

Project Terra - Making A Difference

Group 4-042

Teo Chee Hern (24) 3O2 (Leader)

Tan Wei Tjin (23) 3O2

Li Jiangtian (12) 3P2

Lucas Goh (19) 3O1

ABSTRACT

Project Terra aims to raise awareness on detrimental impacts of climate change in Singapore, specifically rising sea levels and temperature, so that youths will see the impact of climate change on their lives and take practical action to counter this. Our resource consists of a documentary and an instagram page. The documentary features original interviews with Singaporean youth activists as well as from our school's green council and through the interviews, we hope that youths will see how climate change is an extremely relevant issue and everyone has a part to do something about it. The Instagram page consists of fortnightly posts that provide facts, statistics about climate change's effect and practical tips on what everyone can do about it.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

Most students know about climate change's existence due to the wide variety of resources on the internet. However, they fail to see the relevance of climate change to their lives, leading to no action being taken. Rising sea levels would lead to more low lying lands being submerged underwater, resulting in less land for Singapore, more frequent floods, affecting businesses and impacting lives and livelihood. The rise in temperature will also lead to an increase in reliance on air conditioning, which will only exacerbate the severity of climate change.

1.2 Objective

Our objective is to show the connection between climate change and youth's lives, raising awareness on detrimental impacts, specifically rising sea levels & temperature, of climate change in Singapore so that youths will take practical action to counter this.

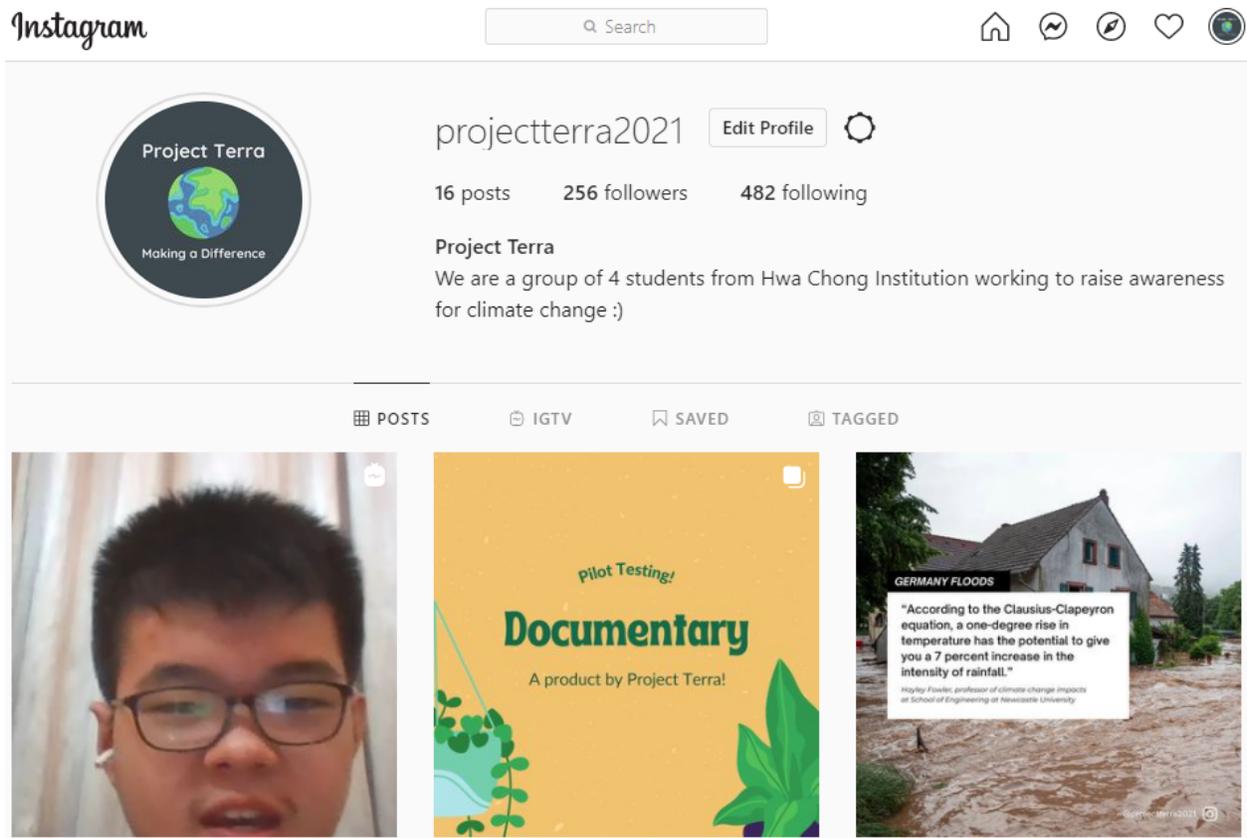
1.3 Target audience

Our target audience are youths, specifically Secondary School Students (Sec 1 - 4). This is because they come into contact with information about climate change online but do not know why they should take action about it. Furthermore, climate change is our generation's challenge and we feel that they need to be equipped with the correct mindset in order to win the fight against climate change.

1.4 Our resource

We have created an Instagram page (@projectterra2021) with over 250 followers, with a total of 13 posts, covering a range of topics such as various impacts of climate change and several suggestions on actions that youths can take to mitigate the impacts of climate change before it gets too late. With about 255 followers, we hope that we can

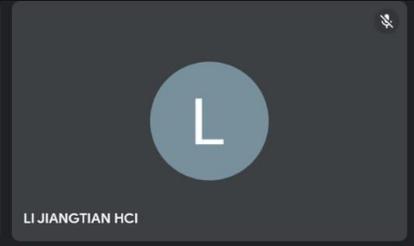
reach out to youths and enlighten, as well as inspire, them to take action against climate change.



We also created a documentary, featuring interviews with our school's green council vice chairman as well as a representative of Singapore Youth for Climate Action (SYCA). The documentary features young Singaporean activists and their fight against climate change and provide authentic role models for us. Through their examples, we could learn some practical suggestions on what youths can do to contribute to the fight against climate change.

Link to documentary:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/132wLOWPwTIhJeuyDLjQaFnmTelwDUV1v/view?usp=sharing>



2.0 REVIEW

2.1 Literature Review

Research was conducted to find out how Singapore would be affected by climate change so as to bring out the importance of knowledge about climate change among youth. According to the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS), much of Singapore lies only 15 m above the mean sea level, with about 30% of our island being less than 5 m above the mean sea level. This makes Singapore especially vulnerable to rising sea levels and climate change could potentially cause Singapore to lose land, causing us to suffer from land shortage. According to Paia Consulting, low-lying areas such as Changi, Jurong Island, Geylang, and Katong will be submerged underwater. Even Bishan and Toa Payoh, situated at the heart of the city, will be affected. This is because ocean water near the equator expands, causing water from melted ice caps to flow to the equator due to gravity. As Singapore is situated on the equator, we will be affected by the rising sea levels even more, resulting in by 2100, sea level rise could range from 1m - 2.5m.

According to the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS), Vector-borne diseases (Dengue) are endemic in Singapore, with most cases of such diseases observed during warmer periods of the year. A rise in temperature due to climate change results in frequent, severe instances of warm weather, causing more occurrences of heat stress, such as heat exhaustion, heat rash or heat cramps, and discomfort among the elderly and sick, affecting the health of Singaporeans.

The Centre for Climate Research Singapore has projected that Singapore could experience an increase in daily mean temperature of 1.4°C to 4.6°C towards 2100. Hence, climate change's extreme temperature will cause a rise in such diseases/heat injuries, affecting Singaporeans' health.

2.2 Existing resources

There are many documentaries on climate change such as CNA with “Climate Change: A Wicked Problem”, an Oscar winning documentary “An Inconvenient Truth”, “Before The Flood” by National Geographic etc. However, we feel that most of these documentaries do not provide a clear relevance on how climate change will affect youth’s lives and are looking at the issue on a global level. By having a documentary and resource depicting a youth’s perspective on the issue, we feel that it will resonate more with the audience, helping to spur youth to take action and combat climate change. Hearing and seeing Singaporean youths who are already taking action would motivate more to join in this fight against climate change.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

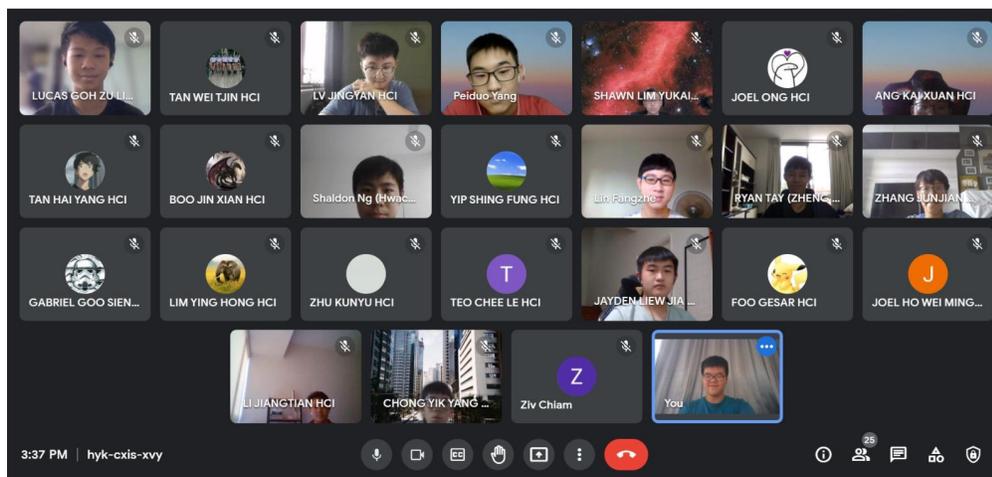
As our target group is the youth, we decided to use Instagram, a reputable social media platform which many teenagers frequent, to highlight the importance of climate change. We have also chosen to gather the opinions of organisations involved in the fight against climate change through interviews.

From January to April, we conducted our needs analysis to identify the pressing issues of climate change. We also scouted potential interviewees who could possibly answer our queries and crafted a set of questions for them. From May to June, we created and designed our resources, all the while filming and recording our virtual interviews with the organisations as part of our documentary. Finally, from July to August, we conducted our pilot test, where we invited a few students from Hwa Chong Institution to spectate our documentary and give their feedback about climate change. Throughout the course of our research, we frequently updated our instagram page with interesting facts on climate change to encourage more youths to take action.

4.0 OUTCOME AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Pilot test

We discovered from our pilot test that many people felt our documentary was the highlight in raising awareness for the detrimental effects of climate change. From the data collected, most of the participants found the documentary informative and engaging. They also felt that their views on climate change have differed after viewing it. The participants felt that the interviews that we conducted with the Singapore Youth For Climate Action (SYCA) as well as Hwa Chong's Green Council have successfully stressed the importance of combating climate change. However, some participants felt that more perspectives could be given pertaining to this topic, and two parties simply do not suffice.



As for our second resource, many students felt that our instagram page was extremely informative and engaging. These were due to a plethora of reasons, one of the more prominent ones being having a clear, presentable design where information could be processed in bite-sized pieces. Thus, many participants felt that the instagram page helped in raising awareness on the detrimental impacts of climate change.

4.2 Improvements

The pilot test results are a clear indication that students are generally attracted to resources which are more engaging and interactive. Hence, future resources can be created to be more interactive. We can focus on utilising the concept of game-directed learning with the target audience being youths, who are more inclined to engage actively in such games. Through this game-directed resource, students may be more willing to learn more about the importance of combating climate change, which will ultimately prove to be more meaningful and helpful to society in the near future.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Project Terra has generally been a smooth sailing one. Inevitably, we faced a few hiccups along the way. However, albeit the obstacles faced, this project has been an exceptionally fulfilling and enriching experience. Through our final product and pilot test, Project Terra has achieved its objective of raising awareness on the detrimental impacts of climate change. The project also enlightened us members about the adverse effects of climate change, giving us more insight about this prevalent issue as well as the preventive measures that we were highly encouraged to undertake to curb this problem. Project Terra has also broadened our horizons, teaching us to think out of the box when we face hurdles. It played an imperative role in developing our collaborative and communication skills, teaching us that “no man is an island” and people are largely dependent on each other. As a result, our progress in the later stages of the project sped up, causing our work productivity to exponentially increase.

--- END OF REPORT ---

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