

This House Supports the glorification of "the mediocre life"

Summary

PROP	OPP
<p>Stance taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support the glorification of a mediocre life. Glorification looks like: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Explore virtues of ordinary life (spend more time with family) b) Support media focusing on experiences accessible to ordinary people. I.e : media publishing articles about careerists tend to be less happy & more stressed with mental health issues because of long hours they work. 2) Not glorifying terrible life. Mediocre life means not achieving any great success or failures, not characterised by deep suffering or starvation. 3) Opp cannot stand for coexistence of diff narratives i.e: promoting mediocrity along with different types of success. These narratives will cease to have any effect because contradictory narratives cancel each other out. 	<p>Stance taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Accept narrative that already exists in the status quo. In reality, many narratives of success and happiness already coexist. i.e: narrative of trying hard , narrative of valuing achieving success, narrative that success is not blindly chasing after money but experiences and friends we get along the way
<p>Point 1: Makes people significantly happier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On both sides, people will live a mediocre life because: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Success tends not to be achieved by most people given that it relies on arbitrary factors like luck. b) These needs require specific skills which often most people can't achieve through luck or hard work but have to be born innately into them. c) People tend to be disenfranchise or face structural barriers - hard to achieve success on their side • Success is not defined on subjective metrics, but based on exclusivity. 	<p>Point 1: Society more productive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our society is best when people are making big decisions that require a lot of effort and risk <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) People going into entrepreneurship, the biggest innovation in medicines that saves lives are likely to happen on prop side b) People willing to put massive work on opp side but on a smaller scale. Less likely to want to pursue dreams and take on risks. i.e: Open legal clinic for women , go to universities decisions motivated by more effort

<p>On opp side, people will make it seem elusive to have success, oftentimes pursue success as only achievable by a small minority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success is often a relational measure against people in their own proximity. I.e: Singapore & Hong Kong , large middle classes - extremely wealthy by historical standards, but many would still be unhappy as often compared to wealthy ppl that are wildly successful. • People are much happier, feel content with a mediocre life and are no longer given space or expectations to meet. <p>Comparative on opp side :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic capitalism in status quo. Need money to buy things, already a proxy for success. Shows how well you can live life • Innate evolutionary competition. Absent other narratives in society, people default to base instincts, pursuing superiority over others. • People who lead a traditional successful life will be the ones who control the narrative and define how others see themselves. Control media and culture and create a seductive notion of what wealth is like & what success ought to be. • People under their side are unhappy . Many are likely to fail and deeply discouraged where they lack satisfaction due to continuous comparison. Unlikely to feel present happiness because always feeling anxious, how money can be better invested in the future. 	<p>Comparative on prop side :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less likely to take risks. On a smaller scale, sacrificing and studying for more. On larger scale, investment and economic interests • People in general are less likely to work hard and try hard. I.e: less ambitious to ask for promotion or promote self to a higher level In general, society progresses worse due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Decrease in progress that benefits everyone b) Even on a smaller scale, opp side can close small gaps in the market by individuals achieving success. I.e: opening legal clinics for women • Narrative by prop is an active act of shaming: That people who pursue and achieve success live a meaningless life, throwing away their lives in the essence of money or glory. Can be seen in the status quo: the wealthy being seen as elites who are entirely different from us. • Shouldn't shame those who work hard. Unjust to criticise those that contribute most to society. • Discourages future success and productivity to individuals on ground given success is already seen to be difficult. People are disincentivized and have no reason to pursue success.
<p>Point 2: Ameliorate minority right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In status quo, notions of mediocrity used to characterise the minority on opp side. Migrants depicted as lazy and live life of nothingness • On opp side, used to deny them basic rights as they're thought of as mediocre. 	<p>Point 2: Prop further entrenches existing inequalities</p> <p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In many cases, narrative affects different groups differently, minorities particularly. On prop, at a young age, minorities have been told that they're born for a life of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On prop side, engage narrative of slowness and mediocrity. • Pre-colonial lifestyles no longer disparaged bcs seen as non-western. Without capitalism and its unending pursuit of success, they're no longer seen as innately reproachful simply because they act in different ways than others. • Get rid of the most insidious form of oppression for minorities today. Likely to guarantee more basic rights for people. Simply because they're 'mediocre' by western standards, they're not denied any of those rights. 	<p>mediocrity, bound to repeat the same jobs and can never elevate their class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many cases of oppression aren't matters of having food on table, but the internalised oppression: to accept the fact they must be content in this scenario when they do not deserve to be. • Does not affect everyone equally as mediocrity is not viewed the same across the board for all. We should not actively encourage this, further worsening the metric of mediocrity. • On prop side, trap those most vulnerable in a cycle of failure, incentivizing the most privileged to perpetuate lifestyle, failing those we owe most obligation towards.
<p>Point 3 : Reducing greed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greed is the primary driver of inequality. Policies that promote accumulation of wealth and social inequalities for the benefit of a small minority only happen because people in these groups think more successful lives are better. Glorification of success exists on opp side. • Prop promote narrative that a successful life is not necessarily good and mediocre life are sometimes better • People that are privileged have no longer incentive to pursue greater success, consigning greater wealth for themselves and probably incentivize to give those things up • More likely to default to incentives like innate notions of fairness. i.e religion Buddhism glorifies mediocre life. Countries that are highly buddhist, have highest rates of charitable giving in the world such as Thailand • Raising the average of a mediocre life for everyone in society, can continue to glorify the mediocre life while helping these individuals. 	<p>Point 3 : Subjective standard of happiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have different values and find happiness in different things in life. Not everyone is the same. • Mediocrity espouses a general specific life where you are generally okay in everything. They are likely to criticise people who focus on their careers. Opp believes people who naturally want to focus on their careers OR vice versa should be fine and should be allowed to pursue those. • On prop side, people are pressured into thinking they have to be mediocre in everything. i.e if I fail in having a family, thats bad. If I fail in not having a job it is also bad. People will live a mediocre life until they're old and realise they're not truly happy, not pursuing what they want, ending up with midlife crisis.

