

Crescent Town

— **Neighbourhood** —



Three of Crescent Town's buildings towering over the Taylor Creek ravine.

FINAL REPORT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF CRESCENT TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD

FEBRUARY 15, 2010

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INTRODUCTION

Crescent Town is a neighbourhood in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in the former borough of East York. It is located near Victoria Park Avenue and Danforth Avenue. It is in ward no 31. It mainly consists of high-rise apartment complexes, built originally to take advantage of the opening of the adjacent Victoria Park subway station, which connects to the central quadrangle via a partially covered walkway.

HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY

In 1887, Walter Massey, Canada's first major industrialist founded Crescent Town. He bought 240 acres (Km²) country property located nearby Dawes Road and Victoria Park Avenue.

The Massey farm was named Dentonia after Mrs. Massey's family whose surname was Danton. The Massey sold fresh eggs and poultry as well as fresh Trout which was caught in the many streams and rivulet that criss-crossed the farm. The Massey farm was also the home of the City Dairy Company which produced the first pasteurized milk in Canada. In 1933, Susan Massey generously gave 40 acres (160,000m²) of Dentonia to Crescent School where her grandsons were educated. Crescent School operated at Dentonia until 1969 when this property was sold to the developers who built the present day Crescent town Neighbourhood.

Hollywood actor Kiefer Sutherland of the television series 24 was among the first Crescent Town residents. He spent part of his childhood in Crescent Town and attended the Crescent Town Elementary School, where he first met the current Mayor of Toronto, David Miller.

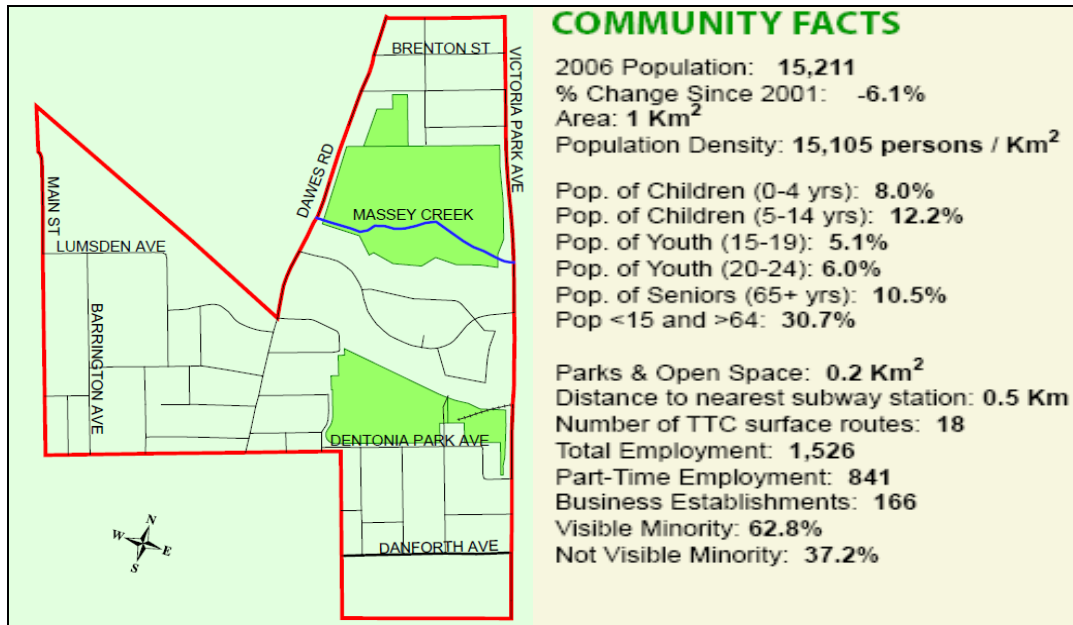
Crescent Town includes buildings such as condominiums (Massey Square), as well as rental apartments (Crescent Place). All these buildings have a population of different cultures from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Srilanka, Chinese, and Jamaica.

SUMMARY OF THE SURVEY PROCESS

This study was conducted in December 2009 to January 10, 2010 in Crescent Town Neighbourhood on behalf of Centre for Community Learning and Development (CCL&D). The survey was administered in person and On- line. It was designed to assist the participants in determining resources as well as the barriers faced by the people of the neighbourhood. There were a total of a 80 individual interviews conducted for the purpose of the study. The sample was selected to ensure a range of voices reflecting youth, parents, seniors, long-time residents and recent immigrant groups. This report is going to describe the result of the Community Resource and Needs assessment Survey. The responses were, not surprisingly, consistent under all of the sub-headings, and as can be seen from the tables, there are suggestions for program initiatives that would be beneficial for all concerns.

DEMOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

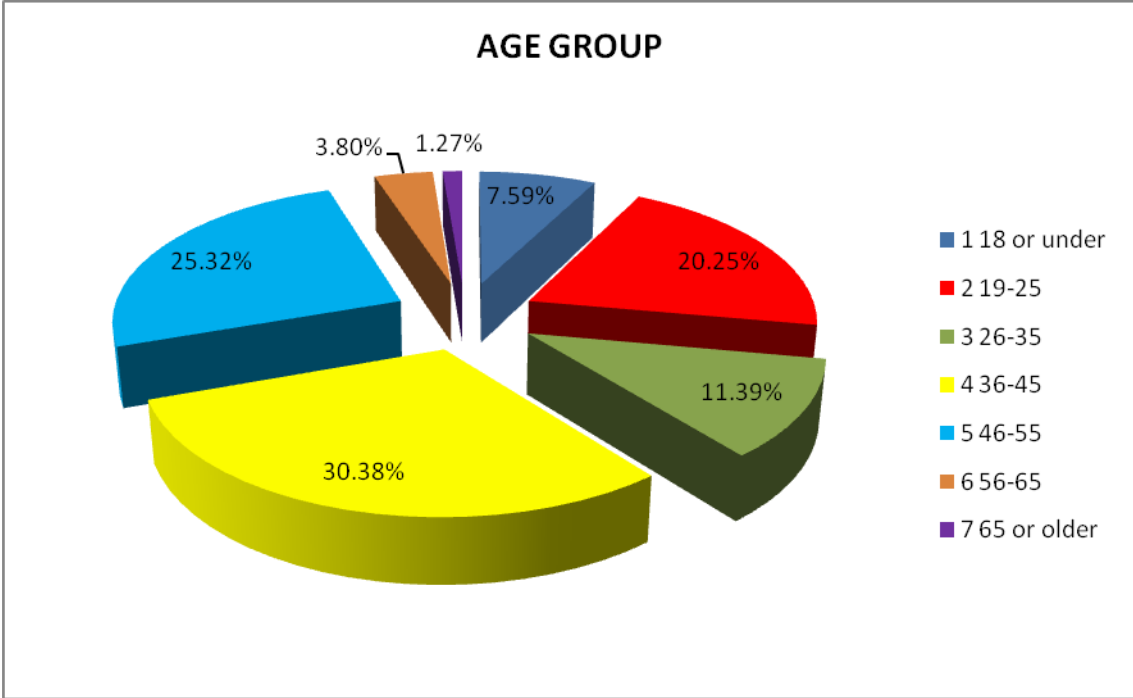
Area and community facts of Crescent Town:



Crescent Town is a dense-populated, multicultural neighbourhood. Officially the total population is approximately 15,211, but the true could be closed to double that. It is an important launching pad for success for new Canadians; many immigrants get their start here and then move on as they are able to access better opportunities, which make the population quite transient. Population density is an incredible 15,105 people per square kilometre. That is a whopping 23 times higher than the Toronto average of 866/km², making it one of the densest areas in Canada. 64% families live in rented apartments and only 36% have their own homes with regular maintenance. Crescent Town is undergoing some demographic changes. Some of the important demographics are provided on the following pages based on the survey.

AGE GROUP

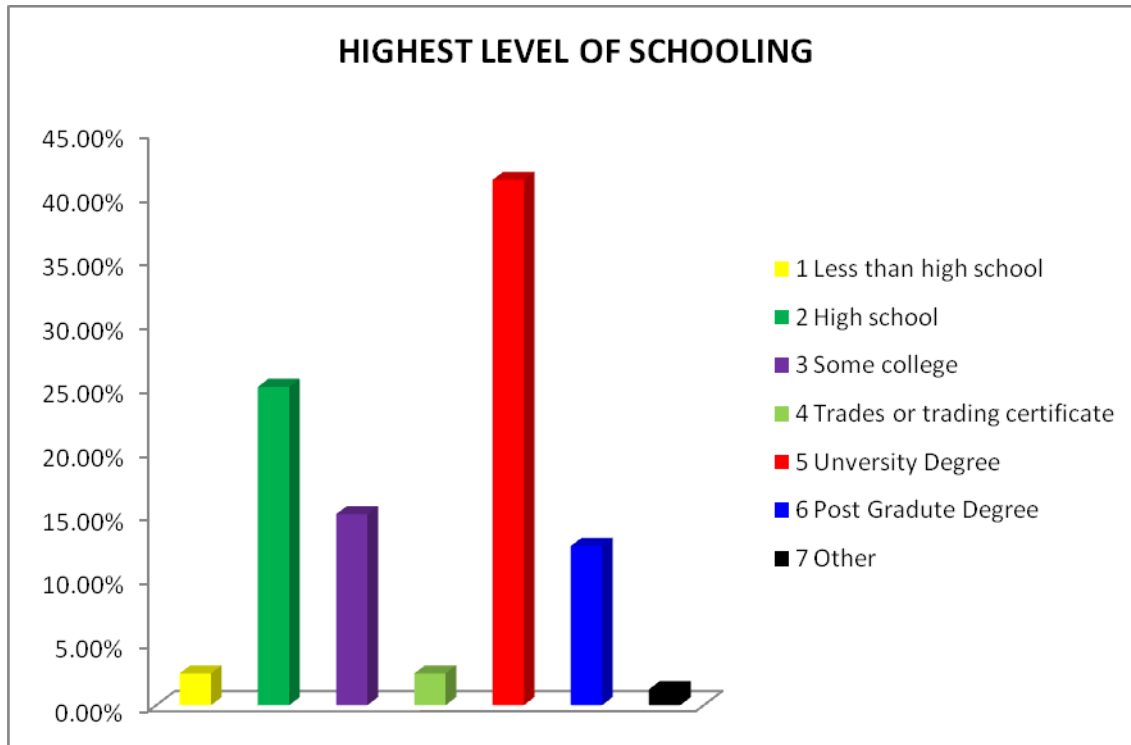
Value	Description	Percentage
1	18 or under	7.59%
2	19-25	20.25%
3	26-35	11.39%
4	36-45	30.38%
5	46-55	25.38%
6	56-65	3.80%
7	65 or older	1.27%



The survey was conducted among the people of all ages except children, but the most of the respondents are aged between 36 and 45.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOLING

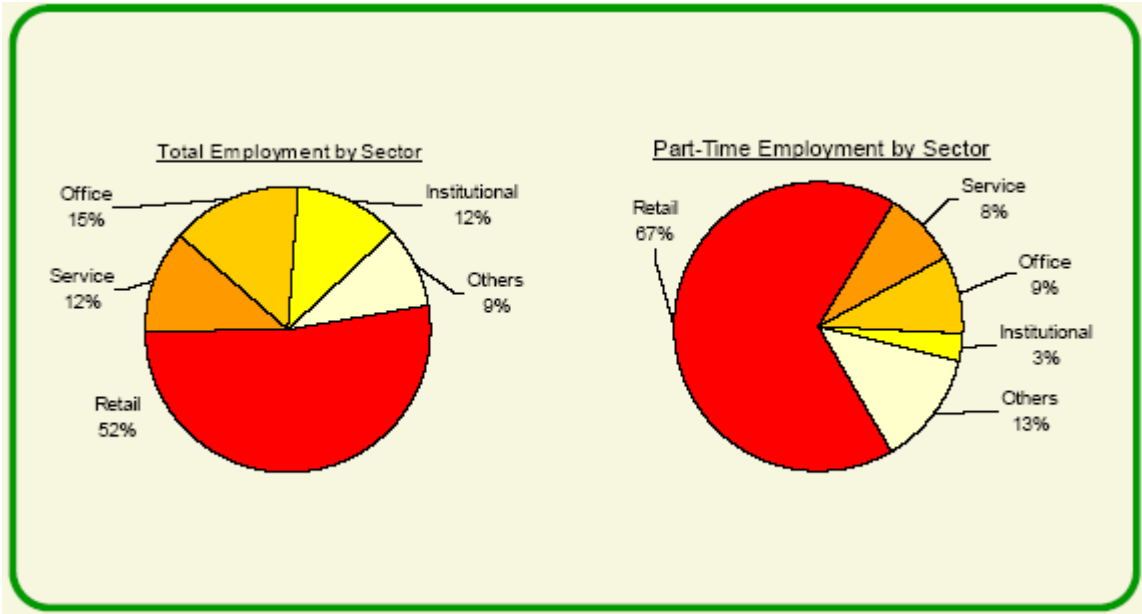
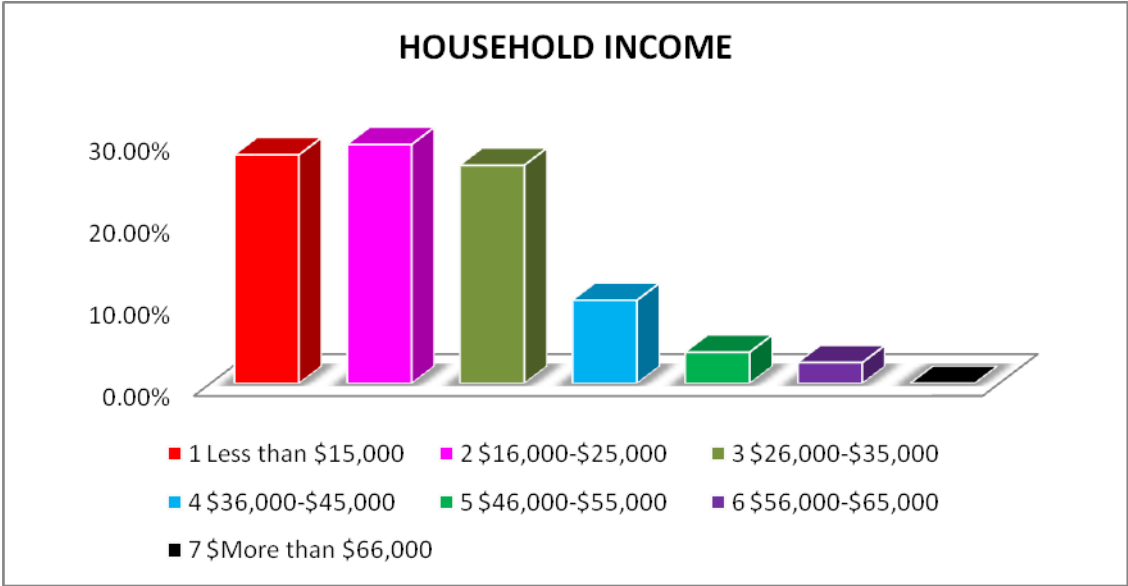
Value	Description	Percentage
1	Less than high school	2.50%
2	High school	25.00%
3	Some college	15.00%
4	Trades or trading certificate	2.50%
5	University Degree	41.25%
6	Post Graduate Degree	12.50%
7	Other	1.25%



As an attractive place for immigrants, the residents of Crescent Town have a high level of education. Among them about 41% have a University Degree.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

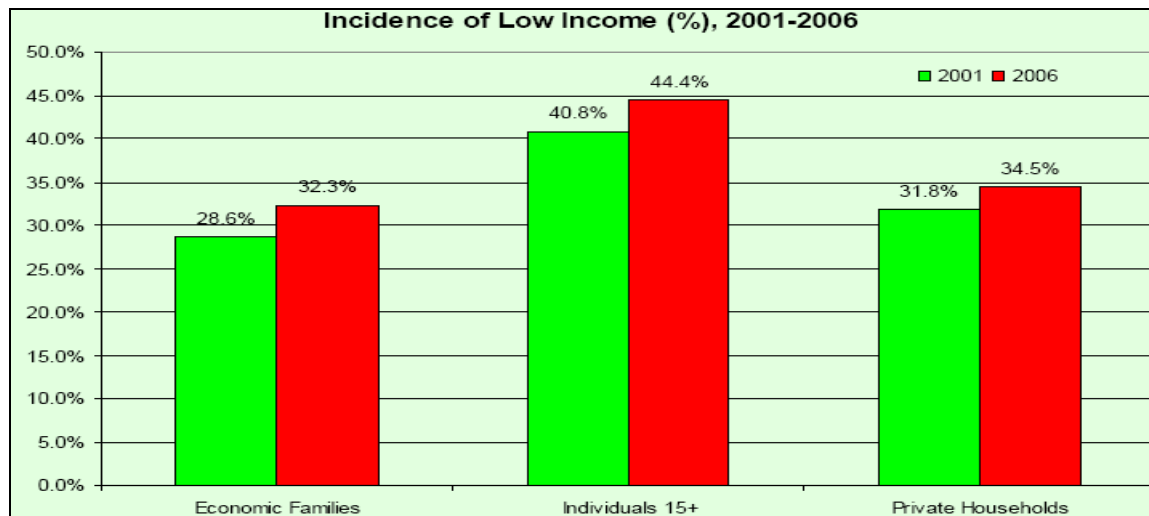
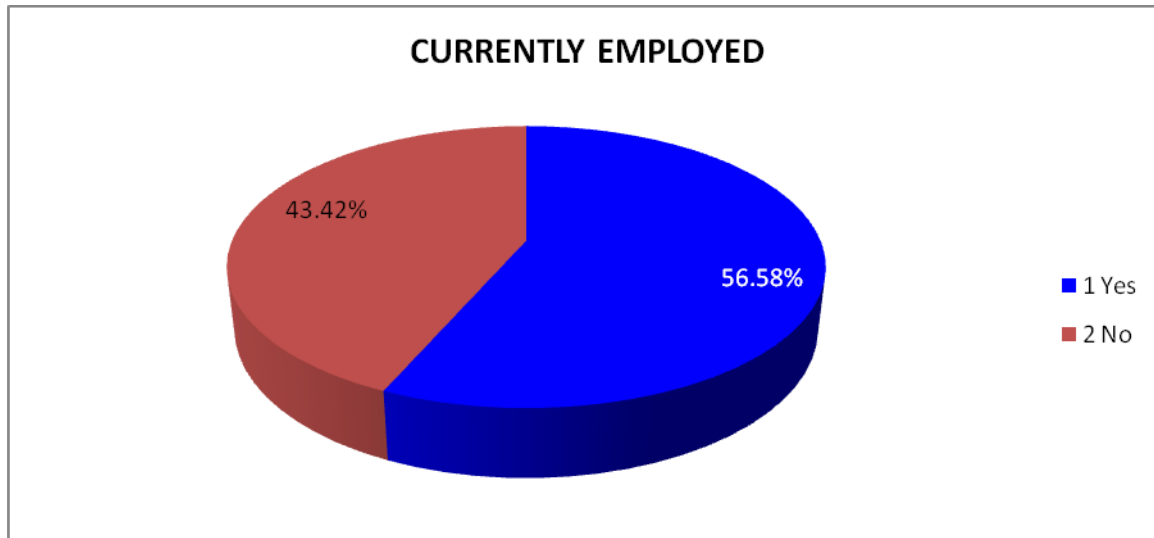
Value	Description	Percentage
1	Less than \$15,000	27.85%
2	\$16,000-\$25,000	29.11%
3	\$26,000-\$35,000	26.58%
4	\$36,000-\$45,000	10.13%
5	\$46,000-\$55,000	3.80%
6	\$56,000-\$65,000	2.53%
7	\$More than \$65,000	0.00%



Census Tract Profile Report

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION (Currently Employed)

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Yes	56.58%
2	No	43.42%

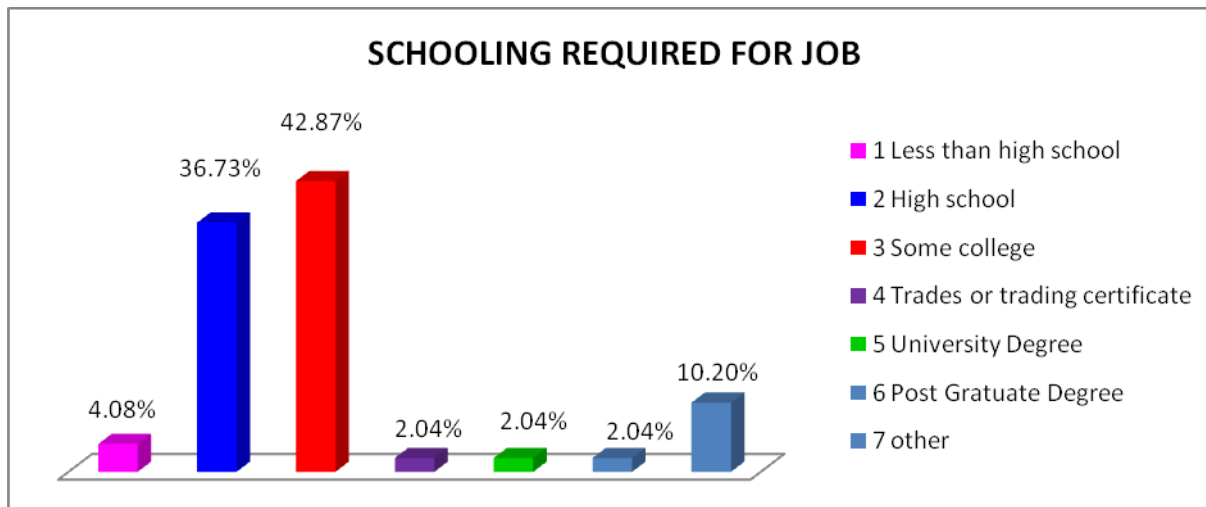


Census Tract Profile Report

According to the Census Tract Profile of Canada, out of that huge population, only 1,526 people are working full time and 841 people are employed part time. Their employment sectors are mainly retail and a very little number of people is servicing in other sectors. The Community Needs Assessment Survey also showing the similar results.

SCHOOLING REQUIRED FOR JOB

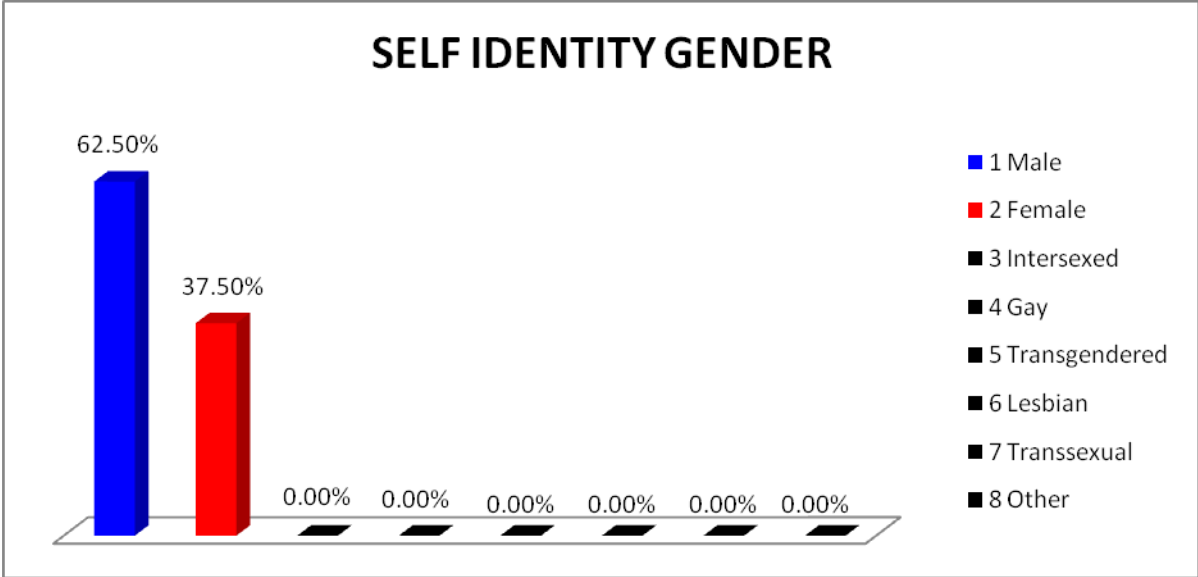
Value	Description	Percentage
1	Less than high school	4.08%
2	High school	36.73%
3	Some college	42.87%
4	Trades or trading certificate	2.04%
5	University Degree	2.04%
6	Post graduate Degree	2.045
7	Other	10.20%



Based on survey report, it is vivid that the jobs people are doing are not matching to their skills or expertise.

SELF IDENTITY GENDER

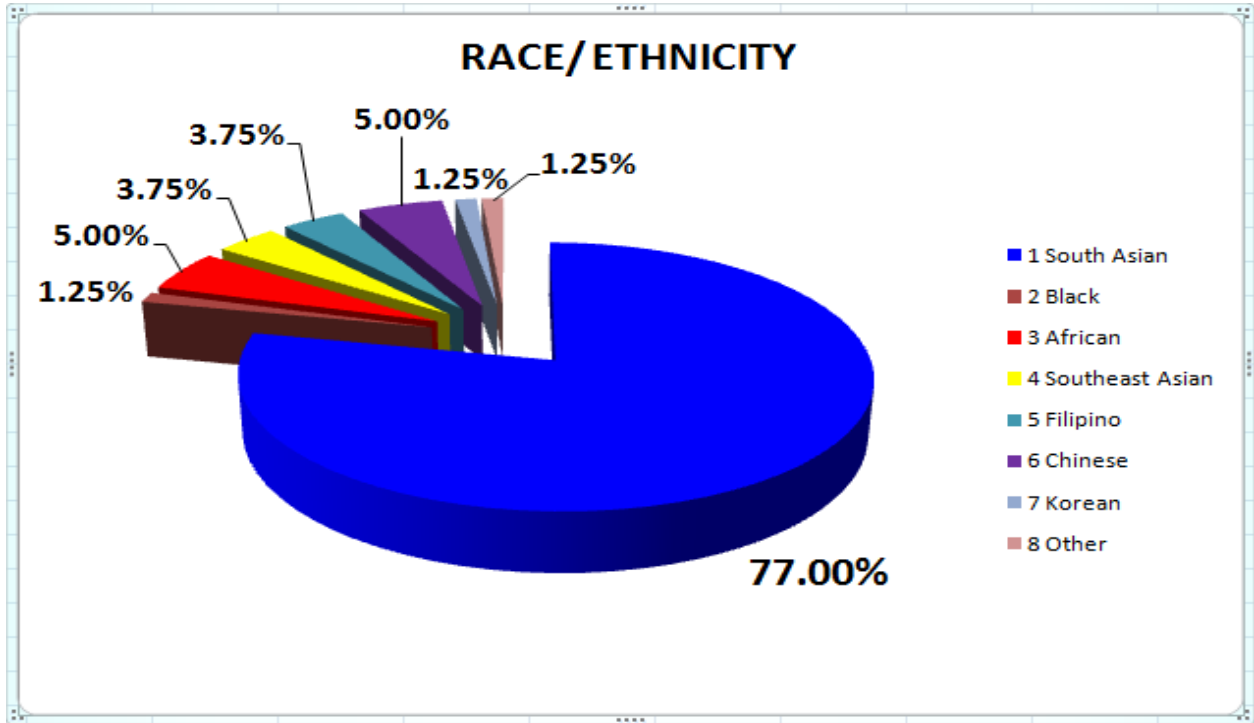
Value	Description	Percentage
1	Male	62.50%
2	Female	37.50%
3	Intersexed	0.00%
4	Gay	0.00%
5	Transgendered	0.00%
6	Lesbian	0.00%
7	Transsexual	0.00%
8	Other	0.00%



The survey report says that the majority of the population are male and female.

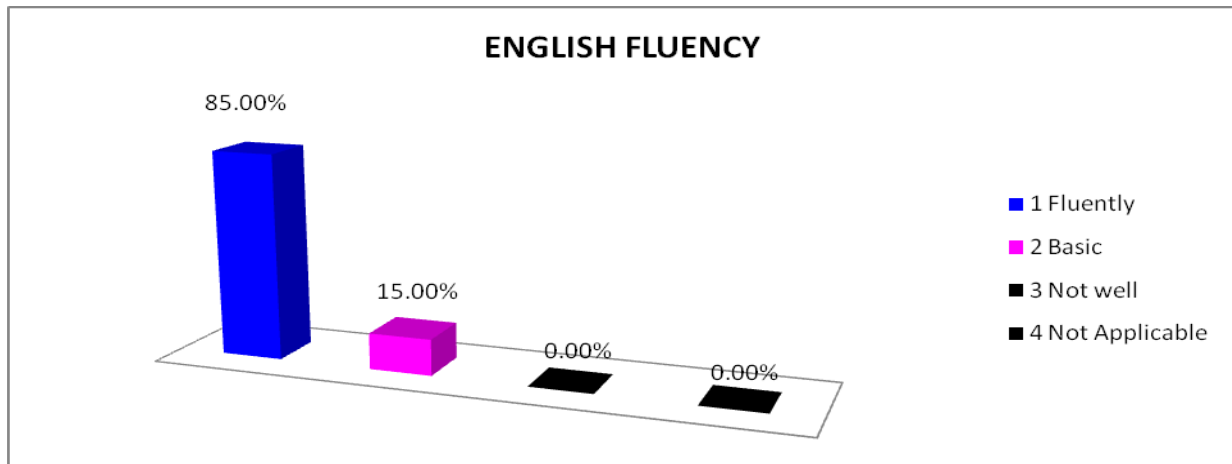
SELF IDENTITY-RACE/ETHNICITY

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Aboriginal	0.00%
2	Multi-racial	0.00%
3	Black	1.25%
4	Recent Immigrant	1.25%
5	White	0.00%
6	South Asian	77.50%
7	African	5.00%
8	Southeast Asian	3.75%
9	Hispanic	0.00%
10	West Asian	0.00%
11	Filipino	3.75%
12	Chinese	5.00%
13	Latin American	0.00%
14	Korean	1.25%
15	Arab	0.00%
16	Japanese	0.00%
17	Mixed Race	0.00%
18	Other	1.25%



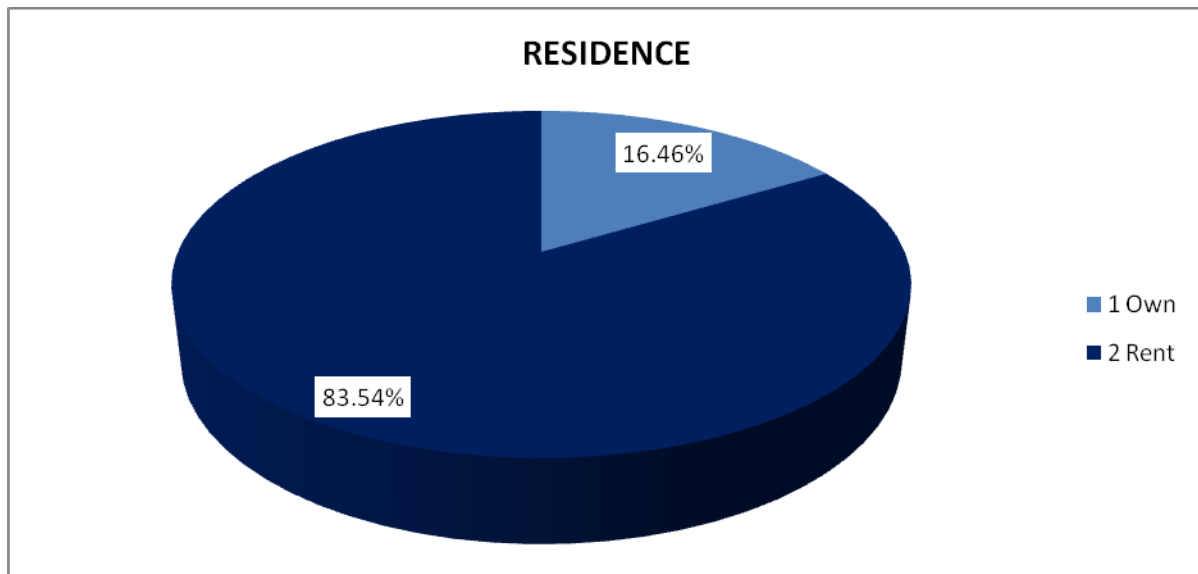
ENGLISH FLUENCY

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Fluently	85.00%
2	Basic	15.00%
3	Not well	0.00%
4	Not Applicable	0.00%



RESIDENCE

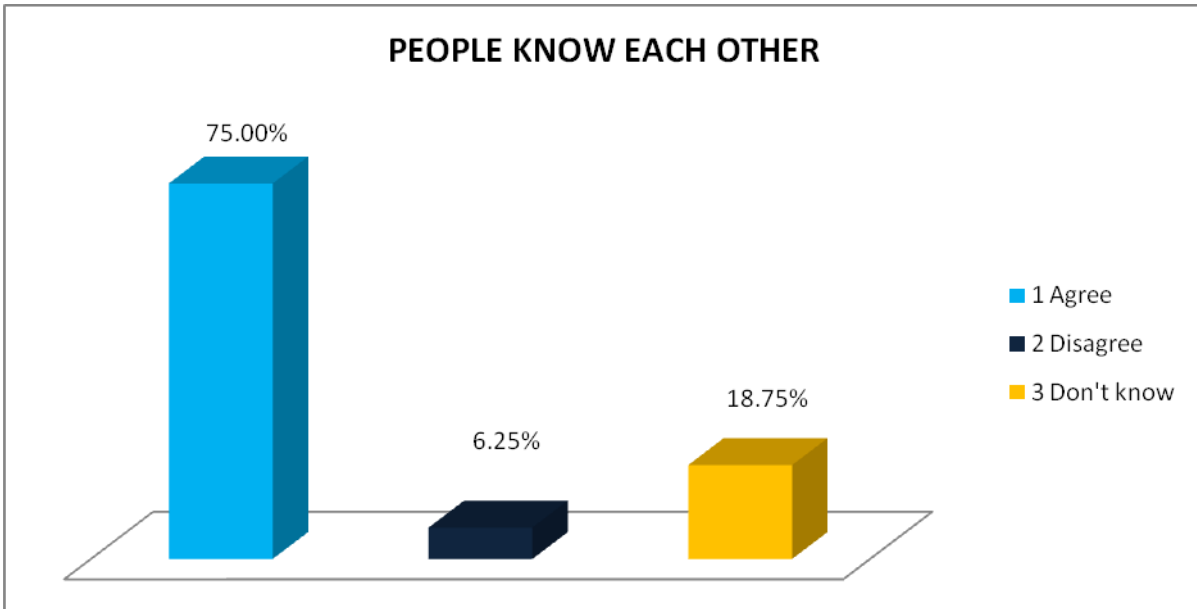
Value	Description	Percentage
1	Own	16.46%
2	Rent	83.54%



SPIRIT OF MY COMMUNITY

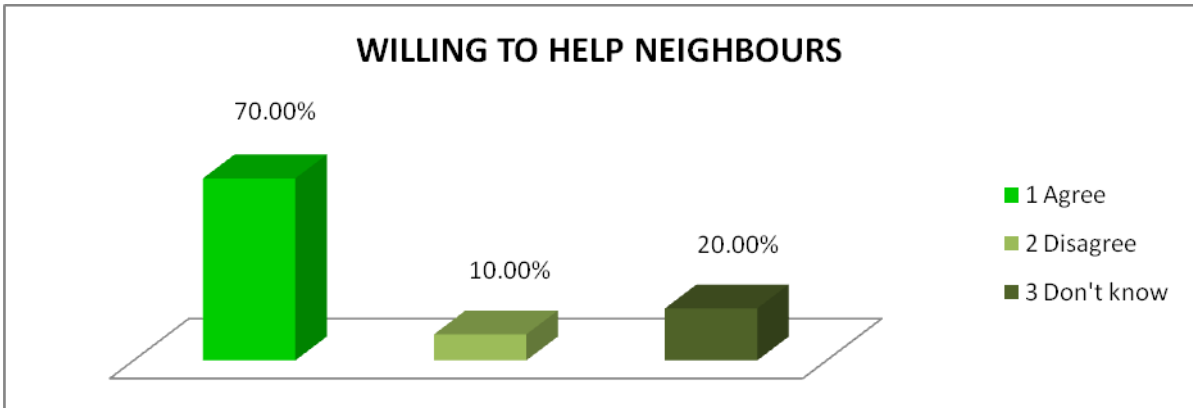
People know each other:

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Agree	75.00%
2	Disagree	6.25%
3	Don't know	18.75%



Willing to help neighbours:

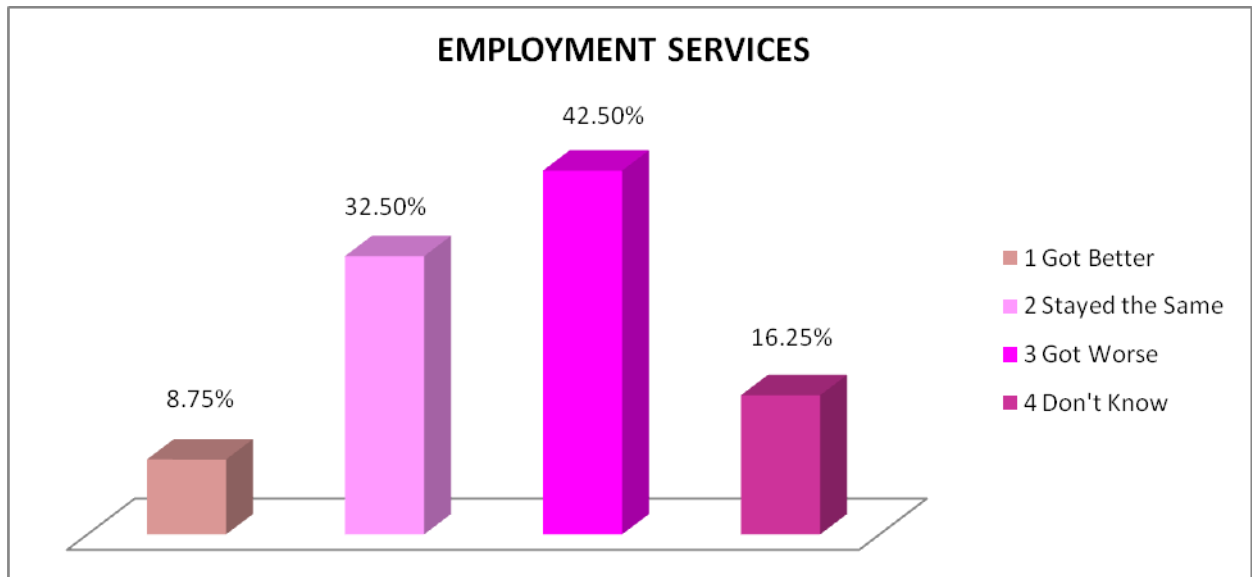
Value	Description	Percentage
1	Agree	70.00%
2	Disagree	10.00%
3	Don't know	20.00%



PROVISION OF SERVICES

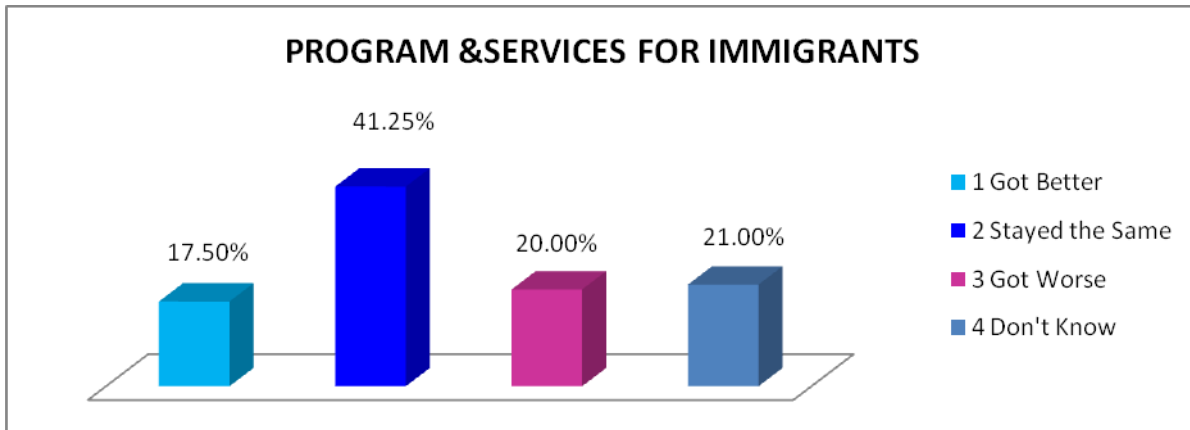
Employment Services:

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Got Better	8.75%
2	Stayed the Same	32.50%
3	Got Worse	42.50%
4	Don't Know	16.25%



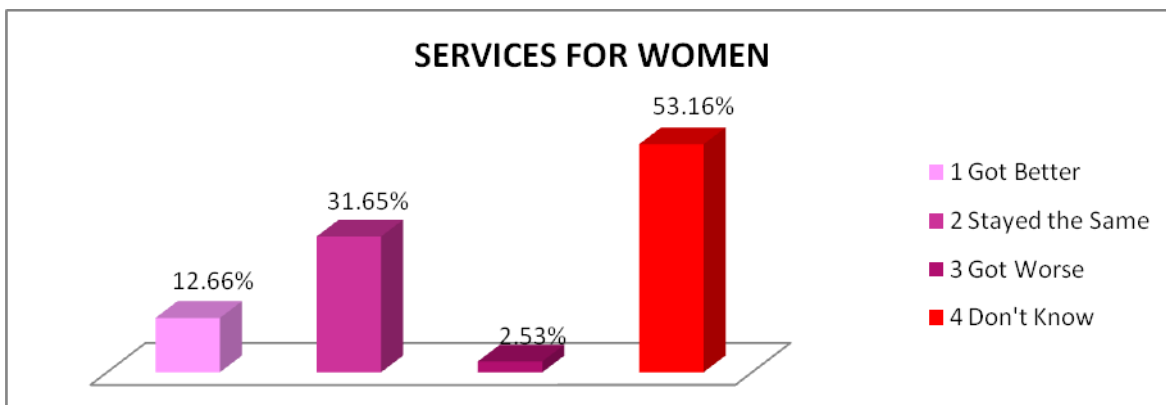
Immigrant Services:

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Got Better	17.50%
2	Stayed the Same	41.25%
3	Got Worse	20.00%
4	Don't Know	21.00%



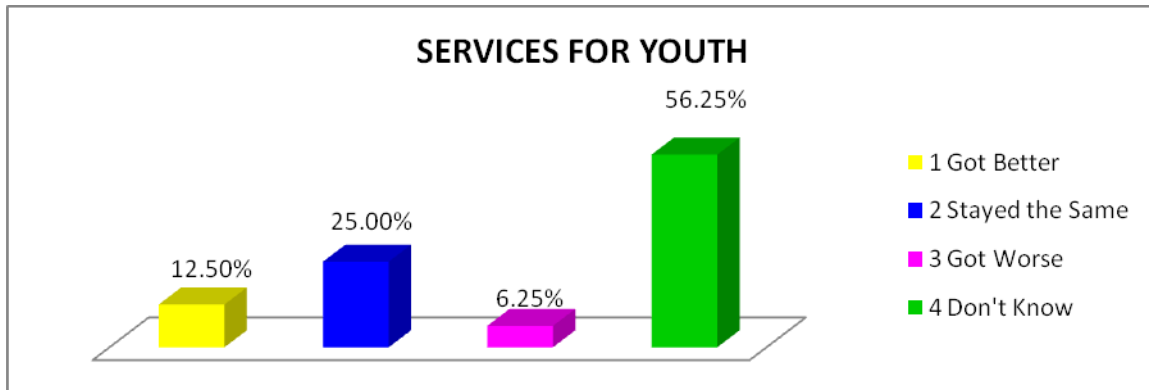
Services for Women:

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Got Better	12.66%
2	Stayed the Same	31.65%
3	Got Worse	2.53%
4	Don't Know	53.16%



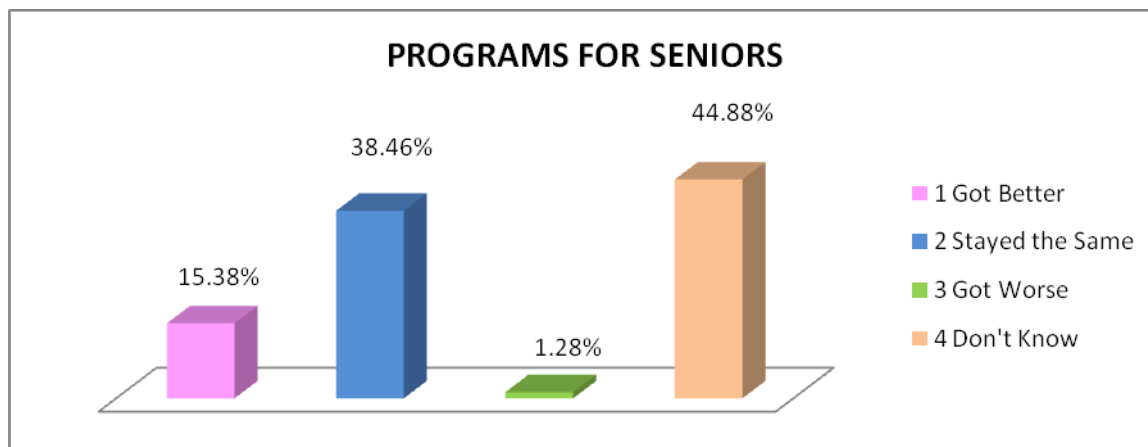
Services for Youth:

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Got better	12.50%
2	Stayed the Same	25.00%
3	Got Worse	6.25%
4	Don't know	56.25%



Program for Seniors:

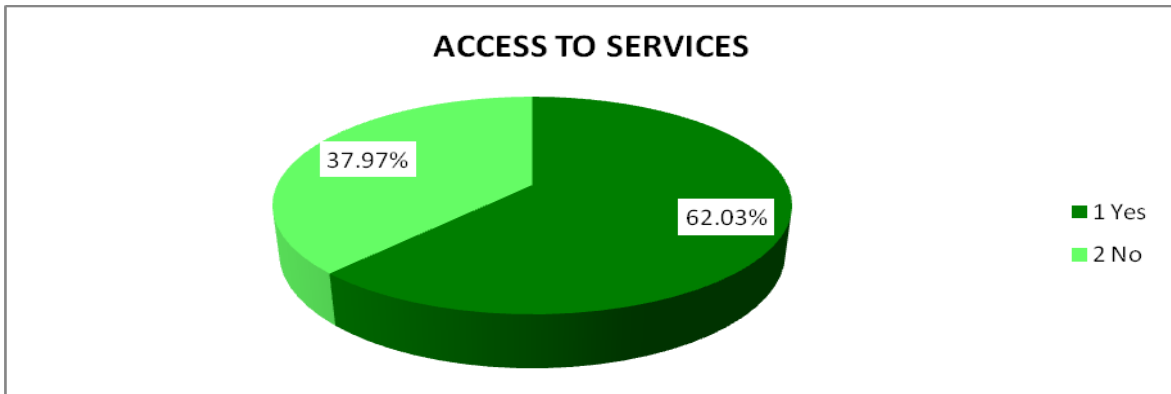
Value	Description	Percentage
1	Got Better	15.38%
2	Stayed the Same	38.46%
3	Got Worse	1.285
4	Don't Know	44.885



EQUITY OF ACCESS

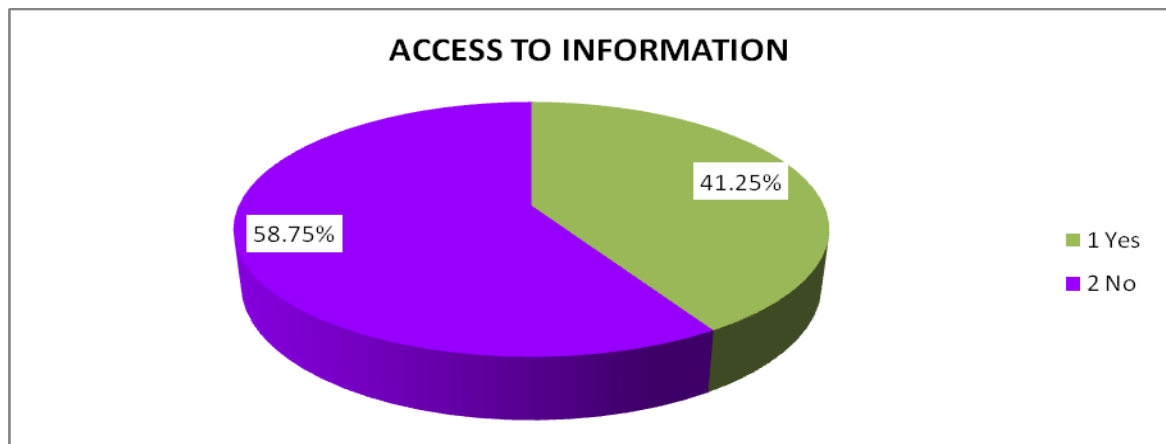
Access to Services for Everyone:

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Yes	62.03%
2	No	37.97%



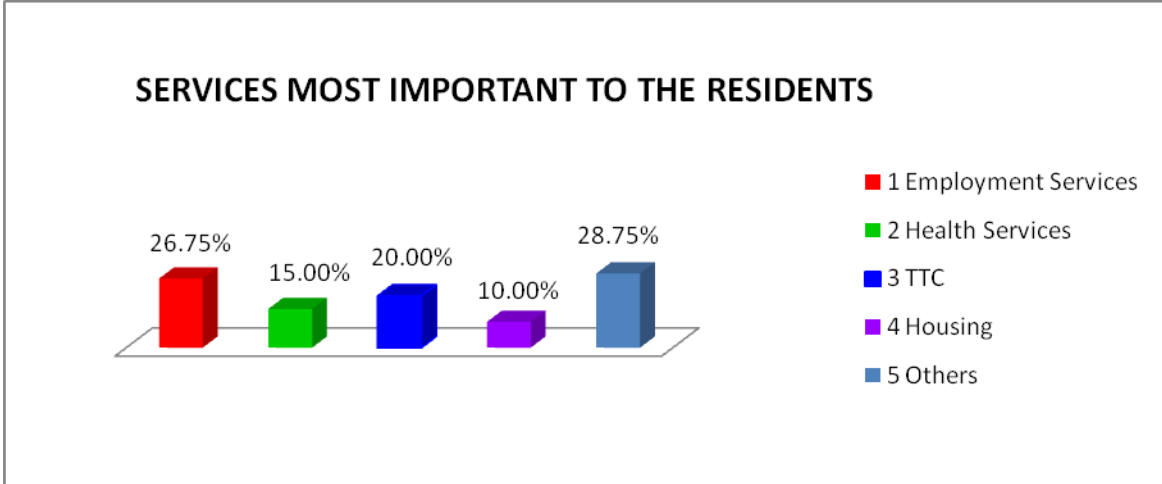
Access to information:

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Yes	41.25%
2	No	58.75%



SERVICES MOST IMPORTANT TO THE RESIDENTS

Value	Description	Percentage
1	Employment Services	26.25%
2	Health Services	15.00%
3	TTC	20.00%
4	Housing	10.00%
5	Others	28.75%



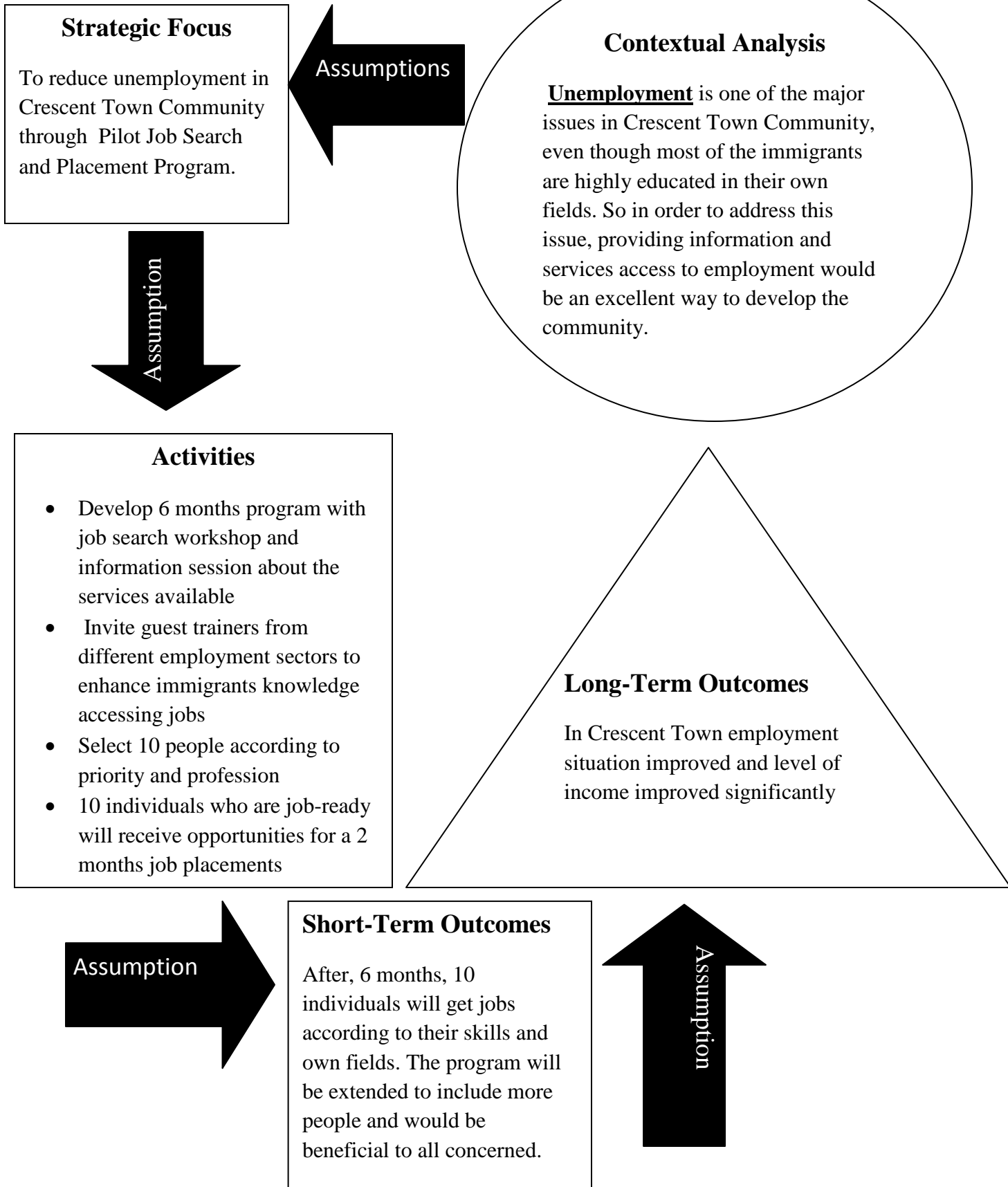
The survey shows that the people in this neighbourhood are very cordial and they share and respect each other's values. There are a number of services existing in this neighbourhood and they are also accessible to everyone, but almost 59% people said that they do not get enough information to access those services.

FEEDBACK FROM THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS

1.The people of this community mostly needs employment services.
2.We are immigrants, we have education, work experience and positive family values.
3.Programs for the whole family and Senior Parents are needed.
4.Community needs skill development, training and employment services.
5.Management services need to be improved in order to live in a cleaner and better environment.

RECOMENDATION

The pathway for community to develop



ADDITIONAL RECOMENDATION

Crescent Town is a very cohesive community as 75% people said that they know each-other and willing to help as well. They also reported that the existing services are accessible but due to lack of information they are not functioning as supportive tools. So, in order to improve the over all situation access to Information is key to minimize those issues.

CONCLUSION

According to the survey the most two important issues are Unemployment and access to information of the existing Services. As we know, majority of them are Immigrants, it is likely that much of this education was obtained abroad, making it less likely to lead to stable, well paid work. However, it could be improved by providing proper skill-enhancement training and services. Despite Crescent Town's higher level of education, the most of the people are doing odd-jobs and their level of income is very low. In addition, the Census Tract Profile(2006) shows that there are 2,610 population 15 years and over reported hours looking after children without pay. One of the participants suggested that the community needs skill development, training and employment services for women. From my observation, access to training, proper education and job placement are crucial to suit with the Canadian workplaces and would be valuable for people in Crescent Town.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- First and foremost, I would like to thank to all the respondents of Crescent Town who provided with their valuable opinion in terms of community development
- Beside, I also would like to thank the collaborators for their support, and
- Finally, I would like to thank the CCL&D staffs for helping me to complete this survey report

REFERENCES:

1. www.statcan.gc.ca
2. www.toronto.ca/city-hall/index.htm
3. Crescent Town Study
4. www.crescenttownclub.com