

How can elementary schools in Japan deal with the challenges posed by the increasing number of international children?

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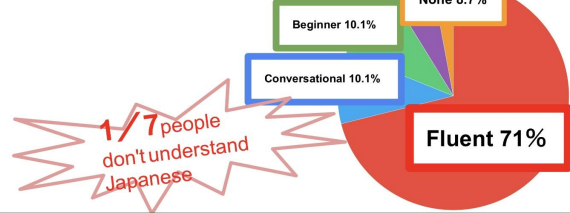


Abstract

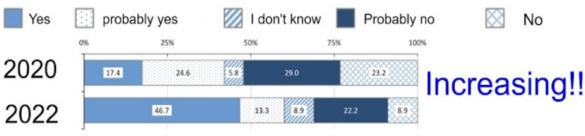
We found out that the elementary students in Japan with foreign cultural backgrounds are faced with challenges concerning language and social adaptation. We looked into our own elementary school and interviewed a teacher in Yokohama, which has a large number of international children. We discussed the issues thoroughly and came up with solutions to somehow improve the situation. We then suggested our solutions to a teacher at an elementary school.

I. Introduction

① Japanese language ability

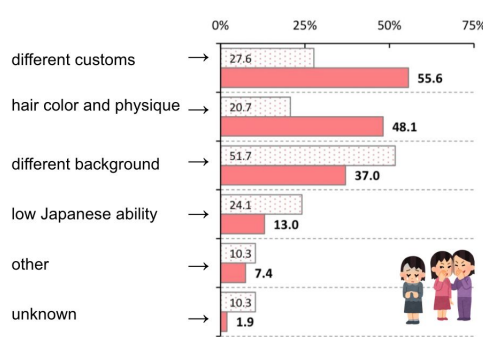


② Have you ever been bullied?



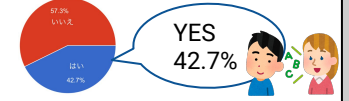
Reference: Graphs in ①②③
Survey Research Center Co., Ltd. (2022, May) 2nd General Survey of Foreign Residents.

③ The reasons why they were bullied



④ Survey at Fudooka HS

1) Did you have foreign students in your class in elementary school?



2) Did you have any trouble when communicating with a foreign student in elementary school?



II. Research Question

What kind of educational support is suitable for foreign children in Japan for them to have a successful time at elementary schools?



III. Method

① Conduct an **interview** with a teacher who work in **Minamiyoshida Elementary School in Yokohama**, which is famous for having many foreign students.



What kind of support do you do for foreign students in class?

② Ask the same question as above to a **teacher at Kasukabe**.

③ Compare the answers to find solutions.

④ **Propose the solutions** we come up with, to an elementary school teacher in Kazo because she has a new foreign student.

IV. Results and Discussion



Minamiyoshida Elementary School in Yokohama

There is an international classroom, and the teacher accompanies the students who cannot speak Japanese to their classes.



Kasukabe Elementary School

Japanese classes are held twice a week. International children are made to take separate classes.

Wouldn't it be better to have more opportunities to interact in class to understand each other's cultures and values?

We came up with 5 possible solutions and proposed them to a teacher in a school to try them

V. Solutions

We proposed five solutions to a teacher in Kazo and she replied as follows:

- : Possible
- ✗: Impossible
- ▲: Difficult

▲ Include their country's foods in school lunch.



✗ Sing their country's songs.



○ possible solutions



○ Eat together.

✗ Play their country's sports.



✗ Watch Japanese anime and listen to Japanese music.



~The Children's Voices~

I was happy to be able to talk to you even just a little bit.

たのしみで話せてくれてありがとうございます。先生は、とても優しく話を聞いてくれました。

I was nervous, but I thought it was amazing that he can say thank you in Japanese.

最初は緊張しましたが、先生が日本語で「ありがとう」と言ってくれたのがとても嬉しかったです。

it was very fun and happy and was very funny and the other group was very fun and a lot of people was very fun as well.

I'm glad he laughed when I told him something funny.

Teacher's Comment: This idea is very successful. My students liked this activity and I've decided to continue this activity.

VI. Conclusion

▶ Eating lunch together is an effective way for foreign children to get along with their Japanese classmates.

▶ This idea is the first step for foreign children to fit in the culture in their schools and one of the easiest ways for teachers to try.

▷ Improvements: Conduct further research focussing on what kind of language support foreign students need to communicate with their classmates. Come up with more ways to help both international and Japanese students who want to communicate with one another.



Reference

Survey Research Center Co., Ltd. (2022, May) 2nd General Survey of Foreign Residents. <https://www.surece.co.jp/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022052604.pdf>