UNLOCKING THE POWER OF AUSTRALIA’S SIKH YOUTH

Retaining Sikh identity and contributing to a thriving inclusive Australia beyond 2020
Who am I?

- Born in Bopa Rai Kalan near Nakodar in the Jalandhar District in north west Punjab, India.
- Migrated to Australia as a baby with my parents.
- Four children
- Live in an extended family on the Sunshine Coast in Qld.
- Science background
Light travels faster than sound,
That is why some people appear very bright until you hear them speak.
IDENTITY and CULTURE
YOU
FAMILY
PEERS
LOCAL GURDWARA & BROADER SIKH COMMUNITY
YOU
FAMILY
PEERS
LOCAL GURDWARA AND COMMUNITY BROADER SIKH
BROADER AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC
Expanding leadership skills and competencies
CULTURE

Expanding leadership skills and competencies
Culture is sustained through language, artefacts, rituals, stories, sayings,

How are you going to ensure that this culture is consistent and the core of SYA

Need for core values and beliefs as part of the strategic plan.
CULTURE
• Believe there is one God for all people
• Everyone is equal
• Believe in the teaching of the ten Gurus
• Non-judgemental

Expanding leadership skills and competencies
Key elements of Sikhism

- Khes (Hair), Kunga (comb), Keshara (shorts), Kara (Bracelet), Kirpan (Sword)

Explanations

- Why have symbols
- Recognition of other religions and how does Sikhism compare other religions and to Christianity.
- How do Sikh’s explain heaven
RETAILING AND
PROMOTING IDENTITY

♦ CONTINUUM
CONTRIBUTION OF SIKH IDENTITY TO NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY

Iqbal Singh - May 1, Sydney 2010
SUGGESTIONS

♦ Use a strength-based approach
♦ Articulate your view of Sikh identity
♦ Develop your plan for a network
♦ Define your organisational culture in terms of actions and behaviours
♦ Internet cafes at functions and Gurdwara
HOW?

- Start with developing database of potential members in each state/city
- Leadership programs to articulate projects in a range of categories – Promotion of the Sikh Identity, Community Engagement Project to profile Sikhs, developing/enhancing network.
Social Entrepreneur

- finding the right kinds of collaboration to accelerate change.
SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Bonding social capital strengthens ties between similar groups in ways that benefit their members.
- Bridging social capital builds ties between dissimilar groups in ways that have wider social benefits.
- **Linking social** capital builds connections between groups with different levels of power in society in ways that build social cohesion.

(Putnam)
Building social cohesion through education

- Equity in outcomes a key
  - education as ‘social reproduction’ undermines cohesion
  - education that delivers opportunities can build cohesion
- Building both forms of social capital
  - bonding is important and easiest to build
  - bridging is essential to social cohesion
    - need to build networks and trust that bridge divisions
BONDING SOCIAL CAPITAL

SYA
LINKING SOCIAL CAPITAL

COMMUNITY

SYA

HEALTH

EDUCATION

SPORT

YOUTH

SMALL BUSINESS

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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