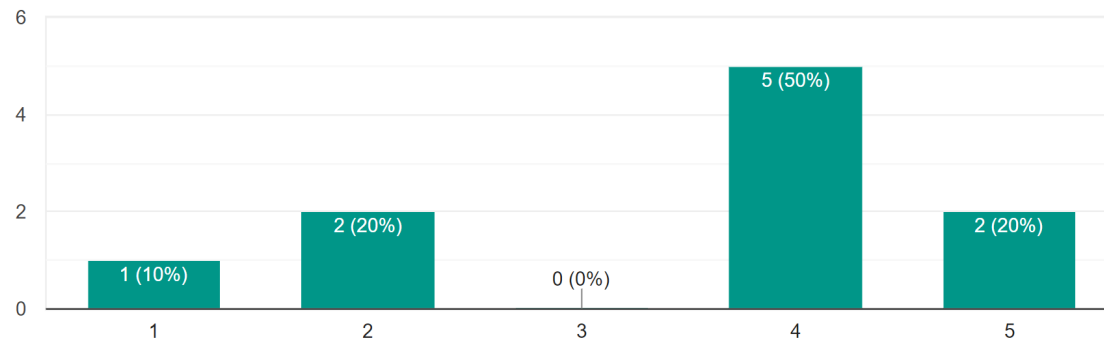
If you could, would you want to talk to and make friends with Singaporeans?

If you could, would you want to share your country's culture and traditions with Singaporeans?

Group 2: FDWs

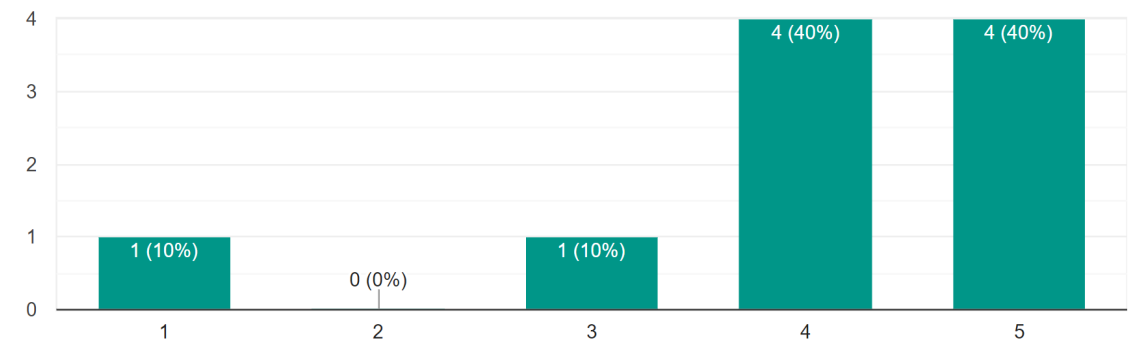
If you could, would you want to talk to and make friends with Singaporeans?

10 responses



If you could, would you want to share your country's culture and traditions with Singaporeans (places, food, music, people, life etc.)?

10 responses



If yes, what would you like to share and help them learn about you and your community?

Food ("chicken stew", "Myanmar beef salad beef and potato curry, green tea leaf salad")

Music, culture *needed prompting

Analysis: Prejudice and negative perceptions of FDWs from Singaporeans was a clear barrier that had to be hypothesized to not exist in order to get the responses above "*if* Singaporeans wanted to get to know you..."
Otherwise, (convenient sampling flaw) FDWs **generally open** to trying to interact with Singaporeans (**and friendly even**)
Food identified with potential for cultural exchange

INTERACTION:

What do you miss and love about your country and people?

Group 2: FDWs

Culture Timor Java music food

Kids family 2, food, hometown, relatives make me happy

Family culture Filipino dish penapet

Beaches, food, waterfalls, coconut tree

M

Kind helpful people charity culture

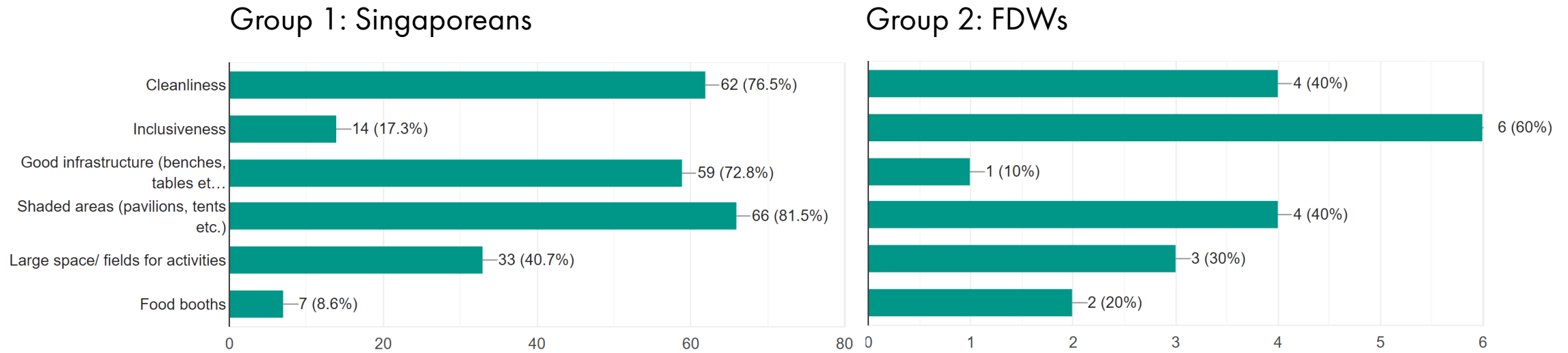
Family food big gathering

Family food family bonding picnic celebration everyday party love to eat and eat small gathering is happiness for us

Analysis: **Food** identified with potential for cultural exchange
Of **home**, they treasure feelings of **community** and a “kampong spirit” where everyone looks out for each other (lacking in SG)
Learning about their **circumstances** back home in another country could add dimension to FDWs in Singaporeans’ perception

SPACE: Factors

For public events held at the park, what do you consider important? (Top 3)



Field documentary observation

- Importance of shaded area for both groups (tree/shelter etc.)

Analysis: Singaporeans find that they usually make up the majority in parks they visit or *don't really notice FDWs*
Only other park popular with Singaporeans too that is not an "enclave" park (Somerset, Esplanade, Youth Park)

SPACE: Inclusiveness

How welcome and comfortable do you feel in Singapore's parks? Why?

Responses to this question are limited in how meaningful they are in revealing sentiments of FDWs about a sense of "welcome" in parks

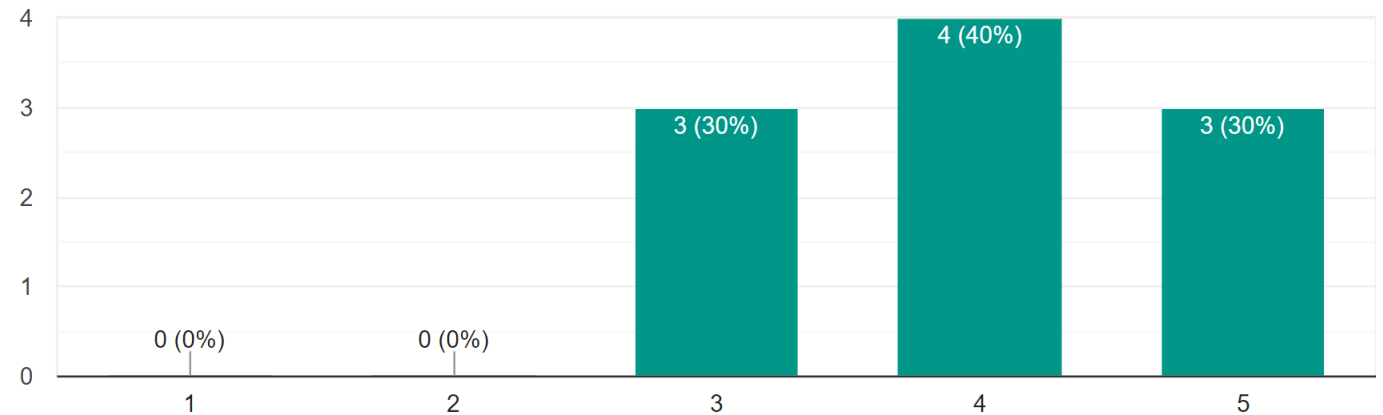
Evaluation of question's flaws on hindsight:

- Convenience sample consists of FDWs with greater freedom and respect in treatment from employers (being able to have a day off and spend time in a park itself versus other less lucky FDWs)
- Unlikely to respond truthfully
- Hard to find out about feelings of "welcome" and "comfort" with respect to public eye/treatment, especially with language barrier

Group 2: FDWs

How welcome and comfortable do you feel in Singapore's parks?

10 responses



"being surrounded by nature reminds me a lot of my kampung, with the chickens also"
(Botanic Gardens)

"near to workplace, relaxing, very nice"

Analysis: Parks do bring FDWs sense of comfort, freedom and relaxation (especially relative to being in their employers' homes)
Important factors include **being outdoors, having fresh air, close to nature**