

Differences are Attractive

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

I chose the Global Seminar because my sophomore year I learned about foreign workers and tourism, which sparked my interest in the cultures of countries different from Japan. As I focused my exploration on this particular theme, I decided to focus on the relationship between foreigners and the rest of the world. Specifically, the relationship between foreign workers and cross-cultural understanding.

2. Introduction

The aim is to raise awareness about Foreign Workers in Japan. A survey revealed that many expats experience many cross-cultural problems caused by differences in lifestyle. From this, we know that cross-cultural understanding is necessary at the same time as accepting workers, and we have decided to consider this from two perspectives: foreign workers and cross-cultural understanding. Trouble may occur with foreign workers because of differences in lifestyle, ways of thinking, and manners between Japan and their home countries. For example, in Japan, "yes" and "no" are said in a roundabout way, which foreigners cannot understand or communicate. On the other hand, foreigners speak in a crisp and clear manner, which makes Japanese people uncomfortable because they cannot read the air.

3. Results and Analysis

In order to find solutions to problems arising from language and cross-cultural differences, we interviewed the Kansai Technical Cooperation Center, which actively accepts foreign trainees to Japan, on April 22 with the following questions.

1. About foreign trainees

Most of the foreign trainees who come to Japan are young people between the ages of 18 and 25. The main reasons are to learn Japanese and apply it to their work in their home countries and for their own personal growth. However, until about 20 years ago, many trainees came to Japan with the intention of helping their parents by earning a lot of money.

2. Points you have noticed in supporting foreign trainees

The Kansai Technical Cooperation Center realised the importance of communicating with foreigners in a way that they can understand by being involved with them on a daily basis. Many of the trainees from Vietnam say they can understand from context, even if they don't understand every word that we teach them, so we asked them to repeat what we had taught them to make sure they understood.

3. Advantages of accepting foreign trainees

Many Japanese are not willing to do physical work, and small and medium-sized companies are currently suffering from a work shortage. However, there has been a change in the atmosphere within the company by actually hiring trainees from other countries. Specifically, the trainees are trained to greet each other clearly, so their voices are cheerful and loud, and they have a positive attitude toward their work. In

this way, it is expected that accepting trainees will revitalise companies and make it a brighter place. However, foreign nationals who come as trainees must stay in Japan for 3 to 5 years, up to 10 years under the specified skill system, and must return home when they have become accustomed to working for the company. This is a mutual disappointment for both the trainees and the companies.

Through this interview, I learned that engaging with foreigners not only provides new insights, but also leads to corporate growth.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

Through these studies, the living conditions of trainees in Japan became clear. Differences not only in language, but also in the way they tell stories, cultures, etc., make them different from the Japanese. To solve these problems, we need to accept each other so that we can recognize each other's differences. To this end, we thought it was important to learn about foreign cultures and experience different cultures not only when we meet foreigners, but also before that. My future task is to think about cross-cultural understanding when Japanese people visit a foreign country. What are the differences between Japan and other countries in terms of the image of foreign workers, how they relate to each other, and their living environment as people from other countries think of them?

5. Reflection

When I began my exploration, I thought that the majority of situations in which foreign workers had difficulties were due to language differences. However, as we continued our exploration, we realised that cross-cultural understanding is also involved in our thinking, including our lifestyles and ways of thinking. When we hear

the word "intercultural understanding," we often think of it as a difficult task to learn about a new culture. However, we believe that the first step in cross-cultural understanding is to know and try to know the other person.

6. Work Cited

関西技術協力センターホームページ

https://www.kansai-gijyutsu.org/?gclid=EAlalQobChMltKGF_Kba-wlVSKuWCh1Srw28EAAYASAAEgJ2evD_BwE