ABSTRACT

Student movements of Singapore were common in the fifties and sixties. As the problems were mostly related to the society, they could be quite severe and complex. This was clearly illustrated in the student movements in 1956. This Academic Exercise focuses on two main aspects: the political environment and the Chinese education policies of Singapore in the fifties and sixties. The writer was motivated to explore these topics as past academic works do not provide a thorough and comprehensive studies on these areas.

Therefore, the main purpose of this AE is to provide an analytical study in the relationship between the political environment and the Chinese education policies. It discusses the roles played by the People’s Action Party and Malayan Communist Party. This relationship would give an insight to the outbreak of the student movements. It also studies the social background of Singapore in the late forties, especially regarding the Chinese immigrants who were living in Singapore. Finally, it examines the repercussions brought about by the student movements.

The works of some scholars, academicians and politicians, including scholarly papers and books, biographies, interviews, related data formed sources for this study. Personal beliefs and interpretations were also adopted wherever necessary.

The study shows that the Government’s implementation of Chinese education policies might be the chief cause of the student movements.
However, the study shows that it was not the only reason. For example, the relationship between the People's Action Party and Malayan Communist Party would give an insight to the outbreak of the student movements. The AE attempts to provide explanations for the other causes for the movements.