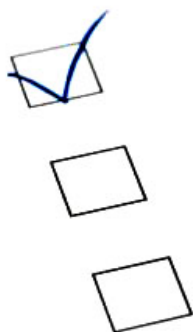


# Graciousness survey

22 Apr 2010



Singaporeans have become slightly more conscious of the need to clear their plates at hawker centres but are still not showing enough courtesy on the roads.

This according to a graciousness survey conducted earlier this year by the Singapore Kindness Movement.

Lin Jiamei finds out if Singaporeans are truly a gracious lot.

Some one thousand people were polled in the survey which is into its second year.

The respondents, who are mostly locals, were asked if Singaporeans are gracious in six areas.

They include behavior on public transport, at work and while driving.

There was an improvement in about half of these behavioral traits and a drop in the other half compared to the results last year.

What has improved?

Clearing plates after eating in food courts, keeping public toilets clean and allowing passengers to alight first, to name a few.

Eighteen per cent of those polled said Singaporeans do clear their trays, an improvement over the 7 per cent figure last year.

Still, MOST of them were either indifferent or feel that much more can be done.

Raymond Ng is the Managing Director of Added Value Saffron Hill, the firm which conducted the survey.

**"The indifference group tend to be bit bigger in Singapore as compared to countries like China, Thailand or Malaysia. They tend to be a bit more either negative or positive. But Singapore, we are known for that group of fence sitters, we sit in the middle we do not have an opinion, some call it "bo-chapness".**

Areas in which Singaporeans did not perform as well include being considerate to the elderly and pregnant women, parents showing respect for teachers and behaviour while driving. For example, 60 per cent of the respondents say parents here show respect for teachers, a drop from 72 per cent last year.

General Manager of the Singapore Kindness Movement Secretariat Teh Thien Yew, on what the organisation plans to focus on in the coming year.

**" If you remember we used to have the the Singa statues in public places, maybe we will have more of that. We are also trying to come up with what we call the mirror check where as you check yourself in public places, be reminded that it is nice to smile and kinder to other people and it is good for you. "**

Overall, Singaporeans scored 61 on the graciousness index, three points more than last year.