



Community-based Lifelong Learning in Singapore

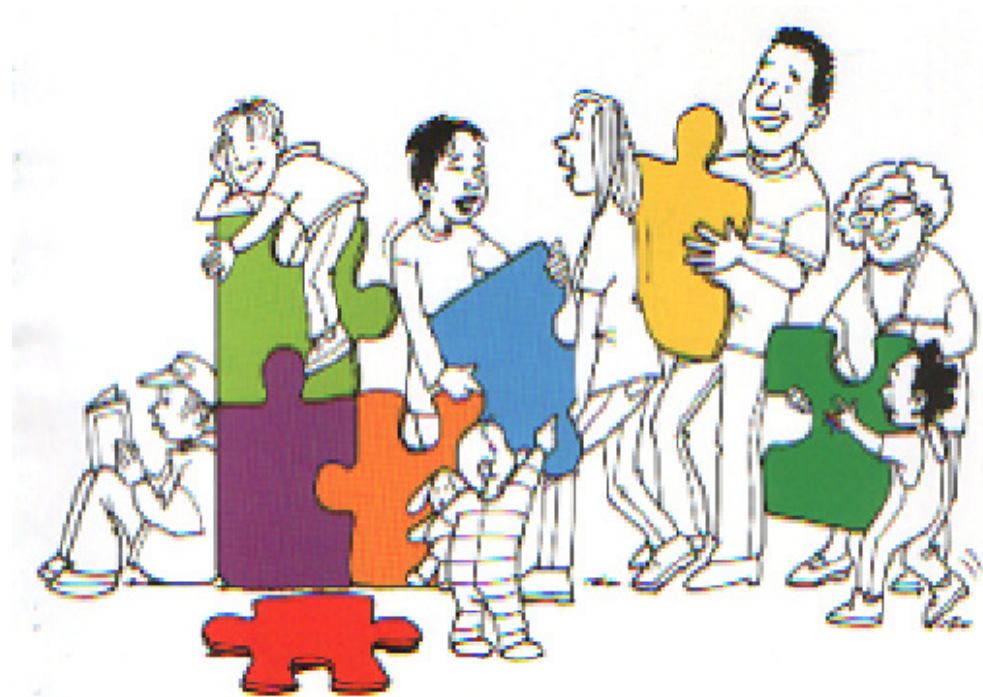
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What is Lifelong Learning (LLL)

- voluntary pursuit of knowledge for productive employment and/or self enrichment
- Occurs throughout the life course
- Formal, informal & non-formal learning
- not limited by age, structure, place or subject matter
- Important building block of active ageing



Why Lifelong Learning

- Improves employability
- Lowers risk of dementia
 - Play board games: 74% lower risk
 - Play an instrument: 69% lower risk
 - Do crossword puzzles: 38% lower risk
 - Dance: 76% lower risk
 - Learn a new language
 - Gardening
- Boosts self-confidence and esteem
 - enhances active independence
- Promotes social engagement & continued participation in society
 - prevents social isolation and lowers risk of depression



Profile of Seniors

Current Seniors (aged 65 and above)

- lower educational qualifications & SES
→ less inclined towards LLL
- main concerns: *“lack of confidence to attend such classes”, “too old to learn something new”, “not interested or motivated”*
- Major impediment: lack info on LLL programmes



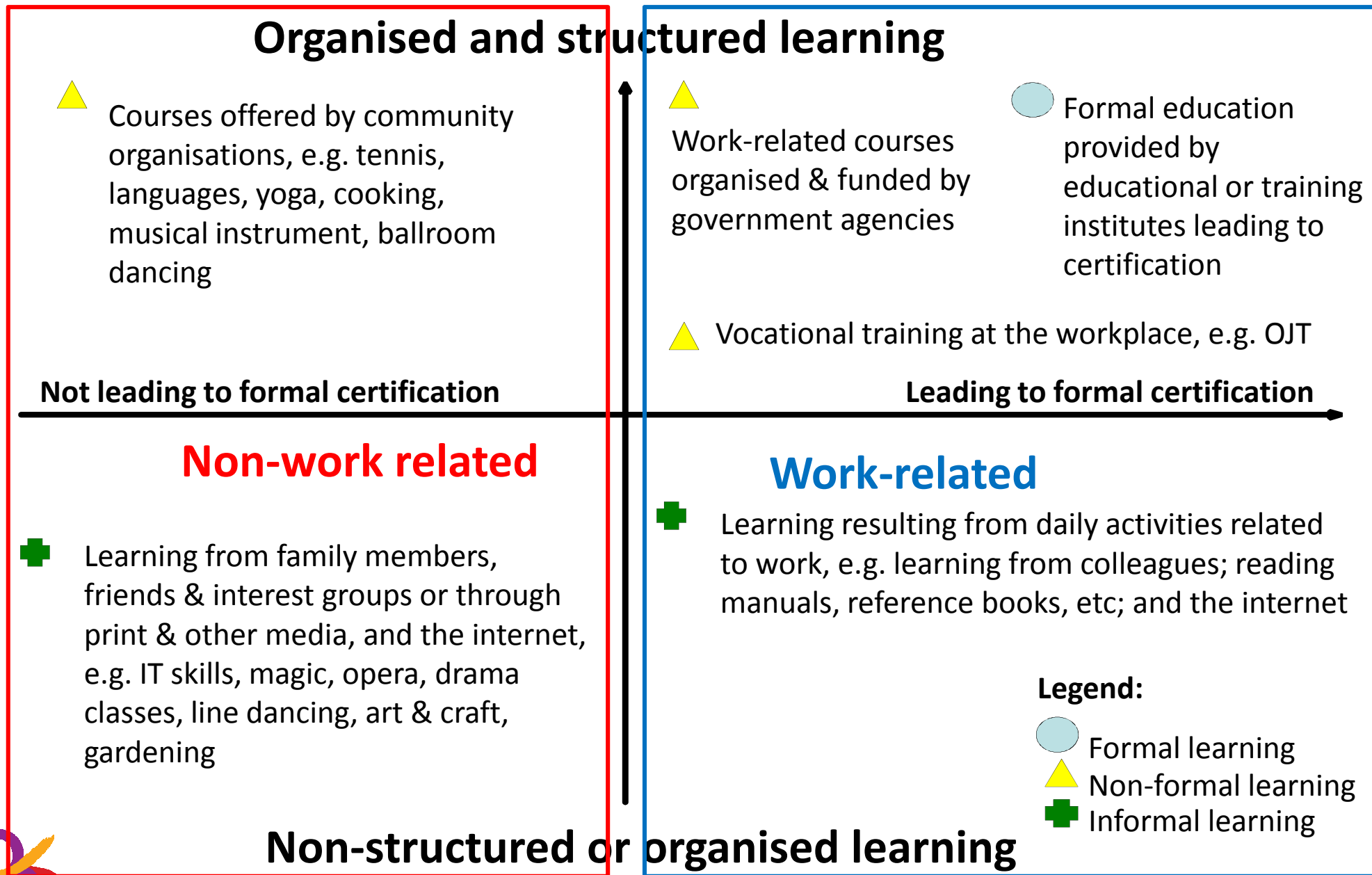
Future Seniors (middle age & baby boomers)

- Better educated & social-economic statuses
→ more sophisticated learning needs
- More IT savvy and self-directed in LLL
- Prefer group learning (75.2%) and gathering info to teach themselves vs current seniors (57.6% vs 40.3%)
- Major impediment: lack of time



Source: MCYS National Survey on Learning Needs of Middle Age and Seniors 2008
C3A Understanding Baby Boomers 2009

Types of Learning



Source: Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports

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Assessment of Existing LLL Players

- **Institutes of Higher Learning**
 - **budding** development in formal accredited courses for seniors
 - full fees
- **Government Agencies**
 - **growing** in research and offering of community-based LLL for seniors
 - nominal fees
- **Non-Profit Organisations**
 - **most vibrant** sector offering a variety of non-accredited LLL for seniors, mainly lifestyle oriented
 - nominal fees or free
- **Commercial Parties**
 - **Moderate offering** of accredited & non-accredited courses for vocational and non-vocational purposes
 - Full fees, few subsidies for seniors

Environmental Scan: Gaps

- Raise awareness of LLL benefits and existing offerings
- More research on motivations for learning, reduction in seniors' LLL inhibitions (*Demand*)
- Catalyse agency-driven community-based LLL for current seniors
- Build capacity of LLL service providers(*Supply*)
- Inject intergenerational elements



Future: self-driven community-based LLL

Community-based



- Less structured, informal learning where seniors enrol out of self-motivation to stay mentally and socially active
- Broad goals:
 - promote social participation of seniors & foster social cohesion
 - encourage active independence
 - enhance the mental and social wellbeing of seniors
 - empower seniors to contribute to society through continual impartation of knowledge & skills



Intergenerational Learning Programme (ILP)

Objectives:

- enhance mental and social wellbeing of seniors
- foster a flourishing community-based LLL landscape to offer seniors choices
- facilitate experiential learning for youths
- improve public perception & attitudes towards ageing & seniors
- build community support & intergenerational solidarity



Partners for ILP Pilot

Content Providers



Schools



Raffles Institution

Strategic Partners



MCYS
Ministry of Community Development,
Youth and Sports



Lingnan 嶺南大學
University



<http://www.elderacademy.org.hk>

NPOs



Fei Yue
Community Services



Curricula for ILP Pilot



Source: IDA

- IT
- Health Management

Important to involve seniors in designing the curriculum, what & how do they want to learn?



Up, up & Away...!



- Expand ILP: primary to tertiary, childcare centres?
- Establish a cross-sector network of LLL partners
- Outreach to seniors through a variety of channels, e.g. word of mouth, radio, 50plus Portal, print, TV