



EIGHT FACTS ABOUT SEX IN SINGAPORE YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW



Sex is a topic that Singaporeans are not willing to talk about, but is an integral part of our lives.

Singapore's economy is ranked as the most open in the world (as per Global Enabling Trade Report in 2010, and dropped to a still impressive 2nd place in 2014) but the same openness is not there when it comes to sex.

Here are eight facts about sex in Singapore you definitely should know.

I. LOW BIRTH RATE

- According to the World Bank as of 2013, with a population of 5.3 million, Singapore is well-known for low fertility rate and laws against pornography.
- Singapore struggles with a fertility rate below 1.4, way below the replacement rate of 2.1 to maintain population levels (Although 33,793 Singaporean babies were born in 2015—the highest number in 13 years).





2. LESS HETEROSEXUAL MARRIAGES

- According to a report in June 2016 by Department of Statistics, **28,322 couples wed the previous year, slightly down from a five-decade high of 28,407.**
- There were more **breakups—7,522 divorces and annulments, which is a 2.9 per cent rise from 2014 and the third highest annual figure on record.**
- Lawyers say that between a third and half of the divorces they handle involve a cheating spouse.



3. WOMEN IN SINGAPORE ARE MORE SEXUAL

- In a 2013 survey conducted by pharmaceutical company Menarini, close to 80 per cent of women aged 18 to 45 would like to have more sex, compared to 69 per cent of their counterparts in Asia-Pacific.
- They are more likely to bring up sexual needs and problems, with a third willing to speak up if something were amiss, less than 25 per cent of men would do the same.
- These women were primarily worried about hurting their partner's feelings were they to point out the problem.



4. ABSTINENCE-BASED SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Living in the most expensive city, many Singaporeans delay their marriage for building the careers and making more money.

The Ministry of Education maintains that 'abstinence before marriage is the best course of action for teenagers'.

So, what happens to the 'good girls and boys' who wait until marriage to have sex?

They will find themselves disconnecting from their sexuality, not knowing how to have sex, experience difficulties in consummating their marriage, and of course, not enjoying sex.



5. KIDS WATCHING ONLINE PORN

Under the **Undesirable Publications Act**, **section 292 of the Penal Code of Singapore**, and **sections 29 and 30 of the Films Act**, it is illegal to keep, distribute or sell pornographic materials. Of course, that leaves online porn.

In June 2016, Touch Cyber Wellness surveyed and released the finding that nine in every 10 teenage boys have watched or read sexually explicit materials within the past year.

6. SEXUALISED GAMES IN UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION CAMPS

- In July 2016, news broke that sexualised games were played at freshmen orientation camps at National University of Singapore.
- This tradition outraged the public, and sponsors pulled out of the event.
- Such exaggerated shows of bravado about sex might seem 'adult' but in reality, it is an overcompensation of their own ignorance and discomfort around sex.





7. HOMOSEXUALITY REMAINS ILLEGAL

- In **Section 377A of the Penal Code**, ‘any male person who, in public or private, commits, or abets the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any male person of, any act of gross indecency with another male person, shall be **punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 2 years**’.
- Started in 2009, Pink Dot SG is an annual, non-profit, free-for-all event in support of the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)** community in Singapore.
- There have been counter-campaigns by religious groups, threats of violence against the community, and this year, the government said it would ‘take steps to make it clear that foreign entities should not fund, support or influence’ events.

8. SURPRISE

- In seven years of practice, vaginismus has remained the top reason couples seek out my coaching services on numerous occasions.
- It happens when a woman's vagina shuts down, making penetration difficult or impossible. Many women with primary vaginismus find themselves unable to consummate their marriage, enjoy penetrative sex, or procreate.
- This affects one in 10 women globally, but I receive a few enquiries every week, and even dubbed vaginismus as an 'epidemic', having worked directly with more than 400 couples.
- A couple's baby-making plus one plan may be a distant impossibility, unless the government acknowledges how the lack of comprehensive sexuality education is causing ripple effects, and irreparable cascading damage to the lives of the people.



CONCLUSION

1

In conclusion, while statistics can be elastic, the above should give us a snapshot of the sex landscape of Singapore.

2

Singaporeans are left to their own devices when it comes to sex.

3

For all the government incentives and campaigns for raising the birth rate, it begs the question: did anybody ever ask what happens to the people who did not have any sex education, and now find themselves not knowing how to have sex or overcome them?

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has a doctorate in
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**WHAT SERVICES DOES
EROS COACHING
PROVIDE?**

- Sexuality Coaching
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She is the only **certified sexuality educator** by the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counsellors and Therapists (AASECT) in Singapore.

This accolade is only for those who meet the stringent requirements determined by AASECT, a leading professional organization for sexuality educators, sexuality counsellors and sex therapists in the US.

In short, she strives to be the one of the best sexologists in the world.



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