

## Japan Really Needs to Teach about Foreigners

If you have to go abroad and change schools because of your father's transfer, you will study foreign languages. However, following parents as foreign workers have many other problems. Children of foreign residents in Japan can't fit in with the school life because of the lack of Japanese educational supports. In addition, the differences of culture between Japanese and one's native country are very big burden for them. So, we have to expand Japanese educational supports and try to tell me importance of cross-cultural understanding for them and their class mates to spend good time in Japan. I decided to think concretely what kind of cross-cultural understanding class is actually needed.

I sent a questionnaires to students who came to Japan as overseas students and teachers who came Japan from foreign counties and work at Funairi high school. The purpose of this questionnaire is to understand problems of me foreign of people. What was the biggest problem when you come to Japan? Please select an applicable answer.

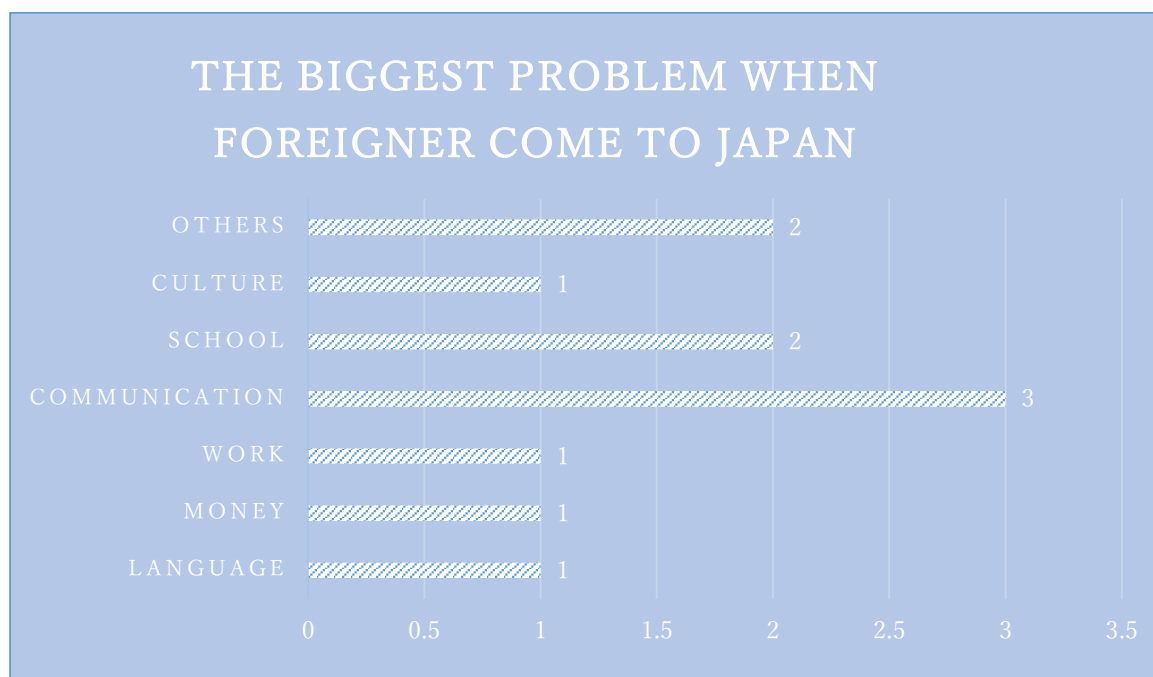
The questioner conducted is as follows.

- a. Language      b. Money      c. Work      d. Communication      e. School  
f. Culture      g. Others

2. Please tell me more about the above.
3. Have you ever felt the difference in culture between your home country and Japan? If yes, what kind of differences have you experienced?
4. Do you think your life in Japan will be better if a cross-cultural understanding class is included in Japanese schools? If yes, what kind of efforts do you think can promote cross-cultural understanding most in classes?

First, I asked problems in living in Japan and what can Japanese people do to solve this problem

at question 1 and 2.



Result of question 1 and 2, “Communication” is the most votes.

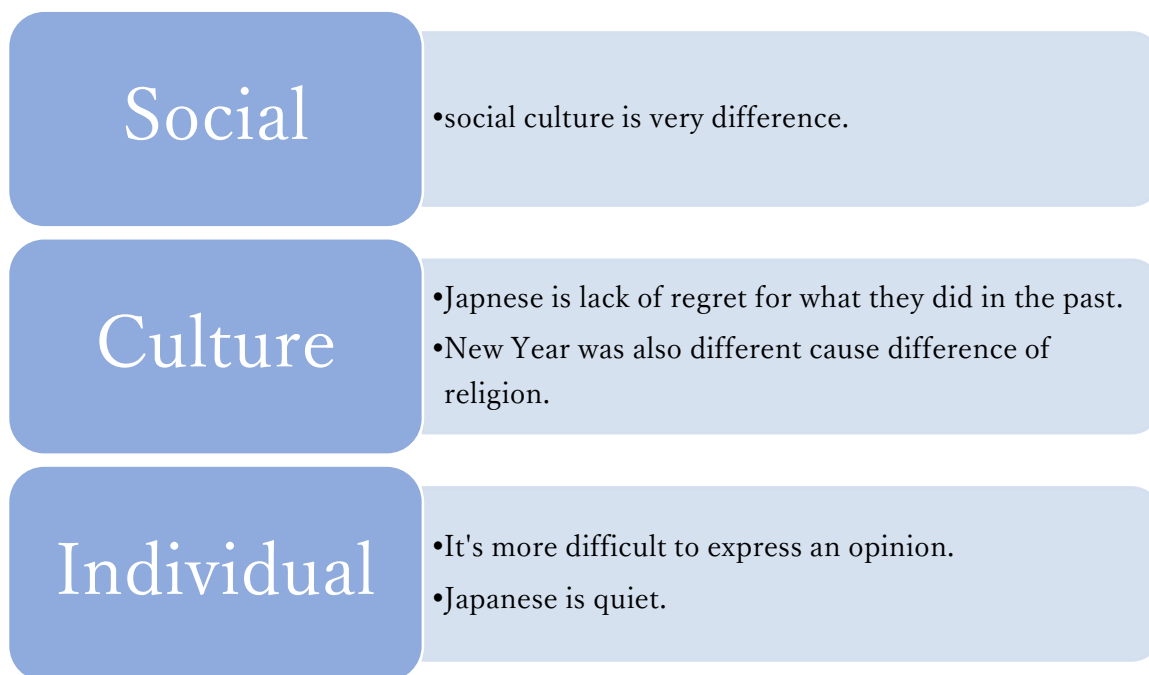
As the opinion on that. •School is also heard cause of language barrier.

•They can be more open when they express their feeling, say what they really mean.

•In Japan, many people avoid sharing negative or very positive emotion so they don't bother other people.

What stood out here was the passivity of Japanese of many Japanese people in Japan can guess what people nearby think. It is good thing, but when they contact with foreigners, it will become a barrier difficult to communicate. According to the survey, I understood there are possibility that foreigner feel left out cause of lack of communication. The result of communication vote are much than languages vote, I consider finding what was a problem cause for an obstacle to communication. Second, according to question 3 and 4, I found about the cultural differences that foreigners actually feel and I analyzed what factor necessary for classes that can promote cross-

cultural understanding.



The passivity of Japanese is stand out here too. In addition, I found differences of religion, social and history.

Besides, I asked the idea what kind efforts is needed to make cross-cultural understanding crass. I found out that difference of culture and the passivity of Japanese become an obstacle to communication. At this point, I asked idea that what students can do for resolving this problem in cross-cultural understanding class.

## Debate

- Debate is a way of thinking about one's opinion.
- Children and adults should be taught how to express themselves and be vocal about any problems they may have.

## Study abroad or outside school hours

- Interviewing people about current events through international staff like ALT or special events.
- Class trips abroad are also most effective on giving experience.
- If people want to study abroad, it's also really helpful for the future.

The result can be roughly classified into two kinds like “debate” and “study abroad and outside school hours.” First category is debate.

Taking these results, I think about content of cross-cultural understanding class concretely. In addition, I focus on two purposes and examine them. Firstly, Improving the passivity of Japanese to motivate saying own opinion willingly. Secondly, Coming into contact with a different culture. To achieve first purpose, I suggest adopting debate in this class. By saying own opinion directly, students may become less passive. Through saying an opinion not just for ourselves, but for some position. It's connect more cross-cultural understanding.

To achieve second purpose, I suggest a school trip to a foreign country. By coming into contact with foreign culture directly, we will be able to learn many things.

There are many problems for foreigner's school life besides languages. So, it's important for Japanese students to bring assertiveness and deepen one's understanding of different culture to support foreigner's school life. In addition, to support it, we need to adopt cross-cultural understanding class, study abroad, and work on debate activities. (700)