

SDG 10: How to solve inequality in Japan.

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There are many inequalities in the world today such as between developing and developed countries, boys and girls, the educated and uneducated, racial inequalities, and so on. If there is inequality, even if people want to change the world or their country, they will not have the chance to do so. To achieve a better situation, the first step is to begin with Keimei and Japan and change our behavior. So, what kind of inequality is occurring in Japan? One thing that comes to my mind is the exclusive attitude toward people of different races or cultures. For example, in some schools, foreigner students get bullied just because they are “not the same,” and even in trains, Japanese tend to not sit next to a foreigner just because of how they look.

I will now elaborate on the current state of this problem.

More than a quarter of foreigners in Japan have experienced inequality through employment or schooling. In addition, when foreigners look for a place to live in Japan, more than half of them from various countries are refused the right to move in because they are foreigners. About 30% have been insulted by others because they are foreigners.

Next, I would like to discuss our solutions. First, we must focus on the causes of unequal attitudes toward race. It might be because Japan is an island nation where foreigners are rare, no matter how many foreign tourists there are. Also, from a very young age, the people around us are usually all Japanese with little diversity. So, what should be done to prevent people from thinking unequally? I discovered the answer to this question last summer when I went on a language study program in England. At that event, there were people of many different nationalities. We were able to learn about English and interact with each other, thus increasing understanding of other people from very different backgrounds. I think this experience would help many students at Keimei to have an inclusive perspective and eliminate exclusive thinking. Through such experiences, we can build intercultural competence. This is the ability to understand and respect each other across all types of cultural barriers. Furthermore, Keimei should help students go on more study abroad programs, so that the number of students who experience studying abroad increases.

In order to eliminate inequality with respect to race in Japan, we need to improve intercultural competence from an early age. It is also important that more people show interest in studying abroad as a means to achieve SDGs and to inform people about them. Our idea is that students who have gone on study abroad programs can hold workshops. The workshops would be aimed at Keimei students who have not studied abroad yet, as well as elementary school students in the neighborhood. This will help to lighten the fears of students who hesitate about studying abroad. Elementary school students will also be interested in hearing about the experiences of high school students, and they will be inspired to take up the challenge when they become high school students themselves. This plan is designed to provide future generations of Keimei students with the wonderful experience and knowledge of studying abroad in a cyclical manner.

What did you learn from our presentation? I believe that we can contribute to the achievement of SDG 10, especially inequality against race, by changing our attitudes little by

little. We are still high school students, but we are the next generation. Why don't you actively participate in study abroad programs to improve your intercultural-competence and gain an equal perspective? Let's learn more about the global society and change our society to become an inclusive one.

The best way to solve difficult problems is for as many people as possible to take action and spread the word.