

The Study of the Japanese English Education System and its Impact on the Growth of Global Leaders and its Influences

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Introduction

Globalization has made the world a global village connecting nations through a common base of English as its universal language. It has made the exchange of culture, trade, and services more accessible and reliable. Countries with a stronger base in English can grasp the global market more easily than other countries. Japan, being one of the most technologically advanced countries, is one of the best candidates for the top-tier global market leader. However, the Japan's GDP seems to be declining and the need for global platforms is increasing as it is competing against foreign competitors within Japan, with the disadvantage of language barrier to expand to the global market. Also, before entering the global market, it is necessary to know if Japan can compete with other competitors. Therefore, this research was conducted to know if Japan's Education System is ready to support the future global leaders.

Results of Survey

1.

Average English Study time for students with Foreign curriculum	During Junior High School:	During High School:	Over High School:	Average Start Age
0-2 Hours Per Week	11.1%	0 %	20%	7-12
2-6 Hours Per Week	55.6%	57.1 %	30%	
6-10 Hours Per Week	11.1 %	28.6%	10%	
10 Hours More	22.2 %	14.3%	40%	

2.

Average English Study time for students with Japanese curriculum	During Junior High School:	During High School:	Over High School:	Average Start Age
0-2 Hours Per Week	20.3%	8.5%	34.5%	7-12
2-6 Hours Per Week	51.9%	28.8%	32.7%	
6-10 Hours Per Week	18.5%	42.4%	7.3%	
10 Hours More	9.3%	20.3%	25.5%	

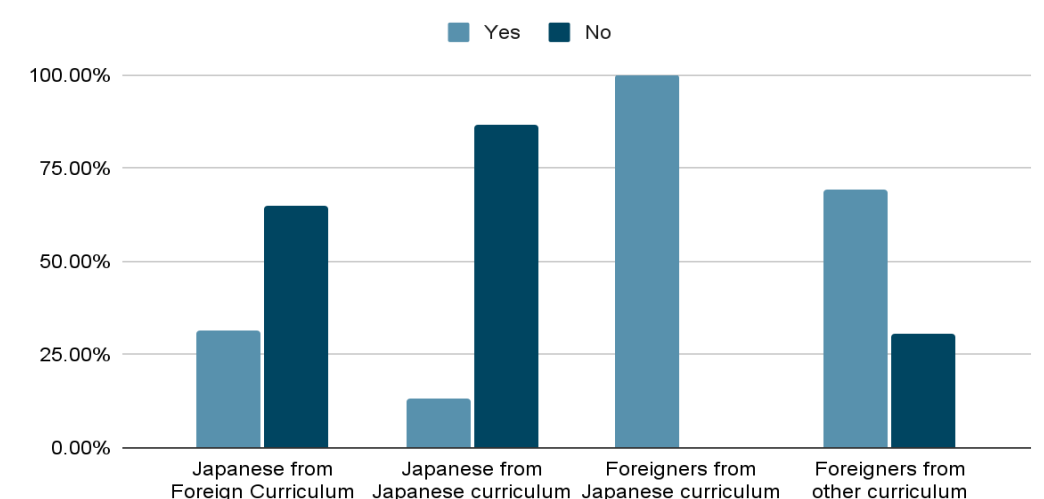
Methodology –

Data was collected confidentially from 117 adult students (70.2% Educated in Japan, 28.8% Educated in Foreign System) through questionnaires conducted across 16 nationalities. The questionnaire was constructed in Japanese and was then translated into English.

Analysis (Table 1 & 2)

From the given table, we know that in general, foreign curriculum students tend to spend more hours studying English. In addition , the data shows that the high school students in Japan spend more time studying English than in the foreign high school. However, foreigners tend to focus more in English for the higher education after high school where according to the survey, 40% of them spend more than 10 hours weekly to learn English.

English Communication Confidence



Conclusion and Suggestions

Problem found by foreigners in Japanese curriculum :

- Too focused on the grammar rather than the practical use.
- Limited ability of teachers to teach practical English.
- Lack of understanding in learning English.
- People in Japan being shy about using English.

Suggestions from Foreigners who experienced Japanese Education:

- Improving the teaching ability and focus on practical use of English while implementing interesting tasks to gain the understanding of the use of English in globalization.
- Starting to focus on the educational resources to practical use with equal importance.
- Using supplementary resources such as movies or books to make the learning stage more fun and interactive that attracts the students' interest in understanding and implementation of English in their daily life.
- Hiring more English speakers for daily interaction in English inside and outside academics for both teacher and students.
- Implementing two-ways learning rather than one-way teaching system.

Analysis (Bar Chart)

The given bar chart illustrates that Japanese educated based on Japanese curriculum are not confident enough in English communication compared to Foreigners and Japanese who got education in the foreign curriculum. However, foreigners who got education in Japanese curriculum tend to be more confident communicating in English. This might be due to their exposure to English communication outside academics.

Summary

To sum up, our research found that Japanese people needs more improvement in the English communications aspect from their curriculum. It seems they might need to focus more in practical English than the written English. Similarly, Japanese seems to need an improvement in English to be able to compete in the international market and expand their business worldwide amidst globalization. In addition, improvement in English will not only help Japan with foreign exposure but also help boosting their confidence in competing with native English speakers in global market.