

BACKGROUND ...

CURRENT SITUATION ...

Demand for Private Institution Including Commercial and Technical Schools, Fine Arts, Language and Others

As of 1989, there were 84 technical, commercial and correspondence schools compared to 79 schools in 1986. Private commercial schools include the YMCA centers which offer a wide range of courses such as brush party, floral arrangement and photography.

Other commercial schools offer six month to one year diploma courses in Business and Marketing or secretarial courses. There are 10 correspondence schools offering one year home study courses in management, electronics and other technical courses.

Private fine arts schools continue to be popular as shown by the increase in number of schools from 40 in 1986 to 58 in 1989. The majority, music schools (eg : Yamaha Music School has 5 branches), account for 62% total of the number of fine arts schools. Other fine arts schools offer courses in dance and other performing arts.

Likewise, the number of language schools has also increased by 30% from 10 in 1986 to 22 in 1989. 32% are Japanese language schools

Because of the trend towards Information Technology (IT), there is a proliferation of private computer schools offering courses in programming and applications (eg : CAL Computer Training, Informatics Computer School).

Other private institutes include kindergarten schools/child care centers.

FUTURE TRENDS

With the government thrust towards making Singapore workers among the most globally qualified and trained, the demand for education services is expected to increase.

The government's commitment to education is seen in the growing allocation of funds (from S\$60 million to S\$100 million) to the Skills Development Fund (SDF) for training over the next 3 years. Further, another S\$20 million a year over the next 5 years will be set aside to enhance training for workers through enhanced learning opportunities, training programs, trainers and training facilities.

Because of the strong emphasis placed by the government on skills development and training, there is a large potential for growth in the area of adult training in various media. Current and future EDB programs in the direction of television led training programs offers opportunities to Canadian consultants in this field of expertise.

Furthermore, opportunities are also available for suppliers of training technical equipment. Like Genetron Engineering which carries the Canadian brand of laboratory lab-volt. The type of equipment which they supply to technical institutes like the VITB include computers, machines and other instruments required for technical training.

The private sector is also expected to increase its investments in worker education. On the average in 1989, employers increased their investment in the workforce to 1.5% of their payroll (up from 1% in 1988). However, this is still quite low in comparison to the 4% extended by global multinational companies.