Future Trends Report
Based on Analysis of the Future Scene in Mid-Term and Final Evaluation

STEP 1. Identify Challenges

Read the Future Scene carefully and generate ideas for challenges, concerns, and possible related problems. Choose the 5 most important challenges and write them in the space provided. Include applicable research with appropriate in-text citations.

Challenge #1:
The future scene states that despite the son Jason writing countless letters to the government to give subsidies to family members and take some initiatives to help the elderly, his efforts went down the drain, making him very frustrated. This could be problematic be 2030 because if this trend persists, few people might be willing to care about the elderly's well-being when they need it, resulting in them getting neglected in the society.

Research (1): According to Jonathan Glennie, author at The Guardian global development department, the reason why the youth are cared more than the old people is because " We naturally focus our sympathies and attention on the new generation rather than the old. There is a human instinct to give a chance to the young, innocent as they so obviously are of past errors, their parents' or their country's."

Research (2): According the Institute of Policy Studies Survey for Singapore Perspectives 2018, more than a third of the Singaporeans aged 20 to 49 agreed with the view that "each generation should take care of itself, without the need to be supported by other generations."

Challenge #2:
The future scene states that after a fall, Mdm Lee could not work as a cleaner in the food court anymore, along with two other old colleagues who were replaced by robots, so she feels very useless in the society. This could be problematic in 2030 such that the elderly may not even be needed with the inception of robots who are more efficient, so the elderly will feel they are undervalued in society, even less so than robots. This will cause them to feel that they are of no worth and useless; leading to emotional illnesses such as depression in the long run.

Research (1): According to Michael Grotaus, a writer from Fast Company, states that automation will take place in not just low wage jobs that the elderly take on, "Highly skilled, knowledge-based employees in some sectors, including legal and accounting, could see their jobs decimated in the next decade."

Research (2): According to Motoko Rich of the New York, an interview with an old man Mr. Mielock whose wife is experiencing social isolation after losing her job, stated that "A job is more than a job, you know," and "It's where you fit in society."
Research (3): According to Roe B. , a researcher at the US National Library of Medicine Institutes of Health, the research results state that "involuntary job loss worsens mental health, and re-employment recaptures the past mental health status."

Challenge #3:
The future scene states that Mdm Lee felt mildly irritated when her son visited her as her son disturbed her daily routine. This is problematic in 2030 as people of younger generations may not put in effort to care for the elderly in their homes consistently, so the elderly will be too used to their routines and days without their children. This may lead to a significant drift in their relationships and the children will find it hard to communicate with their parents and take better care of them in the future.

Research (1): According to Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), around 70% of elderly residents who exchanged visits with their married children did it daily or at least once a week (Chart 7). This was slightly lower than in 2003 when around three in four did so.

Research (2): According to Samvedna Senior Care, it states that after the parents' retirement, they need the children's company as they "do not find purpose and meaning in their day" and "no one spends time with them".

Research (3): According to Jaymi McCann from Mail Online, he stated that a poll of 2,000 parents also found that grandparents miss out on time with their children and "grandchildren with the average family visiting grandparents six times a year."

Challenge #4:
The moonbucks coffee advertisement in the future scene states that the media is portraying a society in which nobody would hear the elderly's pleas and help the elderly. This could be problematic in 2030 because if this trend persists, younger generations' views and perceptions of the elderly in the society may become negative, resulting in the breeding of an unhealthy and unempathetic society where the younger generation may look down on and neglect the needs of the elderly population.

Research (1): According to Hummert ML, author of The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, he states that in the society, "individuals are continuously confronted with stereotypical beliefs about older adults, often depicting them as lonely or sick." and this may "negatively impact their [elderly] self-view and well-being".

Research (2): According to Rylee A. Dionigi of the School of Human Movement Studies (Charles Sturt University), she states that "any stereotype of aging (including those that equate aging with frailty and decline, or later life with health and affluence) has the potential to reinforce ageism (i.e., social oppression based on age) because they position ill health in old age as undesirable and they do not acknowledge the vast diversity among older adults."

Challenge #5:

The future scene states that Jason's mom has to rely on all these technological gadgets. This could be problematic in 2030 because if this trend persists, there may be increased dependency on such gadgets and that little or no interaction may happen between the younger generation and the elders. This may result fewer family bonding activities and lesser face to face physical interaction with the elderly, leading to widening inter-generational gaps .

Research (1): According to Sunday times, wider efforts must be made across society to bridge the age gap which is eroding a mutual sense of responsibility and interaction between generations. This has grown because of the atomisation of society, a greater reliance on the state, and the fragmentation of interests.

Research (2): According to Toh Ee Ming, a journalist, wrote in an article on Today that Madam Yang, 59, often feels "lost" in a wired-up society seemingly fuelled by technology on steroids despite spending all her life in Singapore. She struggles to understand terms such as "blogging" and "browsers", and has not heard of Instagram or Twitter...

Research (3): According to Leng Leng Thang from National University of Singapore, social structuring of age has contributed to an extent the gap among generations. One important dimension of age segregation is 'institutional age segregation' where different age groups are isolated from the socially constructed division according to chronological age, such as the channeling of the young into day care and schools and expecting seniors to live separately in age-homogenous retirement communities.

STEP 2. Select a Fundamental Problem

Using the challenges listed in Step 1, identify a problem of major importance to the Future Scene situation. Write your Underlying Problem making sure your question clearly explains the action that will be taken and the desired results/goal of that action.

Incorporating Challenge(s) # _2-5_____

Underlying Problem:

Given the inference we have made that elderlies in 2050 are likely to suffer from the potential problems of being left out in society and problems communicating with their children, how might we increase the elderly's inclusiveness in society so that the elderly will not feel left out in Singapore in the year 2050 and beyond?

STEP 3. Produce Solution Ideas

Generate solution ideas to the Underlying Problem in Step 2. Choose the 5 most effective solutions and write the elaborated ideas in the space provided. . Include applicable research with appropriate in-text citations.

Solution #1:

Solution #1: We, the Ministry of Senior Generation(MSG) will work together with the rest of the government to ensure more elderly friendly products would be developed. For example, we can develop teleportation portals which link to every senior citizen's home for their transportation to be much easier. This ensures that those elderly who have difficulty walking can get around more easily. This ensures that travelling for them is more convenient and they would not feel that it is a hassle to get around. Therefore, they will be more motivated to step out of their house and become more connected with the society. This policy will be enforced island-wide and tabled for Parliamentary Discussion by 2040.

Research(1): According to Technologyreview.com, "Researchers in China have teleported a photon from the ground to a satellite orbiting more than 500 kilometers above."
APA citation: Emerging Technology from the arXiv(2017, July 10). First Object Teleported from Earth to Orbit. Retrieved August 11, 2018, from
https://www/s/608252/first-object-teleported-from-earth-to-orbit/

Research(2):According to news.com.au," experts claim thanks to a complicated theory in quantum mechanics, entire objects and even humans can be moved in the same way" as those photons teleported in 2017 by China. "The only thing stopping us is that it would take a humongous amount of energy and complex computing to do so."
APA citation:Margi Murphy(2017, August 9). Teleportation is possible, but how long will it be until humans can use the technology? Retrieved August 11, 2018, from
https://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/inventions/teleportation-is-possible-but-how-long-will-it-be-until-humans-can-use-the-technology/news-story/e7a972890365f35d1e1cc4129dfcc1eb

Solution #2:

We, the Ministry of Elderly Welfare, will work together will the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) to start an initiative called the "Elderyoung Business venture". This initiative would be organised by the Ministry on Elder Welfare. For this initiative, the person in charge(hired by the government) will invite and recruit 3 elderly and 3 young adults for a joint venture. Thus 6 people will then discuss about their aims and objectives of their project. This could include entrepreneurship or inventing a new item. The "Elderyoung Business Venture"(EBV) will decide whether to approve of their project. After approval, the Venture will give them courses to prepare them for their business or invention. When EBV thinks that the group is ready, they would give the group a sum of money to carry out the business or invention on the condition that the business must pay EBV back some of the money they earned. The money earned by the venture would be used to support other groups who are recruited by the venture. This will ensure that the elderly's experiences and the young adults' new and creative ideas can be utilised to build a successful business or create a good invention. This would also give the elderly more chances and job opportunities to come out of their retirement, which will not cause them to feel useless and feel that they can be part of the society. This policy will be enforced in companies island-wide and at a larger scale in some companies which may be more suited for the elderly and will be tabled for Parliamentary Discussion by 2040.

Research (1): According to Fann Lim of Channel News Asia (Business), quite a number of able elderly have retired once and all three of them have come out to work once again like Mdm Chua Ai Gek, 67, retired from her job as a hotel cleaner but was recruited as a bartender again as the boss thinks that "mature workers tend to be a bit more loyal and punctual and the company even compromised to let her "work to their head office, and letting their two elderly workers start in that morning" as it's difficult to work in the dark at night for the elderly.

Research (2): According to Eillie Anzilotti, in an interview with Kathryn Lawler, the director of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging, she says "Our cultural and structural disregard for older populations is almost the last prejudice we're allowed to have."

Research (3): According to Eillie Anzilotti, in another interview with Paul Irving, the chairman of the Center for the Future of Aging at the Milken Institute, states that science prolonging life is "maybe the most extraordinary accomplishment in the history of mankind" but he says "unless we shift our attitudes and responses to aging, it will go from being a miracle to a crisis."

Research (4): According to Ben Steverman, author from Bloomberg, the research states that "U.S. seniors are employed at the highest rates in 55 years." It also states that "Almost 19 percent of people 65 or older were working at least part-time in the second quarter of 2017", according to the U.S. jobs report.

Solution #3:
We, the Elderly Psychology Association (EPA), will work with the Ministry of Home Affairs to assign a social worker to everyone above the age of 65. The social worker would visit them on a weekly basis to chat with them and help them with various stuff such as their housework. The social workers would have question which would access the elderly's overall well-being prepared, and those question would be asked when chatting with the elderly. The social workers would also carry a "Care-Elder" a device which could record down the elderly conversation with the social workers and analyse it. Then, report about the needs and emotional health of the elderly would be printed and passed on to the adult children. This ensures that the adult children get weekly updates about the elderly's needs and well being, so the adult children can understand their elderly parents better. The social worker chatting with the elderly would also ensure that the elderly feel understood by a listening ear and become less lonely. With more understanding by their adult children and less loneliness, the elderly's inclusiveness in the society will increase.. This policy will be enforced island-wide and will be tabled for Parliamentary Discussion by 2040.

Research (1): According to Poorna Banerjee Dasgupta from arxiv.org"deduction of human emotions through voice and speech analysis has a practical plausibility .", thus showing that we can analyse elderly's emotion through their conversation with us.
APA Format:Poorna, B.D(Oct, 2017) Detection and Analysis of Human Emotions through Voice and Speech Pattern Processing [On-Line]. Available:https://c/ftp/arxiv/papers/1710/1710.10198.pdf Retrieved August 11,, 2018.

Research (2): According to aip.scitation.org, "The objectives of this project is to analyze human-robot collaboration and to understand humans feeling (*kansei* factors) when dealing with robot that robot should adapt to understand the humans' feeling. "
APA Format :Noraidah,B, Fairul,A.J,*and 3 others*(15 May 2015) Analysis of human emotion in human-robot interaction
 [On-Line] Available:https://aip.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/1.4915728 Retrieved: August 11, 2018.

Solution #4:
We the Ministry of elderly welfare, will work together with Ministry of National Development, to ensure at least 65% percent of eating places in Singapore, especially for hawker centers and coffee shops where more elderly go, implement elderly-friendly facilities such as railings which can secure wheelchairs(/allocated empty space for mobility scooters) and designate areas beside tables for placement of walking sticks and elderly products. This will allow more elderly to visit these places more conveniently, thus encouraging more of them to go out and engage in different activities in the society. This policy will be enforced island wide(especially for those areas with more elderly) and will be done by 2045.

Research 1: According to Heidi Godman, an executive editor of the Harvard Health Letter and an award-winning television news anchor, who said "Loss of mobility, which is common among older adults, has profound social, psychological, and physical consequences" and Dr. Suzanne Salamon, an instructor at Harvard Medical School, said "If you're unable to get out then you can't go shopping, you can't go out with your friends to eat dinner or go to the movies, and you become dependent on other people to get you places. So you become a recluse, you stay home, you get depressed…"

Research 2: According to an interview with Mr Francis Tan, 80, by Straits Times, wider walkways and accessibility ramps at newly renovated Bukit Merah View Food Centre and Market mean a much easier trip to get his cup of coffee and breakfast every morning. The retired businessman uses a mobility scooter as he is unable to walk well, after a heart bypass surgery.

Solution #5:

We, the Ministry Of Elderly Developement (MOED), will ensure that hospitals will have elderly friendly facilities such as electronic railways and moveable ramp that will make it more convenient and easier for elderlies with mobility issues, and it would be implemented in all the hospitals islandwide by the year 2050. All nurses, doctors and attendants are experienced professionals of the younger generation of ages ranging between 25-35. This will encourage more interaction between elderlies and the younger generation so as to ensure that problems like generation gaps would not occur.

Research 1: According to NCBI who conducted a "Towards Age-Friendly Hospitals in Developing Countries: A Case Study in Iran" , population of elderlies in Iran has grown rapidly in the past few decades, from 1770614 in the 1976 and is expecting it to be 25900000 in the 2050s. As the number of elderlies increases so does the need for healthcare. Given the growing elderly population, special attention to elder-friendliness of hospitals. Physical aspects of elder-friendly hospital is defined as features of environmental design including safety, physical, social and psychological needs of older adults. A variety of services are provided in elder-friendly hospitals, including easy access to hospital, appropriate timing for visits, health services and medical care, training staff, appropriate physical environment, toilets and signboards, inpatient services, admission and billing for senior patients.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4430697/

STEP 4a. Select Criteria

Generate criteria to determine which solution idea does the best job of solving your Underlying Problem and/or addressing the Future Scene situation. Select the 3 most important criteria for measuring solution ideas and write them in the spaces provided.

Criterion #1:Which solution will be the fastest to implement for the Government of Singapore so that we can increase the elderly's inclusiveness in society as quickly as possible?

Criterion #2: Which solution will be able to maximise the value of the elderly in society the most for the Government of Singapore so that the problem of the elderly having difficulty finding a place in Singapore can be resolved as quickly as possible?

Criterion #3: Which solution has the best sustainability for the Government of Singapore so that the problem of the elderly feeling useless in Singapore can resolved with its effect lasting as long as possible?

STEP 4b. Apply Criteria

List the solution ideas from Step 3 on the grid. Use each criterion to rank the solutions on a scale from 1 (poorest) to 5 (best). The weighting for one important criterion may be doubled if necessary.

Step 3 Sol'n #	Solution Idea	Criteria 1	2	3	Total
# 1	**develop more elderly-friendly products**	4	**2**	**3**	9
# 2	**set up more elderly-friendly companies comprising both young adults and elderly**	5	**5**	**5**	15
# 3	**social workers approach elderly with "care-elder"device**	4	**1**	**4**	9
# 4	**elderly-friendly facilities at eat places**	2	**4**	**1**	7
# 5	**hospitals being more elderly-friendly**	1	**3**	**2**	6

STEP 5. Develop an Action Plan and Evaluate its Feasibility

Develop your top-scoring solution idea into an Action Plan. Thoroughly explain how the Underlying Problem is solved, how the plan will be implemented, and how the Future Scene will be affected. Explain how this Action Plan is feasible with research consulted.

Writing on the reverse side or in margins will not be scored.

Action Plan derived from Solution #__2__:

How does your plan address the KVP?
Our plan ensures elderlys and young adults to pair up and do a business or invention, in this way, elderlies and young adults to incorporate their experience(from elderlys) and creativity(from young adults) to create a successful invention or entrepreneurship. This would be an opportunity for the retired elderlys to re-enter the workforce, which allow them to contribute to the society, thus increasing their inclusiveness.

How does your plan address the UP's purpose?
Our plan ensures that they have more chances and job opportunities to come out of their retirement, which will not cause them to feel useless but rather feel that they can be part of the society.

What is your timeline of implementation?
By 2040, this would be tabled for parliamentary discussion and its trial run would be by 2041. It is expected to be implemented officially by 2045.

What obstacles might be encountered?
Many young employees may find it difficult and troublesome to include and interact with the elderly.
The elderly may not want to participate in this activity.

How would you solve obstacles?
As time goes by, more mutual recognition can take place, it will just be a matter of time for the young to get used to working with elderly. The young would slowly understand the elderly's strength and recognize their experience. Then they would look up to the elderly and try to learn from the elderly
There could be more advertisement to advertise the pros of this initiative such as the elderly could get out of their retirement and find something meaningful to do such as starting a business instead of lazing around at home with nothing to do. The elderly is also contributing to the society, so that they would not feel that they are worthless to the society. The means of advertisement could be through media, so awareness could be raised about the initiative.

(Action Plan Continued)

Who are your resistors?
Some young employees may not support this idea as they might feel their jobs being snatched away by the elderly.
Also, some employers might find the presence of elderly in the workforce a burden

Who are your assistors?
The elder's family members, the media can help in advertising, the community centres can also give out brochures advertising this initiative. Together with Group Representation Constituencies(GRCs) [since they are familiar with the residents in the respective areas] can help in our "recruitment" and publicity process.

Why is your plan humane?
Without using any technology in the future world where devices and gadgets can be seen and used almost everywhere, this solution does not depend on non-living things. In addition, it promotes mutual recognition between the young and old, letting the elderly feeling more included in the society.

How will your Action Plan impact the Future scene?
As future scene shows technologies and devices becoming more integral in society while the elderly becoming to be left out, it is important to include elderly in the society too as they can still have their roles to play. As they socialise with others in workforce, a lot of physical interactions can take place, allowing them to be more included and feel useful, thus avoiding loneliness and depression.

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