

Active in the Bridal Industry

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

When I went to my relative's wedding in the past, I was drawn to the bride and the happiness she exuded. I was inspired by her joyous expression and hair and makeup. From that moment, I wanted to make someone feel the same happiness, so I wanted to learn more about the wedding industry and the different jobs I could do. As a high school student, I took a test that decided which professions would be suitable for one's skills. The results revealed that in the future, I should be working in the birthday industry. After having done some research, I decided that I wanted to become a dress coordinator. Dress coordinators coordinate costumes worn at weddings and receptions. As the world continues to become more globalized, weddings for same sex couples and international marriages have continued to increase. Dress coordinators are people who design all of the outfits worn at wedding receptions. I want to help all kinds of people celebrate their special days regardless of their cultural and ethnic background and sexual orientation.

2. Introduction

I started my research project by examining the various ways of thinking at international high schools. I wondered what kind of problems arose for couples who engaged in international marriages, religion, and culture. An international marriage is defined as a marriage between people with different nationalities. The number of

marriages between Japanese is approximately 560,000, compared to 22,000 international marriages, which is 3-4% of the total number of marriages in Japan. A high number of international marriages seemed to have similar problems. I discovered that there were various problems such as salary differences, relationships with other Japanese people, rental problems, and typical marriage problems. So, regardless of the trouble of renting, the distance between Japanese and international marriages between foreign workers and Japanese, we decided to delve into the problems that foreigners always face when they start living in Japan. Currently, there are many foreigners in Japan who have trouble following housing rules such as taking out garbage and renting only places where it is written that foreigners can live. These problems seem to be caused by the lack of communication with landlords and understanding of the rules, and that there were problems on both sides. My group and I decided to further our research by conducting interviews and questionnaires.

3. Results and Analysis

Based on the noise and garbage problems that were revealed to be the main issues landlords had about foreign residents, my group and I decided to interview foreign residents six questions. First, we asked them if they had trouble renting apartments in Japan. Second, we asked them if they had a hard time moving in. Third, we asked them if it was scary to rent apartments in Japan? Fourth, we asked them what information would have been convenient or useful to know before moving in. Fifth, we asked them what they felt was good during the move-in process. Sixth, we asked them if they were still unfamiliar with any of the rules moving in. We asked foreign residents in their 20s and 40s to answer the questionnaire. In addition, four

people answered in the interview because of their diverse gender. Many people who come from the U.S. tend to be diverse culturally and ethnically and the percentage of other countries is almost the same. There were many English teachers and ALT staff working in Japan. The interview results are as follows. First, when asked if they had any difficulty renting in Japan, 76% said yes. Those who answered "yes" said that they were rejected just because I was a real estate agent and because they were foreign. Some were rejected because they were in a same-sex relationship. Some had a hard time because they could not find a guarantor. When asked if they had had any difficulties while moving into Japan, 18% of the respondents said they did not know how keys and deposits worked or when to pay the rent. They also mentioned that they were reprimanded for not knowing how to throw away the trash properly. Third, 56% answered that renting in Japan was a scary experience because of racism and language barriers. Many of the respondents said that it would be helpful if a detailed explanation of the cost, intercom, delivery box, and all the rules in Japan were explained in their English. They expressed that they wished contracts, parks, convenience stores, etc. would be written in English. The fifth question discussed some positive experiences that foreigners had. For example, the real estate staff and the employees of the moving company were kind and considerate because they took the time to explain the rules. The sixth question revealed that some of the things that foreigners still found to be unclear. Some of them still do not understand the schedule of garbage and recycling.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

By taking these results into consideration, we thought that it would be important to increase the number of languages to be written in the contract, to understand the rules of Japan, and to communicate with landlords and neighbouring residents. Personally, I feel that understanding foreign cultures and eliminating the prejudice against foreigners would lead to a solution. Then, my group and I decided that we would create a multilingual website to show other foreigners the problems that they might encounter when living in Japan. Naturally, we would also provide solutions to those problems. At the very least, they could use the testimonies of other foreigners as references to improve their situations.

5. Reflection

As for my personal reflection, I felt that creating a pamphlet of the different rental problems and solutions would be useful for foreigners. These pamphlets would be placed in public places such as bulletin boards and convenience stores. However, my group and I felt we needed to reach a wider audience through the internet. We thought that we might be able to help foreigners by creating a website that people could easily spread on social media. The website would explain how to set up an app that lists the date of garbage in Nara Prefecture, and so on. It would also contain a rough outline of apartment contracts, phone numbers of guarantor companies, real estate, foreign support companies, and the URL of the map of Nara City. However, there are many things that need to be published and a lot of confirmation is needed. These problems cannot be solved immediately. The bigger issue is finding a way to reduce the negative images that Japanese people have on foreigners. In the future, my group and I would like to continue to educate Japanese people in order to achieve social harmony between foreign residents.

6. Work Cited

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