

## Contextualizing Numerology's Pertinence to Personal Identity Construction in Singapore

### **1. Introduction: Personal Identity**

As naturally curious social creatures and by virtue of being human, we seek to find out about ourselves and the world around us. Termed personal identity which means different things to different people, psychologists use it to refer to a “person’s self-image—to one’s beliefs about the sort of person one is and how one differs from others”<sup>1</sup> while philosophers regard this as what defines a person to say who he is<sup>2</sup>. How this is formed has been the centre of contention for years by scholars and culminates in the nature vs nurture debate. Proponents of nature claim who we are is shaped by our genetic makeup and is pre-determined while pro-nurture scholars claim that nurture is more important in deciding how a person becomes. The consensus is that both nature and nurture are important elements that affect a person’s identity<sup>3</sup>. This personal identity is said to be socially constructed<sup>4</sup>, an accumulation of your social interactions with others. Famous psychologist Erik Erikson supplements in his psychosocial theory<sup>5</sup> that this identity develops over time in stages and constantly changes due to new experiences being formed and people tend to get confused with their identity during their adolescence period<sup>6</sup> but is crucial to create intimate relationships with others.

As society progresses to be wealthier over time, which Hans Rosling has illustrated in his book *Factfulness*<sup>7</sup>, the basic needs on lower levels of Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs<sup>8</sup> have been met

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<sup>1</sup> Olson, Eric. “Personal Identity.” Oxford Bibliographies Online Datasets, 2011, doi:10.1093/obo/9780195396577-0086.

<sup>2</sup> Olson, Eric T. “Personal Identity.” Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, Stanford University, 6 Sept. 2019, <https://plato.stanford.edu/ENTRIES/identity-personal/>

<sup>3</sup> Mcleod, Saul. “Nature vs. Nurture Debate in Psychology.” Simply Psychology, 14 Mar. 2023, [www.simplypsychology.org/naturevsnurture.html](http://www.simplypsychology.org/naturevsnurture.html).

<sup>4</sup> Jackson, Ronald L. and Michael A. Hogg, editors. *Encyclopaedia of Identity*. 1 vols. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 2010. Sage Knowledge, 28 Mar 2023, doi: <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781412979306>.

<sup>5</sup> Libretexts. “1.9: Erikson.” Social Sci LibreTexts, Libretexts, 4 Aug. 2022, [socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Early\\_Childhood\\_Education/Child\\_Family\\_Community%3A\\_The\\_Socialization\\_of\\_Diverse\\_Children/01%3A\\_Introduction\\_to\\_Socialization\\_and\\_Theories/1.09%3A\\_\\_Erikson](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Early_Childhood_Education/Child_Family_Community%3A_The_Socialization_of_Diverse_Children/01%3A_Introduction_to_Socialization_and_Theories/1.09%3A__Erikson).

<sup>6</sup> UPRETI, RASHMI. “Identity Construction: An Important Issue among Adolescents.” *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, vol. 22, no. 06, 2017, pp. 54–57., doi:10.9790/0837-2206105457.

<sup>7</sup> Rosling, Hans, et al. *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong about the World - and Why Things Are Better than You Think*. Sceptre, 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Maslow, A. H. (1943). A theory of human motivation. *Psychological Review*, 50(4), 370–396. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0054346>

and people start to focus on the Esteem and Self-Actualisation stages, where we start seeking answers to who we are and our motivations. This journey of self-discovery and growth leads us to tools such as personality tests such as 16personalities<sup>9</sup>, DISC<sup>10</sup> and Enneagram<sup>11</sup> which explains how we are based on our answers to a set of questions which is then used to categorise us into various categories possessing different characteristics. However, the results of such tests are dependent on our responses to questions, prone to changes depending on the situation and over time, limited to our behaviour in social situations and have been criticised by psychologists for not being very reliable<sup>12</sup>. While people still benefit from such categorisation, such tools fall short of digging deeper into who we are and our motivations. For example, these tests are not helpful for those seeking answers in this arena of why certain things happen to them, such as the tendency to feel suicidal, not being able to feel close to family, or being prone to losing a lot of money. People then proceed to other avenues to seek answers such as Numerology, Feng Shui and Astrology among others. In this paper, I will focus more on Pythagorean Numerology as a helpful tool in seeking these answers and forming our personal identity.

## 1.2 Pythagorean Numerology

Numerology is the study of numbers<sup>13</sup> and builds upon the belief that there are numbers associated with us which define who we are as a person and these numbers have vibrations that affect us and the events that occur in the universe. Underlying Numerology is the idea of reincarnation whereby we are born multiple times and before we are sent onto the earth, our souls have a soul contract attached to it with the lessons to be learnt over their lifetime here. Some of the lessons we are required to learn also stem from the actions of our previous birth. They exist many kinds of Numerology<sup>14</sup> originating from various parts of the world and have existed for over 4000 years such as Chaldean Numerology which exists from Ancient

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<sup>9</sup> “It’s so Incredible to Finally Be Understood.” *16Personalities*, [www.16personalities.com/](http://www.16personalities.com/).

<sup>10</sup> “What Is the Disc Assessment?” *Discprofile.com*, [www.discprofile.com/what-is-disc](http://www.discprofile.com/what-is-disc)

<sup>11</sup> “The Enneagram Personality Test.” *Truity*, 23 Feb. 2023, [www.truity.com/test/enneagram-personality-test](http://www.truity.com/test/enneagram-personality-test).

<sup>12</sup> Pittenger, David J. (PDF) *Measuring the MBTI ... and Coming up Short - Researchgate*. [www.researchgate.net/publication/237675975\\_Measuring\\_the\\_MBTI\\_and\\_coming\\_up\\_short](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/237675975_Measuring_the_MBTI_and_coming_up_short)

<sup>13</sup> Page, Robert L. “Number Theory, Elementary.” *Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology*, 2003, pp. 15–38., <https://doi.org/10.1016/b0-12-227410-5/00503-2> .

<sup>14</sup> “Types of Numerology.” *GaneshSpeaks*, 6 Oct. 2021, [www.ganeshspeaks.com/Numerology/types/](http://www.ganeshspeaks.com/Numerology/types/).

Babylonia, Kabbalah Numerology which comes from the Hebrews, Hindu Vedic Numerology which is more religion specific and lastly, the most common, Pythagorean Numerology (also known as Western Numerology), which was developed by the famous Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras in the 5th century BC<sup>15</sup>.

Pythagoreans considered the world to be constituted out of numbers” and uses some of the principles of the numbers such as the modulus of a number to get a remainder. His ideas on Numerology were well respected by other philosophers including Plato due to his status and expertise as a scholar<sup>16</sup>. The basic idea of modern Pythagorean Numerology is that we can tell something about someone by substituting numbers for the letters of their name (a = 1, b = 2, etc.) best known as mod 9 and combining it with the numbers in one’s date of birth<sup>17</sup><sup>18</sup>. While regarded as a pseudoscience, with scepticism, it is still helpful to understand ourselves and others around us and is still discussed in smaller communities around the world. However, literature is lacking due to its scientific inability to prove its veracity. Yet, Numerology has persisted to date in form of books, practitioners doing readings and workshops. In the digital age, this has shifted to the internet, with many websites and software that generate and explain insights such as Vebest<sup>19</sup> that provide insights based on Pythagorean Numerology, some of which are used in this research.

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<sup>15</sup> Gregory, Andrew D. “The Pythagoreans: Number and Numerology.” *UCL Discovery*, Oxford University Press, 23 July 2015, [discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/1529408/](https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/1529408/).

<sup>16</sup> Marsa, Myrlene. *Pythagoras: Mathematician and Philosopher - Southern Adventist University*. [knowledge.e.southern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?httpsredir=1&article=1147&context=senior\\_research](https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?httpsredir=1&article=1147&context=senior_research)

<sup>17</sup> David A. Phillips, Ph.D. “The Complete Book of Numerology: Discovering the Inner Self.” Google Books, Hay House, Inc, 1 Nov. 2005, [books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Complete\\_Book\\_of\\_Numerology.html?id=xogGqJzowKYC](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Complete_Book_of_Numerology.html?id=xogGqJzowKYC).

<sup>18</sup> Dudley, Underwood. *Numerology, or, What Pythagoras Wrought*. MAA Press, 2019

<sup>19</sup>“VeBest Numerology Software.” VeBest Numerology Software, [www.vebest.com/products/spiritual/12-Numerology.html](http://www.vebest.com/products/spiritual/12-Numerology.html).

Main Features	
Life Path	9+9+9/27=27=9
Birthday	9
Expression (M)	4/13 (4/13)
Heart Desire (M)	5 (5)
Personality (M)	8 (8)
Karmic Debts	13
Additional Features	
Maturity	4/13
Rational Thought	6/51
Karmic Lessons	5,6,7
Balance	1/10
Hidden Passion	9
Subcons.Confid.	6
Life Cycles	
Age span	0-27-36-45-E
Challenges	0, 0, 0, 0
Pinnacles	9, 9, 9, 9
Personal Year	7
LP Periods	9, 9, 9
LP Age Span	0-27,28-54,55-E

Figure 1: VeBest Numerology Software Result

### 1.3 Numerology Scene in Singapore

In Singapore, the Numerology scene is limited in scope and is only done by a few independent companies or individuals. Some of these include Gracy Yap<sup>20</sup>, WayFengShui Academy<sup>21</sup> and Qi New Age healing<sup>22</sup> by Ms Lay Lee<sup>23</sup> whom I personally learnt from but such consultations by these experts are costly, costing up to \$230 for an hour consultation. When asked as to where they learnt, Lay Lee, from whom I learnt Numerology said she learnt from Gracy Yap who in turn learnt from experts in Switzerland. Awareness is low also with only 3 out of 22 participants interviewed for this project having ever heard of Numerology but none of whom know exactly what it means or does. Yet, number plates with “good Numerology” are selling on Carousel for up to \$19,999 and readings listed range from \$10 to about \$138 and include other forms of

<sup>20</sup> “Classes.” YOUR GOLDEN NUMBERS BY GRACY YAP, [www.thegracyyap.com/classes.html](http://www.thegracyyap.com/classes.html).

<sup>21</sup> “Tarot & Numerology Professional.” *Way Feng Shui Academy*, [www.wayfengshui.com/academy/programme\\_details.php?Id=38](http://www.wayfengshui.com/academy/programme_details.php?Id=38).

<sup>22</sup> “Qi New Age & Healing- Singapore Crystals & New Age Store - Beautiful Crystals, Oracle Cards, Sage, Palo Santo.” *Qi New Age & Healing*, <https://crystals-newagehealing.com/collections/06-courses-classes/>.

<sup>23</sup> 23. “Lay Lee - \* Spiritual Counsellor \* Sekhem, Reiki & Spiritual Healer \* Crystals Healer \* Numerologist.”, *Qi New Age & Healing*, [crystals-newagehealing.com/products/lay-lee](http://crystals-newagehealing.com/products/lay-lee).

Numerology readings such as Hindu Numerology<sup>24</sup>, showing some form of belief that certain numbers would bring luck.

#### 1.4 Motivations of study:

An understudied topic in the world and Singapore with limited literature, it is intriguing how such companies still persist for many years signalling potential truth to it and perhaps why people believe it. Furthermore, since it can be used as a tool to better understand ourselves and bring answers to who we are, a study to whether Numerology is helpful to people and if would benefit from increased awareness is worth pursuing. More specifically, how does it aid in forming our personal identity growing up? Personally, for me, I benefitted from learning about myself through Numerology as it helped me during a difficult period of my life to make sense of the events that happened and have been happening throughout my life. I therefore wanted to investigate how useful people might find Numerology to understand who they are and the life events that shape them which aids in forming their personal identity. **In this paper, I will make the case that since Pythagorean Numerology can be a useful tool to construct one's personal identity by providing insights into their inborn characteristics such as our masculinity, risk-taking propensity, a tendency to feel spirits, talents and the values and characteristics we find important, and to contextualise the life events that shape them such as the struggles faced and lessons meant to be learnt, its visibility and adoption should be accentuated in Singapore.**

## 2. Research Methodology

To answer my question, I conducted interviews consisting of quantitative and qualitative questions to assess how useful and representative Numerology is to people. Here I explain the elements of my research.

### 2.1 Set-up process of calculating numbers to do the Numerology reading

I created a Python script to do the calculations and attached the relevant description from the list of descriptions pertaining to that number. These are exported into a Word Document for the interviewees to take home and read on their own time and to also ensure that the interview

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<sup>24</sup> "Affordable 'Numerology' For Sale: Carousell Singapore." *Carousell*, [www.carousell.sg/Numerology/q/?searchId=EpL4bQ](http://www.carousell.sg/Numerology/q/?searchId=EpL4bQ).

is kept succinct. This helped me summarise the key ideas used to do my readings for them, reducing the preparation time needed.

## 2.2 Profile of sources

A total of 22 youth, aged 18 – 25 and an equal number of males and females were interviewed, 7 of whom were international students.

Age this year

22 responses

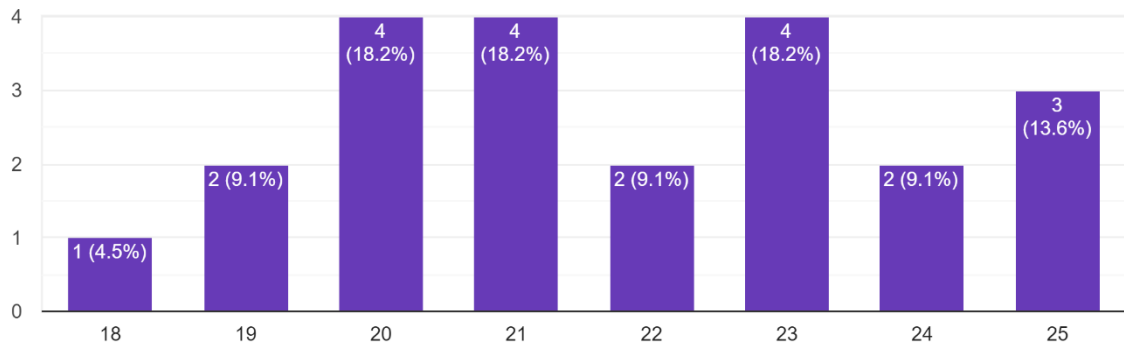


Figure 2: Profile of participants (Age)

Gender

22 responses

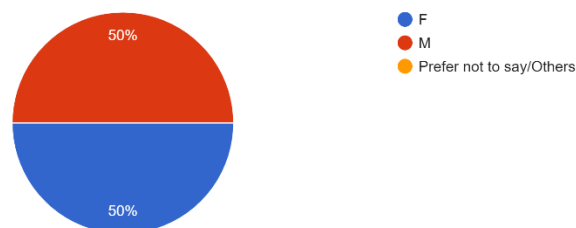


Figure 3: Profile of participants (Gender)

Initially intending to interview just friends, to prevent personal bias, I did an open call to students in my residential college, Cinnamon College, via Telegram. Some reached out of sheer interest while others joined in along the way due to positive word of mouth. I requested those

who signed up individually to bring more friends to aid reliability by fact-checking what the person says is correct and giving their own observations of their friend. Word spread fast and people reached out to me to get a Numerology reading as they heard that it was rather accurate. This resulted in me getting more than the intended number, with many I still had to forgo due to the lack of time.

### 2.3 Questionnaire

Seeking out if they have encountered Numerology before, I adopted a mixed quantitative and qualitative approach for the survey, asking them to rate on a scale of 1 to 10 how far they agree with the 6 pertinent aspects found in the appendix and elaborate on their reasoning for the scoring. I then asked how useful they found Numerology in understanding themselves and how might we enhance the Numerology scene in Singapore to appeal to more Singaporeans.

Using their English full name at birth and date of birth, a facilitative approach of asking and clarifying what the report generated, instead of frontloading it to them, was adopted to ascertain if the insights generated were accurate. Only specific elements of the report were handpicked, keeping it brief with participants. On average, the interviews became chit-chat sessions lasting an hour on average.

## **3. Results: Numerology is a useful tool to help construct your personal identity**

Here, I will explain how the results attained from Numerology will help them highlight the multiple elements that define them and the events that occur in their life, helping them decipher who they really are.

### 3.1 Numerology provides insights into the characteristics that define us

For those who are discovering themselves, Numerology provides awareness of the characteristics that we possess that defines us uniquely as an individual. This manifests in our thoughts, behaviours and actions in various settings and we might have noticed them from our life experiences. The five insights given by Numerology include our **masculinity, risk-taking propensity, tendency to feel spirits, talents and the values and characteristics we find**

**important**, collectively help form various pieces of our personal identity by expounding on how we are in various spheres of life.

### 3.1.1 Masculinity:

By observing the difference between the number of 1s and 2s in their chart, it is possible to know how masculine or feminine someone is, something that could puzzle some. Given that masculinity is a loosely worded term, it was best described to participants as how assertive as compared to reserved they are, which is associated with how masculine or manly someone is. For those who have too many 1s in their chart, it indicates potential struggles to verbally express themselves and consequently being misunderstood by others especially when young, which was highly accurate.

Tiffany, with more 1s than 2s and only, recounted how as a female, she was always regarded as a tomboy, having many misunderstandings with her friends due to her “tone being very rude or harsh” despite having good intentions. Mikil, with more 2s than 1s was intrigued to hear that he can be quite feminine because he has friends describing him as being gentle and easy-going. By tapping into Numerology, one gains more data points to evaluate and understand better how they are and not be critical of themselves, which Tiffany said she was guilty of as she felt it was her fault. For others, this knowledge also serves as an insight into how they are which can trigger more introspection in their daily life.

### 3.1.2 Risk-Taking Propensity:

Another insight divulged from Numerology is how risk-taking we are compared to being practical, by checking the number of 4s and 5s. Most interviewed having more 5s than 4s remarked how they source new fun and exciting activities to do as they tend to get bored easily, outweighing attempts to stay practical and not overcommit to anything interesting. On the other extreme end was Danial, who with more 4s than 5s (six 4s vs two 5s) narrates how he diligently works out daily with his friend, even leaving early from group meetings and outings to exercise. In fact, when asked to do anything new for a change, he will ruminate on it and mostly reject it due to the uncertainty induced by the activity.

The last category would be people having an equal number of 4s and 5s, who from my interactions indicate that they are very balanced, knowing when to have fun but also telling themselves to stop when it gets too overwhelming. For Divya, with three 5s and 4s, she



mentioned how she had always been internally conflicted between trying new things and being structured and felt that the Numerology reading shed some light into how she actually was. Numerology can be therefore utilized as a tool to reflect on how we are when deciding to embark on new opportunities, which might be helpful to know especially in this fast-paced atmosphere in Singapore.

### 3.1.3 Tendency to feel spirits:

For those who are blessed with metaphysical powers such as being able to feel spirits or energy before and/or have been freaked out by it, Numerology could perhaps explain and validate this tendency. Having two or more 7s indicates how spiritual one would be and an inclination to feel the vibrations of spirits. Keerthana, with two 7s, proactively recounted her eerie encounters of how she would feel something caress and pat her face gently from time to time when she is sleeping and when her friend Sangeetha (with two 7s) slept in her room, the same spirit, which they named “Nancy Puthuchery” kicked her best friend till she woke up frantic. Recounting their supernatural adventure to their friends who lamented it as overly dramatic, they found reassurance to know what they experienced is nothing to be worried about as it is a power they have and reaffirm that they are not crazy. Naming the spirit is indicative of how distressed Sangeetha was and how she resorted to naming it to cool herself. Thus, for those who seek some clarity to some of their life experiences, Numerology provides a plausible explanation for supernatural events which they can use to calm themselves down, resolving their fears pertaining to such unexplainable phenomena, something tools such as personality tests are not able to offer on their innate characteristics independent of their social behaviour. However, some did mention that they either felt something before but ignored it or were unsure how to process it. For them, this knowledge allows them to observe and make sense of this phenomenon in their life.

### 3.1.4 The natural talents we possess:

Another aspect of what we might want to know about ourselves which could aid our career would be what are we naturally talented in, which Numerology provides an awareness of, derived from our life path (LP) number. Given how our date of birth cannot be controlled by us, it is astonishingly accurate in highlighting what excel at. Anna with LP 7, known to be analytical, agreed with how she is astute in analysing different issues in the world, which she realised early on and led her to join the interdisciplinary programme University Scholars

Programme (USP) in university. This gave her an insight into her spurring rationale for joining USP.

Similarly, this phenomenon was widely observed among those with LP 9, who are natural humanitarians. They were all involved in serving the community in varying capacities, from being a Residential Assistant or studying social work, and even being a career exploration facilitator, citing how it is their responsibility to make the world a better place. Growing up, they always gravitated towards opportunities helping others and this insight provided clarity to them. Such an insight garnered from Numerology helps them ascertain what they might enjoy doing as a career, something that was useful for Shan Wei, who now understands why he loves social work even though it is not as lucrative as other fields.

On a deeper level, knowing the LP of others can help us understand ourselves and others better, preventing unnecessary comparison. Joanne, with LP 4 mentioned how she wished she could be adventurous as her friends with LP 5 were but failed to do so despite multiple attempts as she suffered burnout quickly. This newfound knowledge aids in understanding why others are able to excel in other aspects and embrace themselves for their talents.

While these talents might be more visible for some, this was not the case for everyone. Divya with LP 5 said she did not know that she possessed this talent which was perhaps because she did not try out new as many new endeavours growing up due to her family situation recently noticed this talent in her emerging after learning more skills. This further underscores that while we might have talents, it might not be immediately apparent. Thus, Numerology serves as a good starting point to know what we might be naturally good at and helps us make informed choices on what focus our efforts on developing throughout our growing up years or even when pursuing a career out of it.

### 3.1.5 Important Values and Characteristics

Apart from the listed on our talents and innate traits, a unique insight that Numerology helps uncover is the values and characteristics we hold dearly. From our Inner Personality (IP) number, one is able to know what their inner soul seeks. Jun Ming with IP 4, agreed with how he always craved stability and practicality, which is why he picked a government scholarship over a private one. Numerology helps uncover what we truly desire in life, something which is not immediately apparent due to its hidden nature. Knowing their innate values guiding their

soul would provide clarity when making life decisions such as for Jun Ming, which he can finally justify why he made certain decisions in life.

Characteristics we find important and hope to inculcate can also be deduced from our Numerology chart. From our Want to be Perceived (WP) number, we are able to understand what we hope people see us being and this ends up in us embodying some of these characteristics. For example, Grace, with WP 1, wants to be perceived as good in everything, causing her to strive to excel in everything. Erika, with WP 5, said how she liked to be perceived as an adventurer, resulting in her constantly trying out new activities. Such insights seem trivial to some but for those curiously seeking answers, the IP and WP sparks greater self-awareness of what we find important to us, which can be useful in discovering who we really are. Jointly with our inner motivations, better understanding ourselves would help us make better key life decisions.

As a whole, this section illustrates how Numerology can serve as a pertinent tool to uncover various aspects of ourselves, some of which we might already know while others that we do not already know, forming our personal identity.

### 3.2 Numerology provides insights to the events that shape us

Besides knowing our inborn characteristics, we can use Numerology to better understand the life events that shape us as it helps explain some of the struggles we encounter and lessons to learn in this lifetime.

#### 3.2.1 Understanding our struggles faced in life

The Missing Numbers (MN) in Numerology can enlighten or affirm certain struggles one might face in life, especially for those curious about why they struggle more than their friends in certain aspects. Sangeetha, with MN 6, recounted how she could never be close with her father as she could never be good enough in his eyes, always falling short of his expectations particularly in studies despite how hard she studied. The impact of this struggle was apparent as she almost teared recollecting these anecdotes. While she understands her father's best interest to push her to do better, she yearned for her father to "just see how hard she worked and just appreciate her for it". This finding was found to be "shockingly true" to Divya, with

MN 6 too who struggled to get along with their family and shouldered many of the family responsibilities growing up, “take[ing] care of her parents like kids as if she was the parent”.

For Divya however, she has an additional MN 3, which she found described her recurring depression for no apparent reason, exacerbated her struggles when she tried seeking support from her family, causing her to run away from family who did not understand her well and falling into regular cycles of depression. Given that family is an important pillar of support growing up, the gap from their family was obvious and spurred worrying thoughts of how the distance was their fault, which now they realise was a struggle that they had to experience. Having garnered these insights, she has now made peace with the struggles she had with her family and that it is not her fault that she has felt that way. Yet she wished that she knew this earlier because she had been critical of herself for not being close with her family. Thus, knowing their missing numbers help validate their struggles that they could not voice out effectively growing up, giving them solace and perhaps closure too, something no personality test can explain.

On the other hand, Debbie, with MN 3 but with four 6s revealed that despite her lack of self-confidence growing up, she never felt depressed due to her tightness with her family. The cases of Divya and Debbie further illustrate how our MN interact with other numbers in our chart, either exacerbating or reducing the struggles we face. This emphasises how each insight listed thus far should be analysed collectively as they mutually influence each other.

Knowing our MN also reveal the kind of situations we might naturally gravitate towards such as in our career aspirations, which more evident with those with MN 4 and 8. One of the participants, Jia Jun, with MN 4, is studying Accountancy despite hating its rigid structure and was unsure why he chose this course which he finds painful to study. However, overtime he has come to be comfortable with routine, and is now a very systematic and conscientious person. While those with a MN struggle significantly in that domain of life, they emerge to learn how to embody the characteristics of that number. Similarly, for Anna with MN 4, she said despite hating structured environments, she grew up following strict rules at home set by her father who was a pilot and imposed regimental standards. This provides some evidence that in order to effectively learn some lessons, our environment is strategically formulated to effectively do so.

Similarly, for those with MN 8, they were all studying business-related courses (Business Administration, Business Analytics) despite struggling to manage money well. This subconscious gravitation could be to learn the lessons and skills needed to deal with it and reduce the effects of that MN, this shows how despite not having a certain number in our chart, we naturally end in situations surrounding this so that we learn the lessons associated with having that missing number, albeit this process would not be as easy as those that LP number.

For MN, in order to learn these lessons, we will be put in those situations and knowledge of them helps us introspect and provide clarity on these life events, some of which we hate or struggle with, allowing for more self-compassion when reconciling who they are as a person.

### 3.2.2 Lessons we need to learn in this lifetime

From our destiny number (DN), we can further extract the lessons we need to learn in this lifetime. Zhi Wei with LP 4 and DN 5 said despite how structured he is, he is being forced to be more carefree and take more risks over time, especially in university where is surrounded by people encouraging him to try out new activities. For Tiffany with DN 6, she explains how she learnt to care for others around her by observing her mother and when a friend had a panic attack, she gave him the required love and support for which he how loved and grateful she felt. Beyond MN, DN provides a reference point for observations of what events are occurring to us which helps better discern what we are meant to learn and why we are changing throughout our life experiences. This complements personality tests by explaining the life conditions and social interactions that cause our behaviour in social situations to change over time, providing more answers to questions in this area.

Ultimately, having understood themselves, it is helpful to gain a perspective of the bigger picture of life by understanding how the life events and environments are pivotally designed to teach us lessons. These unparalleled insights gathered from the various pertinent numbers serve as useful data points to understand and complete the puzzle of who we actually are and what is happening to us.

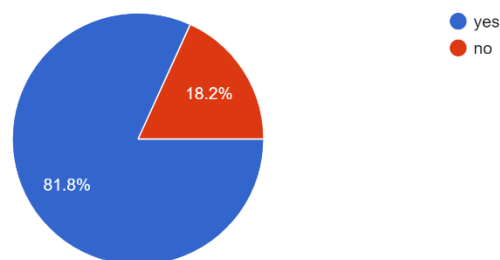
## **4. Implications of study**

For those seeking answers to who they are, the primary research indicates that participants find Numerology useful in describing them accurately. Numerology helps one rationalise life events,

validate their struggles and provide answers to who they are. Zhi Wei believes that everyone can benefit from Numerology just by the validation provided of what you already know and pointing aspects to explore or improve on, which he argues people need in life, especially those lacking self-awareness. Keerthana mentioned how regardless of the accuracy of the results, it provides a means of “analysing, reflecting and understanding myself, my behaviour, personality and approach to things”, reporting how she is now better aware of strengths and flaws. Rui Yi felt that the reading made her more self-aware and gave answers to her soul-searching she was undergoing when she received this reading. Evidently, many of the participants found Numerology useful in accurately piecing up the puzzle of who they are, despite it being a pseudoscience but Syahin preferred if there was evidence to scientifically certify the findings as accurate.

#### 4.1 Increasing visibility and adoption of Numerology among Singaporeans

Do you think numerology is something that Singaporeans can appreciate?  
22 responses



*Figure 4: Percentage of participants who believe Numerology is something Singaporeans find useful*

Overall, participants believed that Numerology is a tool that Singaporeans can appreciate, provided they come with an open mind to embrace what it would say about us. As with other forms of spiritual tools such as Astrology or Feng Shui, there is a place in society, especially for those who might be more spiritual and seeking answers. However, a handful of participants raised concerns of how the beliefs of reincarnation or just the idea of “altering their fate” would conflict with pious individuals of certain religions such as Islam or Christianity. Instead, Erika suggested that marketing it to Singaporeans more of a casual personality-test equivalent tool, independent from religion would prove more effective. It is worth noting however that Pythagorean Numerology does not predict your fate unlike other practices such as Astrology and as a Muslim myself, Islam talks about not changing your fate and it should be highlighted

that gaining insights into who one is is not synonymous as trying to change their fate. Fundamentally, it is up to an individual to decide the insights provided but I believe Numerology is a religion-neutral tool that helps in one's self-awareness and can be utilised by Singaporeans alike.

Some suggestions mooted to increase traction of Numerology include creating a social media account for Numerology and what the numbers mean, doing quantitative surveys to show how accurate people find them and lastly reducing the price of getting readings done. For a few, they mentioned that the maximum they would pay for a Numerology reading was \$15, while some were reluctant to pay even \$5 for the reading unless they were in a serious life crisis. Nevertheless, everyone mutually agreed that the current cost of Numerology readings (over \$100) is exorbitant, and it is important make it more accessible to the general public, especially to cater to those in dire situations and searching for answers. One unique proposition we can consider was the possibility using our Skills Future credits to attend Numerology classes for those interested to learn and try it out on their friends. That way, the utility of Numerology could be spread by word of mouth, and more can benefit from its insights.

## **5. Conclusion:**

In this paper, I have proposed a useful framework on how Pythagorean Numerology can be utilized as a tool to understand ourselves which can be used to form one's personal identity. This is by unravelling our inborn characteristics such as how masculine or feminine we are, risk-taking capacity, our tendency to feel spirits, our natural talents and the values and characteristics we find important. Furthermore, it helps to contextualise the events surrounding us by providing some reasoning to the struggles we might face and the situations we might find ourselves in as we have some lessons to learn. These insights have been found to be useful by university youth.

Nonetheless, given my recent experience in Numerology, it is probable that I did not manage to extract and provide all the relevant insights for every person. Also, due to a sample size of those with Master Numbers, I had to omit mentioning about them, which could have dampened the vibrancy of the insights gathered. It would be interesting to follow those with Master Numbers throughout their life trajectory. Through my own work, I noticed how youth were able to better relate to the insights compared to adults, suggesting an area of further research to investigate how the utility of Numerology might vary by age group. Likewise, it will be

intriguing to explore how the understanding of MN 3 and 6 could aid government bodies efforts to aid individuals with depression and from broken families.

Having established its utility in understanding ourselves, it is my humble belief that Numerology will be adopted by Singaporeans and anyone in general. To achieve this, however, awareness of Numerology needs to increase and a lower barrier of entry into gaining and understanding the insights listed by better marketing its benefits and reducing the cost of a reading. Moreover, divorcing Pythagorean Numerology from Religion and presenting it as a religion-neutral tool will help widen the people who could benefit from this powerful tool. These could help Pythagorean Numerology gain traction and be utilised worldwide.



## Appendix:

### 1. Pertinent numbers in Numerology

The pertinent numbers are generated from one's date of birth and their full name, which **is at birth and/or registered in their birth certificate.**

From the name, by encoding the letters in the alphabet to numbers 1 to 9 (a = 1, b = 2, I = 9 etc.) or following the table below, we get these numbers which will then be used to form a tic-tac-toe of numbers (Numerology chart), also known as the mod 9 operation.

Subsequently add the digits in your date of birth and also the final digit from the sum of all the digits in your date of birth and your name. From the sum, add the digits up till you reduce it to a single digit from 1-9 These refer to the life path and destiny number.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	I
j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r
s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	

This is a sample tic-tac-toe that summarises all the values generated and has all the numbers present.

---

<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>888</b>
<b>11111111</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>7</b>

Each number 1 - 9 has its own description, which can be found in the appendix.

There are special numbers called master numbers, which refer to 11,22,33. This means that if your life path or destiny number of day of birth is equal to them, there is an extra element to them which is hidden and would only awaken at a certain stage of their life. Due to the lack of sample size possessing master numbers, this was not discussed in this paper.

### 1.1 Life Path (LP)

Life Path refers to what the person is naturally good at. This is generated by adding the day of birth and month of birth first, reducing it to one digit and then adding the year and reducing it to a single digit.

21/03/2001

Life path =  $2+1 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 9$

### 1.2 Destiny Number (DN)

Destiny number refers to what the person is destined to learn and will learn more about as they progress in life. In essence, they would eventually more characteristics of the number over time.

I b r a h i m S h a r u l

9 2 9 1 8 9 4 1 8 1 9 3 3

Destiny Number =  $9+2+9+1+8+9+4+1+8+1+9+3+3 = 67 = 13 = 4$

### 1.3 Missing numbers (MN)

This refers to any numbers that is absent from their name and date of birth and thus tic-tac-toe chart. When one has missing numbers, they tend to struggle slightly more in the areas the number focuses on but are meant to learn the lessons of that number.

### 1.4 Who you are as a person (Personality)

From the day of birth, it indicates as to how the person is, their thoughts, behaviours and actions. Personality can be said to be the laymen word to encompass this description but is otherwise a strong loaded word.

21/03/1998

### 1.5 Inner personality (IP)

By getting the sum of the vowels from one's name and reducing it to a single digit, it reveals our inner-self, our inner-personality and our soul desire.

From the name Ibrahim Sharul,

The vowels are I, a, I, a, u,

Inner personality =  $9 + 1 + 9 + 1 + 3 = 23 = 5$

### 1.6 Want to be perceived (WP)

By getting the sum of the consonants (non-vowels) from one's name and reducing it to a single digit, it reveals how we want to be perceived.

b r h m S h r l

2 9 8 4 1 8 9 3

Want to be perceived =  $2+9+8+4+1+8+9+3 = 53 = 8$

### 1.7 Other insights from their personal chart

There were other insights used during the reading such the difference between the number of 1s and 2s indicate how masculine or feminine one is. Having more 1s than 2s shows more masculinity. Also, the difference between the number of 4s and 5s indicate how structured a person is as compared to being adventurous or risk taking. Having more 5s indicates an increased desire to venture beyond their comfort zone. There are personalised insights depending on the quantity of each number present in one's tic-tac-toe chart.

2. Summary of the numbers, courtesy of Qi New Age Healing:

Number	Description
1	<p>"Good Description": "leadership qualities, independent, strong minded, self-sufficient, extremely capable, initiative, individuality, strong personality * crave to be no. 1, rarely accepts defeat, don't give up easily, courageous, innovative, self-motivated, talented problem solver",</p> <p>"Not So good Description": "thinking out of the box, can Start but usually cannot finish",</p> <p>"Challenges": "walking the road less travelled and assist those in need of leadership and guidance, run own business or work as manager of others maybe bossy, impatient, egoistic, controlling, aggressive, abrupt, opinionated, insecure",</p> <p>"Lessons": "become more self-aware; harmonise with others; embrace their individuality; be more diplomatic, patient and tolerant; to lead alongside Others, to love and believe in themselves; learn to be less aggressive",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "Long to become and independent individual who embraces uniqueness and thinks outside the box; have freedom and not repress order to fit into society; motivated by being in charge and initiate project don't like being told what to do",</p>
2	<p>"Good Description": "diplomatic, considerations, mediator, loving, harmonious, feminine, affectionate, persuasive, supportive, cooperative, intuitive, partnership, diplomacy ",</p> <p>"Not So good Description": "moody, jealous, hypersensitive, self-conscious, shy, indecisive, co- dependent, timid",</p> <p>"Lessons": "to love and believe in themselves; to define personal limits and boundaries; trust their own intuition' learn to be independent; to be honest about their feelings; learn to say no; learn not to be too Sensitive",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "Long to be Cooperative Peacemaker- promoting peace amongst family' friends, workplace &amp; community: Motivated by relationship, harmony, friendship &amp; love ",</p>
3	<p>"Good Description": " creative, joy of living, expression, artistic - can be music, art, acting etc, childlike. fun loving, young at heart' friendly, humorous, charismatic, outgoing, gifted with words, imaginative, inspirational, Sociable, cheerfulness",</p>

	<p>"Not So good Description": "critical, gossipy, superficial, attention seeking, disorganised &amp; irresponsible, loose talk, exaggeration",</p> <p>"Challenges": "NIL",</p> <p>"Lessons:": "overcome self-doubt; eliminate unnecessary dramas; speak their truth; focus, plan &amp; prioritise; be emotionally balanced",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "You long to express Yourself and use your creative and communication skills to bring joy to the world Your soul wants to be happy, joyful and for others to feel the same as you. You feel that life is meant to be fun and to live life to the fullest. You are motivated by people, conversation, laughter, entertainment and arts.",</p>
4	<p>"Good Description": "practical, constructive, systematic, practical, hardworking, order &amp; organised, grounded, stable, reliable, focused, persistent, disciplined &amp; determined, takes responsibilities seriously, preferred routine- find it hard to adapt to change ",</p> <p>"Not So good Description": "critical, judgemental, narrow minded, controlling, emotionally closed, stubborn, inflexible, lack of imagination, argumentative, serious Lessons: embrace and surrender to change, make time for fun &amp; relaxation, think outside the box, express emotion and affection, embrace gradual progress",</p> <p>"Challenges": "NIL",</p> <p>"Lessons:": "embrace and surrender to change, make time for fun &amp; relaxation, think outside the box, express emotion and affection, embrace gradual progress",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "Long to be dedicated worker who brings stability, organisation and order to your family, workplace and community. Your soul desire to obtain financial, emotional and physical stability so you can live a secure life. You appreciate honesty, truth, practicality and reality than superficial, glitz and glamour.",</p>
5	<p>"Good Description": "freedom loving, adventurer, to feel stimulated and challenged, curious, gifted communicator, adaptable, resourceful, clever, magnetic, resilient, multi-talented, quick learner, constructive freedom, sexuality, knowledge, versatile",</p>

	<p>"Not So good Description": "prone to addiction, carelessness, restlessness, jack of all trades, unreliable, inclined to exaggerate, scattered, irresponsible, intolerant, committal, restless, inconsistent at lowest point may lead to chaos, drama and Other sexual pleasure; Sex, alcohol, food, gambling, overspending, obsessive behaviour, excessive exercise hence needs to learn to exercise restraint,</p> <p>"Challenges": "NIL",</p> <p>"Lessons:": "learn to use their freedom Constructively, be patient and tolerant, eliminate dramas. focus and commit, plan and prioritise",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "Long to be a freedom loving adventurer who lives life to the fullest and makes the most of every experience. your soul wants to be free - no restrictions, no limitations. You are motivated by new experience, people, travel, excitement, adventure and variety",</p>
6	<p>"Good Description": "responsible, caregiver' nurturing, family &amp; friends come first, self-sacrificing, generous, responsible, loving, supportive, wise, creative, conscientious, sympathetic, dependable, unselfish",</p> <p>"Not So good Description": "interfering, critical, bossy, jealous, self-critical, prone to worry, unrealistic, perfectionist, self-righteous, sensitive, must learn to be alone and not being lonely",</p> <p>"Challenges": "NIL",</p> <p>"Lessons:": "to love and appreciate themselves, to balance the giving and receiving, recognises love as many forms, learn to say no, comes to term with imperfections, to be S responsible not just for others but for themselves as well, accept let go and move on, respecting others' boundaries",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "As a Soul 6, you long to be Responsible caregiver who serves, support and nurtures others with love. Your soul wants to bring love, beauty and harmony into the world so everyone can feel happy, loved and healed. You are motivated by beauty, family, love, relationship and of service to others.",</p>
7	<p>"Good Description": "Seeker Of truth, needs alone time to ponder the meaning of life, spent thinking, relaxing, analysing, studying, meditating, independent, intuitive, analytical, intellectual, deep, philosophical, technical oriented, insightful, inquisitive, Spiritual, Occult, Wisdom",</p> <p>"Not So good Description": "- secretive, perfectionist, withdrawn, cynical, emotionally closed, defensive, sceptical, untrusting, intolerant, egoistic",</p>

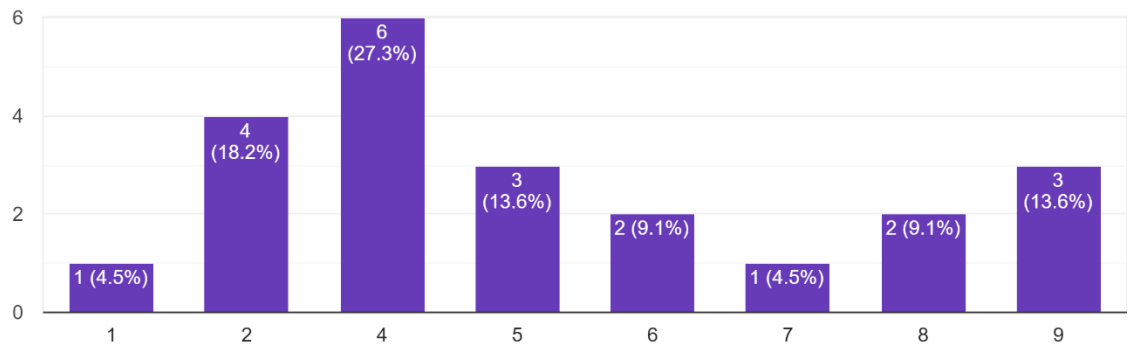
	<p>"Challenges": "NIL",</p> <p>"Lessons:": "to discover their own spiritual truth, to open and trust, to have hope and faith, to be patient and tolerant, embrace imperfection, involve themselves in life, to communicate with emotions",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "As Soul desire 7, you long to seek the Truth and discovers secrets and mysteries of the Universe and find your spiritual truth. You want to get to the bottom of things and to learn what is beneath. You are motivated by wisdom, knowledge and understanding.",</p>
8	<p>"Good Description": "Business-minded, usually self-employed or position Of authority, enjoys challenges and drives to success, organised, fair, dependable, self-motivated, strong, executive ability, authority, hardworking, determined, driven, no. 8 strong, has the ability to manifest wealth and abundance - need to balance their material and spiritual needs",</p> <p>"Not So good Description": "workaholic, egotistical, intimidating ' greedy ' Prone to worry, domineering' intolerant' impatience, love recognition, lack of humanitarianism",</p> <p>"Challenges": "Number cure: I, 3, 6, 24, 15, 30 , 42* not 12 ** to avoid 4 &amp; 8 example car numbers, house numbers, ATM card numbers",</p> <p>"Lessons:": "to balance material and spiritual worlds, live with honesty and integrity, lead alongside with others, temper, lead power with respect, reclaim their personal power, adopt an attitude of abundance",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "As a Soul 8, you long to be a Business minded leader who lives by our higher ideas and exudes an attitude of abundance. The Soul wants to feel balance, empowerment and abundance in Personal and work life. Soul is motivated by responsibility, goals and challenges especially in career. You may prefer to be self-employed and thrive to lead others in achieving a common goal.",</p>
9	<p>"Good Description": "Compassionate, humanitarian, fights for the underdogs, feel responsible to make the world a better place, generous, broadminded, passionate, multi-talented, intuitive, sympathetic, creative, wise, understanding, philanthropic nature, sympathy, selflessness",</p>

	<p>"Not So good Description": "intolerant, impatient, unforgiving, aggressive, temperamental, intense, dramatic, moody, defensive, hypersensitive, impulsive, careless in money matters, inclination for high living",</p> <p>"Challenges": "NIL",</p> <p>"Lessons:": "to be compassionate and tolerant (both), express themselves creatively, need to work with family issues, learn to forgive, accept, let go and move on",</p> <p>"Soul Desire": "Soul desire of 9 long to be a Compassionate humanitarian who contributes to making the world a better place. Your soul wants to have every opportunity to promote peace, unity, understanding, forgiveness and universal love. Motivated to serve others.",</p>
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### 3. Survey results of participants for the pertinent numbers

#### 3.1 Life Path (LP)

Life Path Number  
22 responses



*Figure 5: Life Path of participants*



On a scale of 1-10 how far do you agree?

22 responses

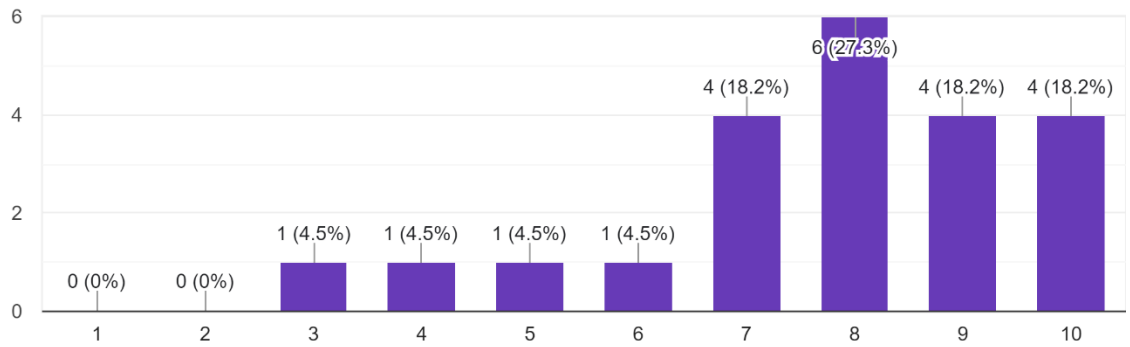


Figure 6: Scale of 1-10 for LP

### 3.2 Destiny Number (DN)

Destiny Number

22 responses

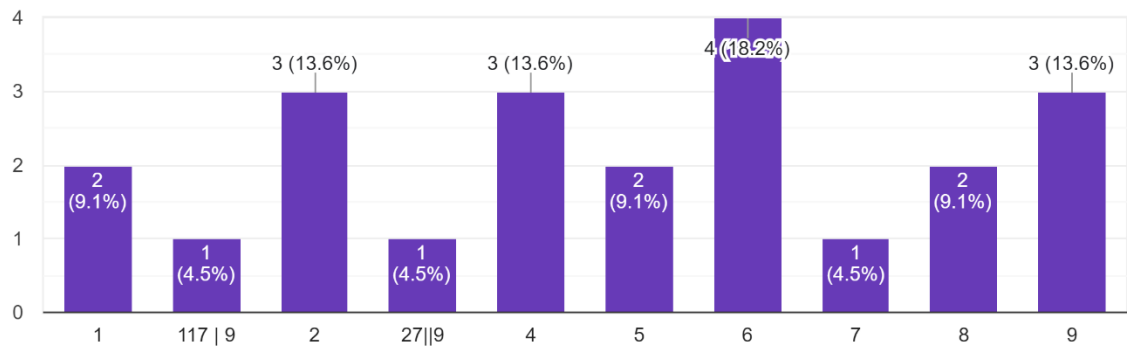


Figure 7: DN of participants

On a scale of 1-10 how far do you agree?

22 responses

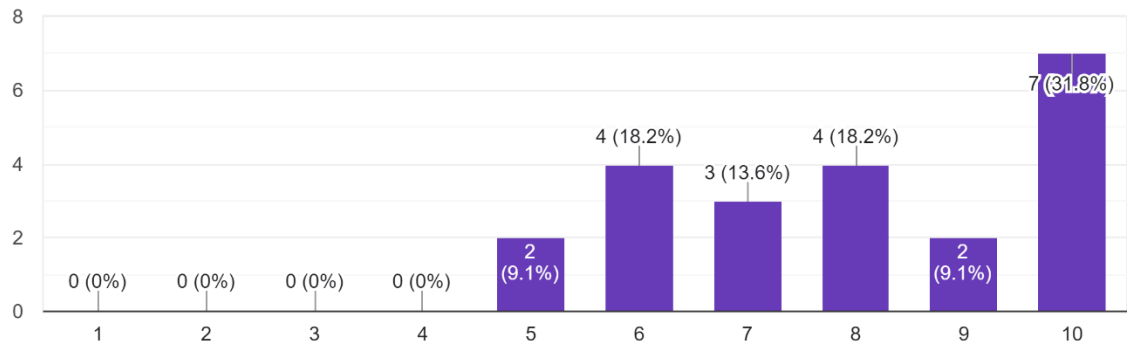


Figure 8: Scale of 1-10 for DN

### 3.3 Who you are as a person (Personality Number)

Personality number (Who you are)

22 responses

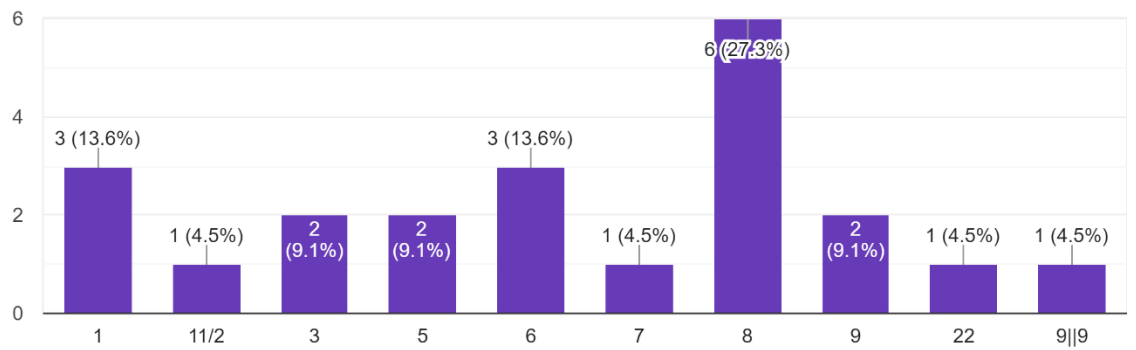


Figure 9: Personality Number of participants

On a scale of 1-10, how far do you agree?  
22 responses

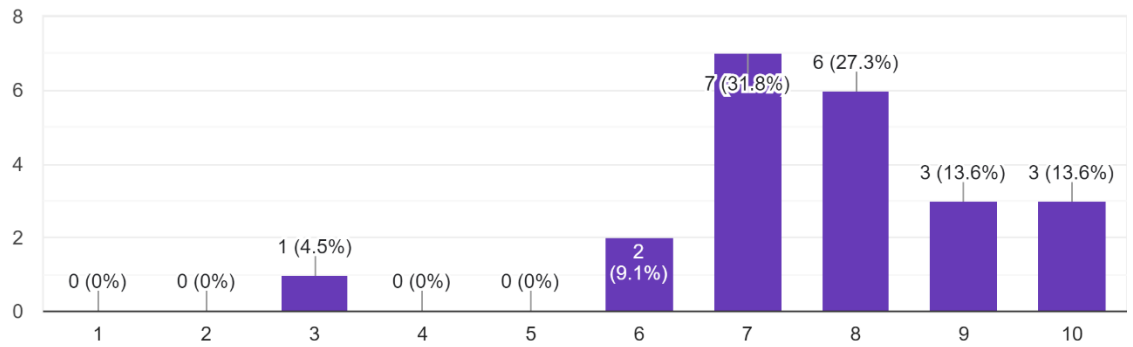


Figure 10: Scale of 1-10 for Personality Number

### 3.4 Inner Personality (IP)

Inner Personality Number  
22 responses

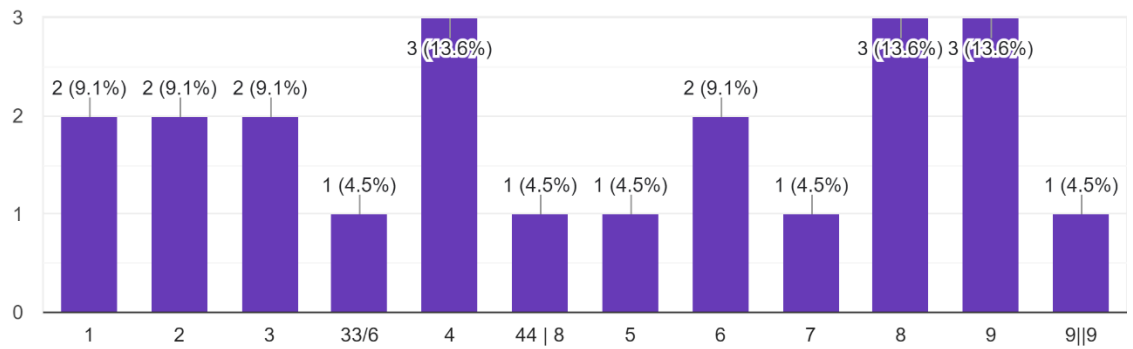


Figure 11: IP of Participants

On a scale of 1-10 how far do you agree?

22 responses

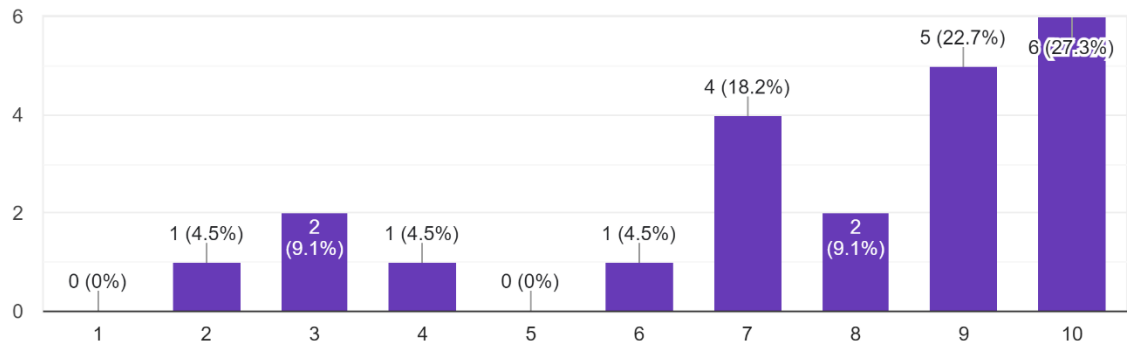


Figure 12: Scale of 1-10 for IP

### 3.5 Want to be Perceived (WP)

Number to be perceived

22 responses

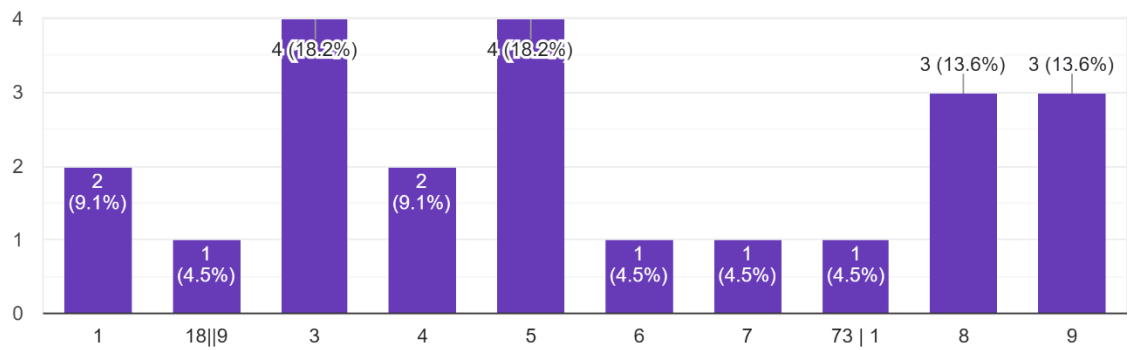


Figure 13: WP of participants

On a scale of 1-10 how far do you agree?

22 responses

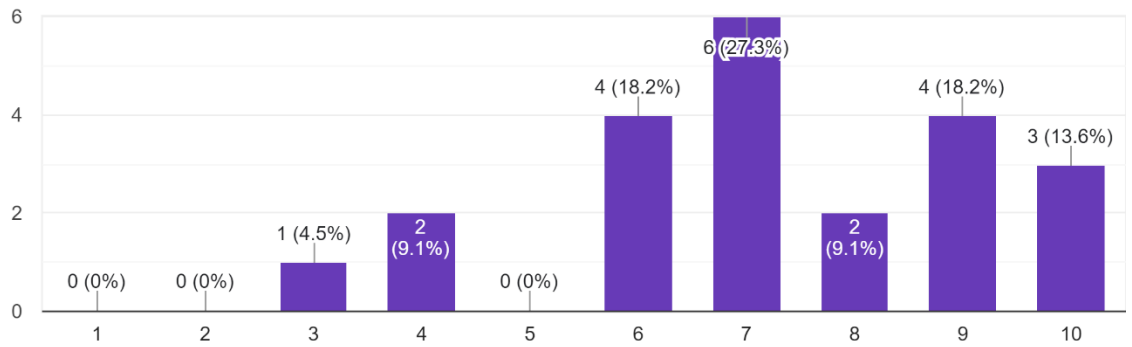


Figure 14: Scale of 1-10 for WP

### 3.6 Missing numbers (MN)

Which are the numbers that are missing?

22 responses

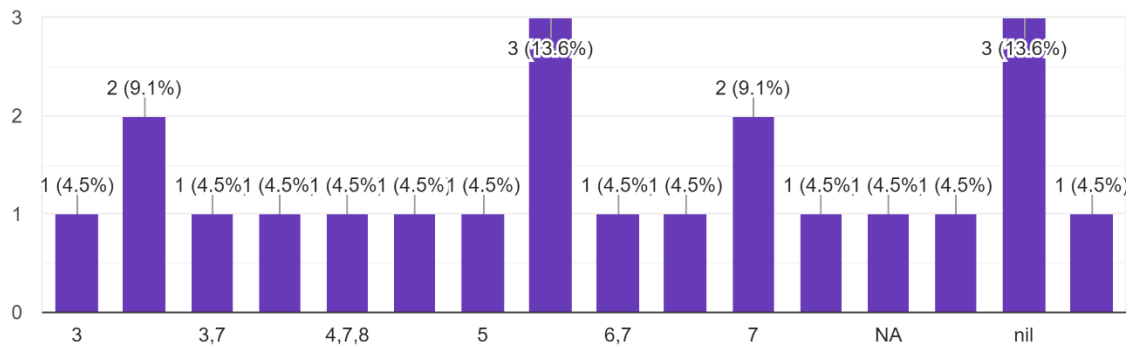


Figure 15: MN of participants

On a scale of 1-10 how far do you agree?

22 responses

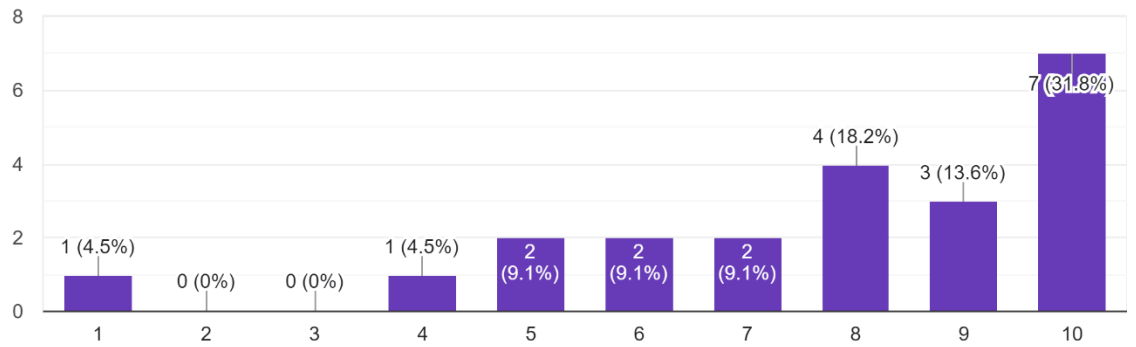


Figure 16: Scale of 1-10 for MN

### 3.7 Personalised result

On a scale of 1-10 how far do you agree?

22 responses

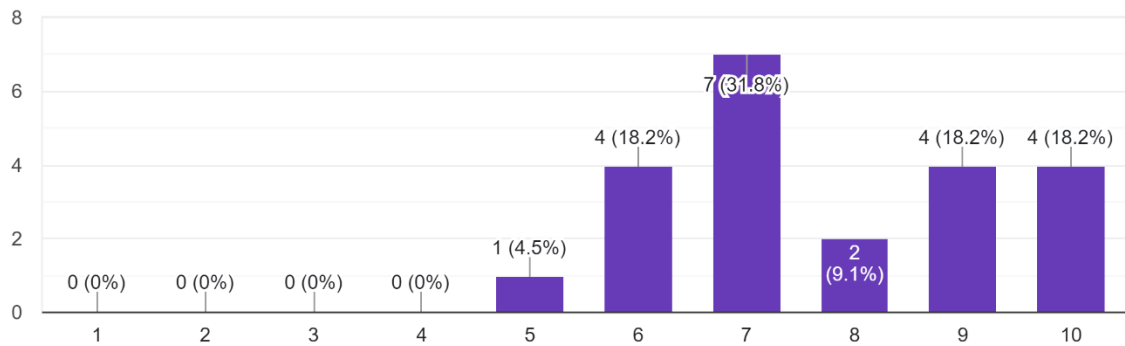


Figure 17: Scale of 1-10 for Personalised Result