ABSTRACT

The trend of singlehood and the single-person household in Singapore was spotted some years back. Singles who are unmarried may prefer to stay on their own, separate from their parents. Currently, the purchase of public housing is only open to singles aged 35 years and above whilst the majority of housing units in the private market cater for family households.

The aim of this study is to understand the existing housing situation and needs of singles aged 21-34 years old, a group which the government and the market have not reached out to. Based on a questionnaire survey of 100 respondents, this study showed that better educated singles favour the idea of residential autonomy and most cited independence, freedom and convenience to workplace as the top three reasons for residential autonomy. They desire to be owners of studio units or residential units with at least 2/3 rooms. But, there are hindrances to home ownership. These hindrances include having other financial commitments, limited supply of studio units, private housing being too expensive and current age restriction on public housing.

Despite the difficulties involved, housing needs of young singles should not be ignored since they comprise a substantial proportion of the total population. As the number of singles in this age group increases, the government may need to relax existing housing
policies to cater to their needs. Housing supply may also be expanded to include more studio units. To aid affordability, the government and private developers can consider offering comprehensive house mortgage and renovation loan packages.