

MSF SOCIAL AND FAMILY RESEARCH FUND SUGGESTED THEMES

| S/N | Themes | Examples of Possible Topics |
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| Family - Family Development and Functions | | |
| 1 | Aspirations and needs of senior citizens ¹ | <p>Understand the emerging trends relating to the family and societal support of the senior citizen population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact of Grey Divorce on the well-being of senior citizens ▪ Presence of different support systems to provide for the physical, emotional and financial needs of different groups of senior citizens (e.g., childless couple, never-married, and the divorced and widowed) ▪ Senior citizens as a source of strength for the society |
| 2 | Family dynamics, including “extended” and “intergenerational” dynamics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nature of family network and sources of support in Singapore ▪ Role and state of intergenerational family support, communications, and its implications on family/individual functioning and well being |
| Family - Vulnerable Groups | | |
| 3 | Intra-familial elder abuse or disabled adult abuse/neglect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad causes and trajectories of intra-familial abuse / neglect of elderly and disabled adults (i.e., how it develops/escalates and the final state) ▪ Effectiveness of the different modes of intervention to restore family functions ▪ Relative effectiveness across different family profiles |

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| 4 | Children / youth delinquency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk and protective factors that influence the likelihood of children engaging in delinquent acts ▪ It would be of interest to understand possible tools that could be used to look at baseline risk for the general children/youth population, and study the differences with children/youth delinquents |
| 5 | Risk and protective factors for re-offending among youth offenders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In-depth study on the risk and protective factors that changes the likelihood of youth offenders re-offending ▪ Considerations should also be given to particular segments of youth offenders who are relatively less understood today |
| 6 | Better engagement of families in Singapore's child protection and welfare system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Factors that lead to better engagement of families in Singapore's child protection and welfare system ▪ How can child protection or child welfare workers better engage families? |
| 7 | Disability support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding the needs (physical, emotional, financial, etc.) of different profiles of persons with disabilities ▪ Enhancing employment support for persons with disabilities ▪ Enhancing support for caregivers ▪ Understanding how we can better promote the uptake of design and technology-related solutions to help persons with disabilities live more independently within the home and community |

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| 8 | Validation and norming of psychometric measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment tools for use on Singapore's population on vulnerable populations in Singapore |
| Family - Child Development | | |
| 9 | Parenting practice, caregiving roles and children outcomes | <p>Understand the impact of parental involvement, parenting styles and disciplinary practices on family relationships and child outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact of grandparents/parents' parenting styles and disciplinary practices on children's socialisation and self-regulating behaviours ▪ Influence of different forms and combinations of care (e.g. parents, maids, grandparents, nannies, baby- sitters, teachers) on the children's development; parents' considerations when choosing the various forms of care their children ▪ Impact of home learning environment on children's development e.g. how home reading practices/ parents' conversations with their children affects their children's language and vocabulary development |
| Society and Community - Social Safety Nets | | |
| 10 | Social mobility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk and protective factors (e.g., financial, health) |

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| 11 | Decision-making process of low-income individuals/ households | <p>Understand their decisions and thinking on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aspirations and life decisions/choices (e.g., caregiving, education, employment, housing, home ownership, marriage, parenthood) ▪ Time-use ▪ Health/healthcare ▪ Expenditure decisions (e.g., budgeting, optimising/maximising resources) |
| 12 | Family and social networks among low-income households | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family relationship/ support ▪ Social Capital ▪ Coping strategies, including how families seek help from Government and social service agencies ▪ Community-driven approaches that involve low-income individuals/families and other residents in co-designing services and the application of asset-based community development concepts |
| Services and Support Structure - Early Childhood Development Sector | | |
| 13 | Industry resourcing in the early childhood sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers' motivational factors (e.g. professional development opportunities, career progression, recognition of achievement, involvement in decision making etc.) ▪ Impact of hygiene factors on pre-school teacher attraction and retention in the early childhood sector (e.g. work environment, compensation and benefits, support from management etc.) |

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| 14 | Parents' perception of early childhood sector in Singapore | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Factors influencing parents' perception of early childhood care and education and early childhood professionals |
| 15 | Continuing professional development for early childhood educators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact of Continuing Professional Development on early childhood teachers' pedagogical practices and preschool programmes |
| 16 | Mentoring in the early childhood sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentoring in the EC sector and its influence on the attraction and retention of early childhood teachers |

¹ In February 2018, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) transferred its oversight of Senior Cluster Networks which include Senior Activity Centres (SACs), Cluster Support, Caring Assistance from Neighbours (CAN) Carers and other programmes including befriending services to the Ministry of Health (MOH). MSF continues to retain oversight of Senior Group Homes and Sheltered Homes, which are in line with its core role of looking after low-income and vulnerable Singaporeans. This transfer follows an earlier exercise in 2013, where oversight of social care services for frail seniors (i.e. social day care, home-based personal care, meals delivery and escort and transport services) were transferred from MSF to MOH.