

NAKAMURA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

**Nakamura International
Course**

Class of 2017

Thesis Projects

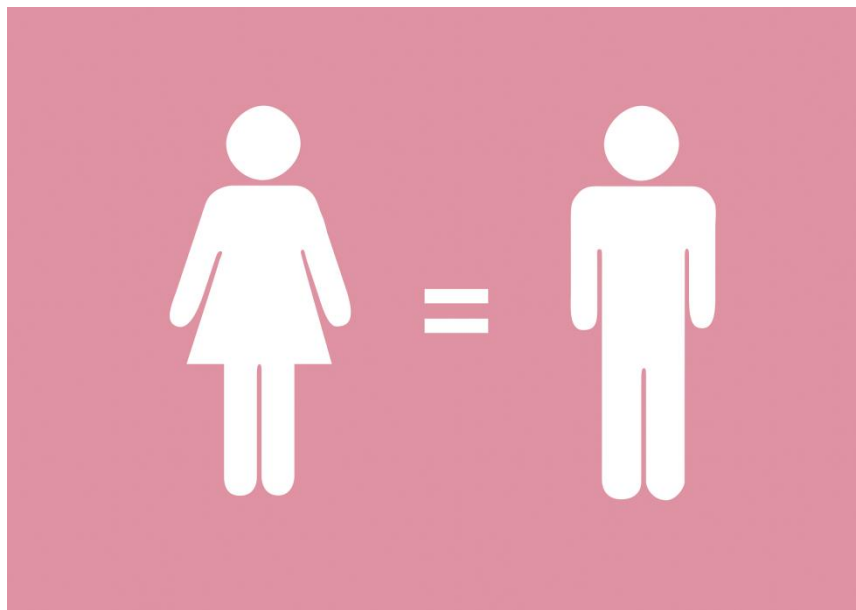


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Introduction

The Nakamura International Course students, class of 2017, have studied abroad for 12 months in English speaking countries during their 2nd year of high school and completed a thesis project. The students first chose a topic and related to gender issues connected to it. They then conducted research about their topic at libraries or on the internet. While the students were studying abroad, they conducted more research in local libraries and carried out face to face interviews with at least four people in order to collect data for their thesis as well as to learn more about their topics in their host country. The students have critically analyzed their research and interviews and have written a thesis paper. In addition they have given a thesis presentation about what they have learned from these experiences. Enclosed are the thesis essays written by each student.

(Natacha Sakamoto & Norio Hayakawa)

Nakamura International Course Class of 2017

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～概要～

中村高等学校国際科では、所属生徒全員が高校2年次に1年間の海外留学（英語圏）を経験します。留学中に研究計画に沿って調査を進め、課題論文を作成します。

2017年度中村高等学校国際科3年生は、「ジェンダー（社会的・文化的に創り出された男女の違い）」というテーマに果敢に挑戦しました。

少子高齢社会の日本。様々な分野で女性の活躍が期待されています。一方、家庭や職場などでジェンダーの不平等は存在します。世界経済フォーラムにより毎年公表されるジェンダーギャップ指数においても日本は下位に位置しています。

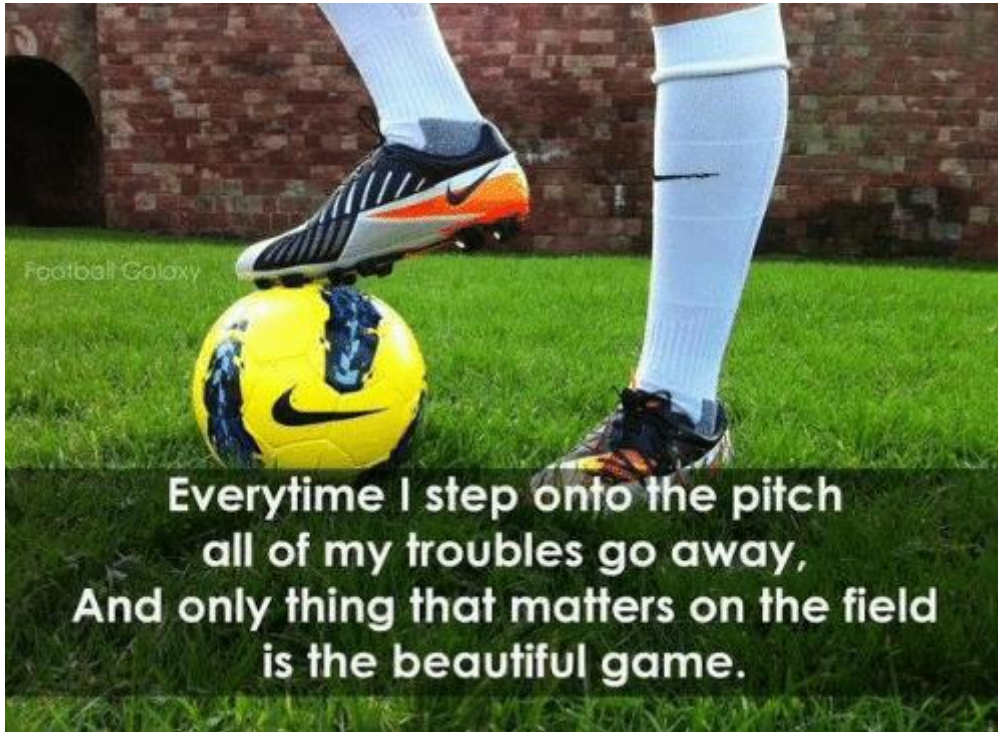
こうした状況の中で、「ジェンダー」というテーマは、女子校の場でこそ取り組むべき課題だと言えます。グローバルキャリアという視点を軸に、「ジェンダーフリー（ジェンダーにとらわれない）」社会のあり方を生徒1人1人が追究しました。

留学前に論文のテーマを決め、調査方法を学びます。留学中も本校の教員（英語を母国語とするネイティブスタッフ）の指導も受けながら、現地の多様な人々にインタビューを実施、さらに図書館や資料館など必要な機関を訪ね、フィールドワークを行います。調査結果を整理し、帰国後に論文としてまとめました。昨年度に引き続き、その成果を掲載いたします。

Gender and sports

Momo Ito

Introduction



Someone once said, “Every time I step onto the pitch all of my troubles go away, and only thing that matters on the field is the beautiful game.” This quote shows how I feel about soccer. How about you? Do you like sports? I guess everyone likes either playing or watching sports, and some people like both. For me, I like both playing and watching sports, especially soccer. Do you think that there is a language barrier in sport? These are some of the questions I had about sports last year, but in this essay, I want to focus on gender. There may be some differences in how women and men play, watch, and think about sports. Furthermore, this might depend on the country such as in Japan and

Canada. In this essay, I will write about the differences in high school clubs, national leagues, and attitude about sports in these two countries.

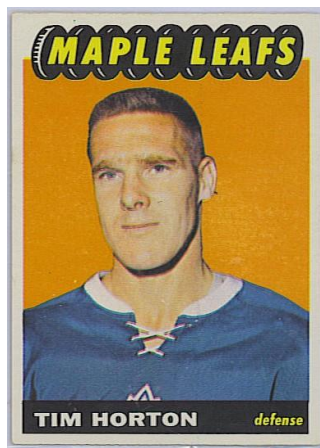
Background Research

The reason why I chose this topic is because I like soccer a lot. I think playing sports but also watching sports can help people to communicate and build friendship with one another. Before I went to Canada, I just knew that the Canadian national female soccer team is really strong. It is ranked 4th in FIFA (2016); however, soccer is getting as popular as hockey in Canada for both of women and men. The Japanese soccer female team is strong as well, they hold the 7th place. I found one similarity between Japan and Canada is that both men and women are given the opportunity to play soccer. Both national male teams are not so strong, but soccer is still really popular in both countries.



Through my study abroad, one more thing that I learned about Canada is that hockey is Canada's national sport and is really famous and popular. In Japan, hockey is not a sport that people watch, nor talk about. On the other hand,

when I was in Canada, almost everyone likes watching hockey, and cheer for their favorite teams. During my homestay, I lived near Vancouver, so my friends and host family were fans of the Vancouver Canucks, which is one of the hockey teams of the NHL (National Hockey League).



Furthermore, if you are a famous hockey player, you can become very successful at business. For example, one of the most famous hockey players ever is Tim Horton. He played for 25 years, and was known for his great defense skills. He led his team to victory many times. In 1964, he opened a doughnut shop in Ontario, but in 1974, he passed away because of a car accident. After his death, his business partner bought his shop for one million dollars and expanded the shops all over in Canada. He named the shop "Tim Hortons", and there are over 3,500 shops in Canada today, they have also expanded into the United States (Commito and Snyder, 2015).

Do you know that Canada has two national sports? One of them is hockey as you know, and the other one is lacrosse (Government of Canada, 2016). Lacrosse is not as popular as hockey, but there is also a national league for it. Japan's national sport is sumo. From a foreigner's perspective, sumo might be an interesting sport because I do not think sumo has any similar sports to it. In addition, women can do sumo wrestling, but in unlike Canada's national sports, a national female league does not exist.

Another, one thing I noticed was the differences between how sports activities are done in high schools. In Japanese high school, students join a team for a year, but Canadian high school students play sports for just a few months. A similarity is that both boys and girls have the opportunity to play all kinds of sports. I think that there is a little difference between both types of playing sports, on the school teams for a whole year or just a few months. In Japan, students can get together and are able to play one sport really well; however, Canadian students can play many different sports over the course of a year.

Supporting Arguments

I spent most of time in Canada last year. While I was there, I asked some questions related to sports to three females and one male; Taylor (pseudonym) and Emma (pseudonym) are from Canada, Ashley (pseudonym) is from the Congo but has lived in Canada for five years. Daniel (pseudonym) is from Korea but has lived in Canada for four years. Let's have a look at the questions that I asked and their answers.

First, I am going to tell you how popular soccer is. As I mentioned in the background research, soccer is a really popular sport for both women and men in Canada (Colin, 2016). Emma and Daniel answered that they like soccer. They also mentioned that both women and men play soccer all over the world. Both of them also support soccer teams. Emma supports Chelsea, which is in England, and Barcelona, which is in Spain. Daniel supports Real Madrid, which is in Spain as well. In fact, many people like to support their favorite soccer team because it is fun to talk about with friends. In their home countries which are Congo and Korea, soccer is a really popular sport, they answered. Ashley said soccer is becoming as popular as hockey in Canada as well. From this information, soccer is one of the most popular sports in the world. Of course in Japan, soccer is

popular for both women and men.



Second, I would like you to know about national sports for Canada and Japan. Canadian national sports are hockey and lacrosse, as I said previously, and the Japanese national sport is sumo. Hockey is like a symbol of Canada. Ashley and Taylor support Vancouver Canucks which is a national hockey team in Vancouver. All of them said that the most popular sport for Canadians is hockey, but Taylor doesn't really like hockey because it seems dangerous to play. However, lacrosse is not a very popular sport. Ashley and Taylor said they don't know anybody who plays lacrosse. On the other hand, In Japan, many people watch the game of sumo on TV. Especially older people like it. There are some sumo practice gyms near my school. One of the huge differences between Canada's national sports and Japan's national sport is that females cannot play Japan's national sport, sumo in a national league.

Third, from a high school student's perspective, there is an interesting difference. Japanese high school students usually belong to a club activity that they like, and they keep continuing until they graduate the high school. On the other hand, Japanese high school students usually have to study for really important exams to enroll at a good university, so their teachers make them retire from it. For me, I belong to the soccer club in my school for 5 years since I enrolled in junior high school. It has been really good experience because I learned a lot of things. Not only how to play soccer, but also manners, leadership and so on. On the other hand, as I mentioned earlier, Canadian high school students play two to three sports for a year. They like to try new things, so even though they have never played the sport, they just try it. Each span is about three months. When I stayed in Canada, I belonged to the soccer team in my school. I didn't really know how seasonal sports work then. So, when girls' soccer season was finished after three months, I was a bit surprised because it was too short for me. I am really into soccer, so I still wanted more time. I felt it was not enough to play for only three months. However, I felt that Canadian high school students could play, any "popular" sports such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball, despite this system.

Lastly, I found some other interesting facts from the interviews. The questions that I asked are below:

1) Is the feeling different when you watch the female's game and when you watch the male's game?

2) Do you think that it is okay that there are only female's sports and only male's sports?

For question 1, Emma and Daniel answered yes, Ashley answered it depends on levels, and Taylor answered no. The reason why they said yes is that the male's game is more exciting than the female's game because men are stronger than women. Ashley said that for the professional level, she feels the same because both men and women are talented, however, for the other levels; the male's game is more interesting because they have more skills and it is more engaging. Taylor doesn't feel different at all. I agree with Emma and Daniel for the same reason. For example, even though the Canadian national female soccer team is strong and male soccer team is weak, male team would be stronger than female team. However, both games are fun to watch. In question 2, all of them said no because that's unfair. So if women want to play men's sport, it should be allowed. I agree with them, but if it is traditional or national sport, like

sumo, we have to think about it carefully because it might have a valid reason why either men or women are allowed to play.

Conclusion



Before I started to research about gender and sports, I didn't really know how gender and sports are related, but I found that they are closely related. Most sports now don't have discrimination between men and women. Each country has a national and popular sport. "Sport" can be a common word for all people in the world and therefore beyond border. One of the examples of this is the Olympic Games. It is for sure the biggest sports event in the world. Its purpose is to keep peace in the world through the medium of sports. Every time the Olympic Games come, all people in the world support their countries, and they are impressed. The world would be better, and get along well through sports only.

Sports can destroy borders, races, and gender. Then, why don't we use the power of sports to build a better society?

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How can we make our city clean?

Sawano Ogura

December 28, 2016

Nakamura high school

Nakamura International Course Thesis Paper Project

Introduction

Have you ever thought about the environment? Do you like dirty roads?

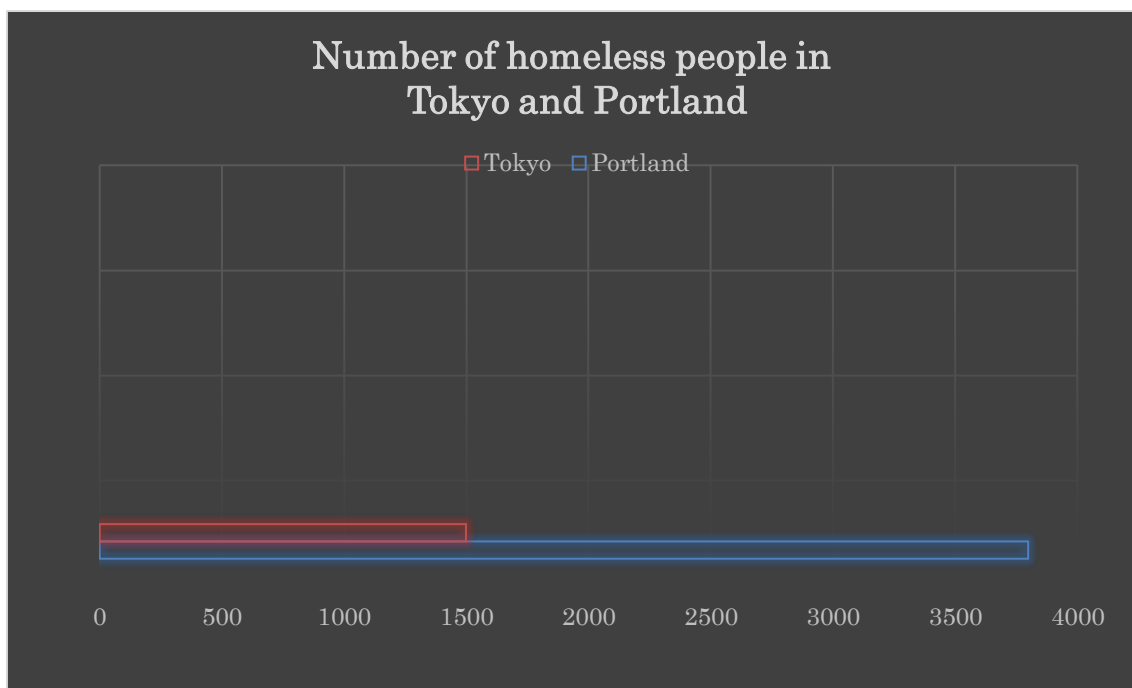
When you think about the environment, do you think the world is completely clean? My research is about the environment and who is helping the most. I wanted to know if men or women help the most. Furthermore in the United States of America and in Japan volunteering for the environment might be different.



Background

The reason why I chose this topic is that I saw some roads are dirty in Portland. In 2016, I was in Portland in the United States of America to study English and American culture for a year. I then realized that there were two different places in Portland, the dirty area which was very dirty and the clean area which was very clean. In Tokyo, I don't think we have very dirty areas, even though roads near the beach or near the river sometimes have a lot of

trash. At the time, I started to think that Tokyo has many more people than North America does. In that case, why doesn't Tokyo have many dirty roads, too. This might be because of how there are many more homeless people who live in Portland. I felt that there were many homeless in Portland especially downtown. During my time there I saw they throw trash away directly on the roads.



(Portland Oregon, 2017)

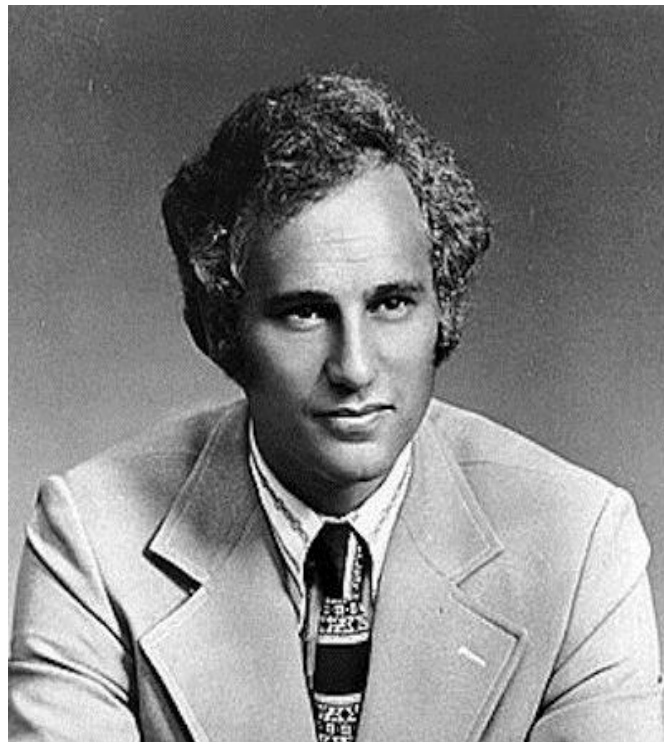
I feel that the air in Tokyo is dirtier than in Portland. The reason why is that it is densely populated in Tokyo and hybrid cars are not popular in Japan; however people who live in Portland mostly drive hybrid cars. They also have tried to make an environment in which people do not use their cars and this

helps people to interact with one another, as well as helping the air to be cleaner.

In Japan, we think that hobbies, work, and doing volunteering are three different things but in the United States of America, people think that volunteer work is for their own profit. Thirty percent of high school students are doing volunteer work in Japan (Kknews, 2017). The major reason for this is that only their school has programs for volunteering but in the U.S. Sixty percent of the high school students are doing volunteer work and this is because they choose to do it for themselves, their parents, their friends, their teachers or other adults suggested it to them (Kknews, 2017).

Portland succeeded in becoming a compact city. Tokyo, however, is not a compact city because a 2014 estimate puts the population at 38 million. It covers an area of about 13,000 square kilometers, giving it a population density of 2,800 people per square kilometers (Galka, 2015). It is the second largest single metropolitan area in the world. The person who had the idea of making Portland a compact city was Neil Goldschmidt (The Oregon Encyclopedia, 2017). He is an American businessman and democratic politician from the state of Oregon and was a rising national political star. He

attended the University of Oregon. He promoted the revitalization of Downtown Portland and was influential on Portland-area transportation policy. He worked across party lines to reduce regulation and to repair the state's infrastructure.



(Neil Goldschmidt)

I researched on the internet about whether women take part in volunteering for the environment more than men and I found that they do (Jissen, 2011). I think it is because women have more affection than men do. In my opinion they have a mind to protect beautiful things and weak things and they can put ideas into action straight away. Simply put, I believe women are

strong in a maternal instinct and the men are strong in combative instinct, furthermore I can say men don't recognize the environment maintenance as a social problem; as a result they are likely to ignore women's opinions. That is why men seem to care less about environmental problems.

Argument

I interviewed my teachers at school when I was in America to study English two months ago. During my interview, most people said that they do some volunteer work for the environment. They are recycling paper and one of my interviewees restores old houses and clean up trash. I think that recycling paper is a very good thing because we are using a lot of papers and we waste so much paper every day.

My interviewees also think people who do volunteer work are wonderful and important. I think so, too. I think people who do volunteer work are very sweet people because they can take care of some things even it is not related to them. In addition, the participants think that if someone is passionate about this field, it does not matter about their gender when doing volunteer work. I think it is because the important thing is teamwork's cooperation. If there are many people

but they are not doing as well as a team, it is not going to be good. On the other hand, if there are few people but they are being cooperative, it is going to be good.

Next, I will talk about the infamous earthquake that took place in the Northeast of Japan. It happened on March 11, 2011. There was sadness, suffering and anxiety after Tohoku earthquake. On that day, a seven intensity earthquake, with the magnitude of 9.0, was observed (Maff , 2017). The deaths toll was over twenty thousand people. Most people lost their lives because of the tsunami. I was very shocked, and I watched TV in tears. One of the things I was upset about was that some people suffered due to lack of supplies in shelters. I felt unable to do anything to help them. After several days, the earthquake had passed, and we saw on the morning news that there were some high school students who took the lead in working with shelters. Food was supplied free of charge. I wanted to try to do something for others at that time.

As you know, volunteers are still working hard every day for environment in the Northeast of Japan. They have seven things that they are caring about when doing volunteering work.

1.	Dress appropriately for the cold.
2.	Wear work clothes, including boots and gloves, etc.
3.	Have proper identification and insurance—some places will not accept you unless you do.
4.	Not taking pictures
5.	For day-work, expected to supply your own food and water, and toilet paper, etc.
6.	Be ready to work hard, at least for a while; but be ready to stand around waiting, also. That is part of the deal.
7.	Go with others....

(Idealist , 2017)

I think it is wonderful to have such rules. Sometimes I think Japan is too serious for everything. I like this part of Japanese culture when it comes to volunteering for environment. I saw that many cities which were ruined by a tsunami on the TV. I was sad to see it. Those videos expressed how much sadness there is. I could not see anything such as houses, buildings and schools. That made me think about what I can do for people living there. I wanted to go to there and help them but I could not do that because it was too far to go to there. I

also saw people who lost their family and friends. It was sad. I thought we absolutely need to do volunteer work for them.

In the future, I want to go to Africa to learn about what can be done about their environment. I want to be helping more than I can now. We have many cultural differences between Japan and Africa; it will be interesting to know about it. I think that one of the problems now is about rubbish affecting the governments there more and more. The world is consuming a lot of electronic products every year and the amount of electronic waste discarded in Africa has skyrocketed recently. This has caused a dangerous explosion in electronic scrap that contains toxic chemicals and heavy metals that cannot be disposed of or recycled safely. Every year, hundreds of thousands of old computers and mobile phones are exported, often illegally, from Europe, the U.S., Japan, and other industrialized countries, to Asia and Africa. There, workers at scrap yards, some of whom are children, are exposed to a cocktail of toxic chemicals and poisons (African solutions, 2017). This is an example of the problems that affect the environment. I think we should help with these problems step by step through volunteering. I want to be the person who starts helping with these kinds of problems and report what we can do and what we should do about it. I want to

be able to talk with children and adults about what they want to change about their environment and I want to know about what is more important to them.

Conclusion

My research is about whether men or women are helping the most and how the difference in how volunteer work is done in America and Japan. We are having so many problems about environment and some of people in the world are working very hard. In my survey, it seems that more people in America are doing something for environment than Japanese do. In addition, men seem to care less about environmental problems. During my interviews, I realized that teamwork's cooperation is very important when doing volunteer work. The big earthquake which occurred on March 11, 2011, was a very sad moment; on the other hand, Japan people could learn how important it is to do volunteering. In the future, I would like to go to Africa to learn more about their environment. It is important to do volunteering for the future because it affects all of us. We need to get to know more about environment and help people!! Let's make your city clean little by little!

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Gender and Animation

~A Comparison between Canada and
Japan~

Yui Kadono

Nakamura High School

Gender report

February 15th

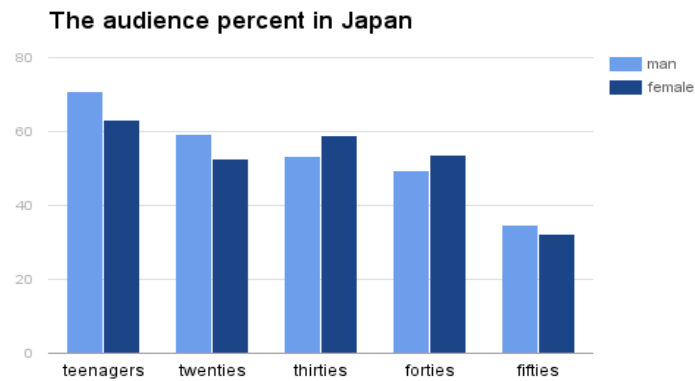
Introduction

Recently, Japanese animation has become popular in the world, especially in the US and France. Why are foreign people attracted to Japanese cartoons? Is there a gender gap in animation and the animation creator's workforce? The director Hiromasa Yonebayashi once said that "Women tend to be more realistic and manga day-to-day lives well. Men on the other hand tend to be more idealistic - and fantasy films need that idealistic approach" (Kirby, 2016). What do you think about the relation between gender and animation? Some people think that there is a small gender gap in Japanese animation compared to foreign animation. This may be true.

Background

According to Kidscreen (2013), 98% of Canadian children who are between the ages of three to ten years old watch animation cartoons at least once per week. Furthermore, 80% of Canadian parents watch it once a week with their children. In Japan, 49.7% of men, and 51.9% of women are watching anime (Humetsu, 2017), so women watch anime more than men. Some women watch animation by themselves, other women watch animation with their

children. However, when you compare the gender of the audience with their age, I found some interesting points. Please take a look at the graph below.

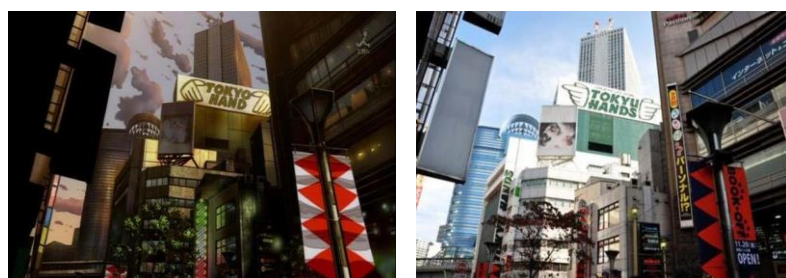


(Humetsu, 2016)

First of all, men and women who are between the ages of teens to thirties have a higher audience than other generations. I think these audiences enjoy watching animations, also they take part in animation events, and they can buy animation goods. Secondly, more women keep watching anime until after their forties. I think that the women who are in their forties are watching cartoon with their children. However, men are watching less anime as they grow older, but I could not find the answer to why this is. In my opinion, I think that adult men work hard therefore they cannot afford time to watch anime like when the used to be children.

I investigated on the internet about which anime is popular in Japan, but

I could not find an answer. Almost all of the animations in Japan used to be a popular novel or a comic before they were adapted to movies and anime. Many fans are looking forward to watching anime as soon as the original announcement of the animation is made. Recently, many anime fans go to a pilgrimage to places where popular animations are set. They enjoy not only watching anime but also visiting the pilgrimage. Please take a look at the pictures below.



These are some examples of those pilgrimages. The pictures on the left are in Kyoto, it is the “Demachimasugata shotengai”. This place was the stage of a famous anime, which is called “Tamako Market”. The pictures on the right are in Ikebukuro, Tokyo. This anime’s title is “Dyu ra ra ra !”. There are many other pilgrimages in Japan, in cities such as Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Kyoto. The

number of pilgrimages in Tokyo is 1712. Kanagawa has 371, Kyoto has 269, Saitama has 185, and Chiba has 129. There are many pilgrimages in the Kanto area such as Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa, and many popular tourist spots such as Kyoto (Tomita, 2016).

I have a few reasons for why I have chosen the topic of gender and animation. I have loved animation since I was twelve years old, and I want to be an animation editor in the future. Every day after I finish my homework, I always watch anime, read comics, and animation magazines. Animation makes me happy, and I feel it helps me be myself. Furthermore, Japanese animation is popular worldwide. Before doing this research, I had doubts about it. I wondered about who is translating from Japanese to English? How do foreigners watch anime, and purchase comics or magazines? I really wanted to know the answers to these questions. Then I connected my questions about animation with gender issues, and I went to study abroad in order to find the answers.

Interview

When I was in Canada, I interviewed four Canadian citizens (two eleven to fifteen year old girls, and two forty year old women) about Gender and Animation. I asked them ten questions about it. In this part of my thesis, I will report some of my interview results.



First I asked the participants if they feel that there are gender issues in animation. Everyone whom I interviewed responded that they thought there was an issue. They told me that in anime the heroes are usually men. Also, they told me that there are more male characters than the female characters. For example, “Pokemon”, it is one of the most popular animations in the world, and the hero is Satoshi, a boy. Another example is “Astro Boy”, it is the oldest animation in all of Japanese animations, and its hero is Atom, again a boy. Although there are some exceptions to this, such as, “Princess Mononoke”,

which is a Studio Ghibli animation. However, the general trend is that the



majority of heroes are male. Why are there many male characters in animation?

(Anime Rangu, 2016)

In Canada, according to the above graph, 70% of heroes are male and 30% of heroes are female. For example, some anime in which the male are heroes are “Fullmetal Alchemist”, “Death Note”, “Neon Genesis Evangelion”, “Rurouni Kenshin”, “Code Geass”. Female heroes in anime include “Spirited Away”, “Princess Mononoke”, and “The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya”. Usually, most of the male heroes are fighting against an antagonist in action anime. On the other hand, the female heroes are princesses or students. In my opinion, when anime were first written there were many adventure anime, therefore male characters were usually the heroes. I think that when female characters fight in action anime. However, recently, the number of female heroes are increasing in animation. In Japan, male heroes are 35%, and female heroes are 65%. Japanese audience watches more female heroes’ anime than Canadians and

Americans. Most female heroes are students, for example, Keion, Toaru Kagaku no Railgun, Charlotte. When I interviewed Canadian citizens, they mentioned to me that they hope to be able to watch cartoons in which female characters are heroes. Maybe, you can watch more female heroes in animation. Please look at the pictures below. These are some example of heroes in animation.

The Male Heroes



The female heroes



Men	Women
Strong	Weak
Saving women	Saved by men

The picture and graph above can be used to see the differences in features between male and female characters in animation. One of my respondent answered that the female characters look very cute, for example, they have big eyes and long hair, but male characters are very strong because they have muscle. While, another respondent answered that male characters

usually save female characters, but the female characters support men characters by encouraging them. The male characters often battle against rivals to get a victory, and to save the heroines. The male heroes become stronger when the female heroines are taken somewhere by their rivals, or when danger is imminent for her. These are same as Japan. In my opinion, male heroes want to stand up for their heroines. Thus, male heroes fight with rivals to help their heroines out of the difficulty. The characters' lines often encourage not only the anime characters but also many of the audience. Many people who watch anime audiences and read comic feel encouraged by the characters' lines, too. If I am worried, nervous, sad, or irritated, reading or watching anime makes me feel better.

Anime creators are essential to make animations. I wondered as well if the creators have gender issues or not. Anime creators are commonly known as Animators. An animator is an artist who is in charge of creating the original pictures and films. Please take a look at the graphs below. These two graphs, represent Canada and in Japan.



(Mayorga, 2015)

First, in Canada in 2015, 83% of creators are male and only 17% of creators are female . Yet in the past, there were even less female creators than they are today. However, in Japan, there are 60.5% of male creators, and 39.5% of female creators. As it is the case with Canada, there were also fewer female anime creators in Japan in the past than there are today. Compared to Canadian female creators, Japanese female creators work for animation companies more than Canadian women. I examined why there are more male anime creators are more than female ones, but I could not find the answer. I wonder if this is because there are many Japanese anime in Japan, also Japanese anime is popular around the world, so Japanese women can get the opportunity to take part in making anime. As mentioned above, Japanese anime is popular in the world. Furthermore, foreigners who want to work for the animation companies will probably increase in the near future.

Conclusion

From my research and interviews I found that there is a small gender gap in Japanese animation. First of all, heroes are usually men in animations and there are more male characters than female characters. Second of all, female characters look very cute, and male characters are very strong. Third of all, in Canada, there are many more male anime creators than female, while in Japan the gap is not as large. I hope that the gender gap between the characters will decrease and that the difference between the gender roles and the number of female creators will increase. What should we do to work towards having no gender differences in animation in the future? I think that we should employ female anime creators, and work together with no gender issues. We can make it come true.

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Gender equality in the work place

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January 10, 2017

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Introduction

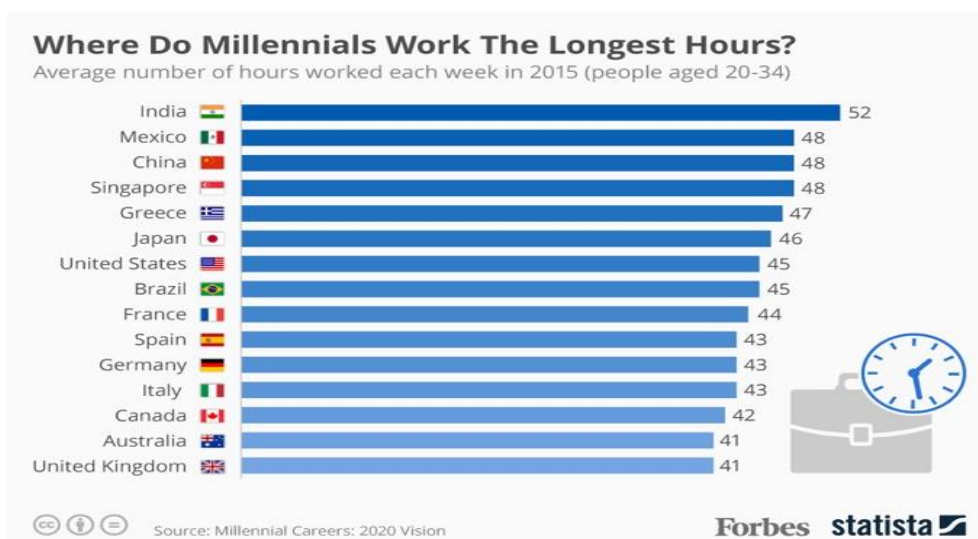
Having a good job is very important for everyone. People need to make money to have a successful life such as having a family, going on a trip, or looking after children. Are you satisfied with the job system in Japan? Do you have enough time to spend with your family? Do you think this system is fair for everyone? Can you completely tell that there is no difference in the working conditions between male and female employees at all? People in Canada and Japan have different views on how gender affects the way people think about work and life balance.



Background

The regulation is that you have to spend eight hours in the office. When this is over and the most important work of the day is done; whatever is left can wait until the morning. This is the point when many workers should think about heading for the door. However, millions of Japanese employees have a different

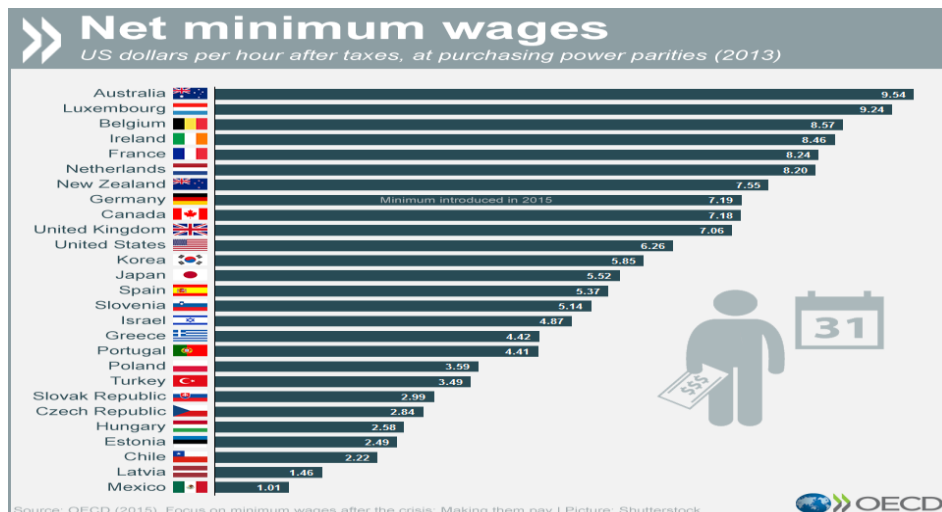
view. If they start clearing their desks and go home in time for dinner, it is enough to invite accusations of disloyalty. About 22% of Japanese people work more than 49 hours a week (Ogura, 2017). Therefore, Japanese workers are said to be hard working. Their days off are only 104 days which includes two-day weekends, and 15 days for national holidays and five days for other paid leave. As you can see in the graph below, the working culture in Canada seems more relaxed than Japan, even though people also have some problems regarding working, such as how hard it is to find a job. Regrettably, workers who can afford to take holidays are very fortunate in Japan. Most full-time employees stay in their offices and factories longer than the officially reported number of hours.



(Mc Carthy, 2016)

There are some interesting work culture facts about Canada which you may not know. First is that there is a jeans day, or casual Fridays, where people are allowed to dress down. This is a popular tradition in North America. Casual Fridays is to celebrate the upcoming end of the work week. They also have a “brown bag meeting”, which is a casual meeting that occurs during the lunch period. This type of meeting is referred to as a brown bag meeting because participants bring their own lunches to the meeting. One more interesting thing is that pay day is every two weeks. In most countries including in Japan, you get paid once a month, usually towards the end or the very beginning of the month. Speaking of pay day, the minimum wage in Canada depends on the province, ranging from \$10.50 (1050 yen) to \$15 (1500 yen) per hour, however the minimum wage in Japan ranges is between 714 yen to 932 yen per hour (Government of Canada, 2016). During my time in Canada, I had many friends who were working. I still remember I was surprised to hear that their salary was over \$10 (1000 yen) for students because in Japan, 1000 yen for the students per hour is quite high and rare. The minimum age to work in Canada depends on the province where you want to work, ranging from 14-year-old to 16-year-old (Ontario Ministry of Labour, 2016).

The minimum age to work in Japan is 16-year-old but I guess most people do not start working right after they turn 16 because there are many schools that do not allow you to work until you graduate from their school. The salary in Japan is much cheaper than in Canada but the working time in Japan is much longer than in Canada, even longer than other countries as well.



(Kane, 2015)

The reason why I chose this topic is because I am interested in working abroad in the future and for that reason, I want to know about how people work abroad compared, to the working conditions in Japan. Before going to abroad, I wanted to work in Japan but I have changed my mind through my many experiences in Canada and I want to work in abroad now.

Supporting arguments

First of all, I am going to talk about the current job situation in both Japan and Canada. In Japan, most people have a job even if it is said that it takes couple of years to get one, because the Japanese government makes sure everyone has work. The current situation in Japan is the long working hours, as I have already mentioned above. Even women work overtime as much as men do. Japanese people are said to be inefficient but it is not the only cause of overtime. Ogura (2017) gives a few reasons for this inefficiency. The first reason is because meetings are held over and over again on the same subject. Meetings in Japan are not only for making decisions; they are deemed as opportunities for sharing information and understanding each other. Therefore, employees do not have enough time to do creative work such as casting their ideas into shape and preparing their materials, as they have to spend considerable hours attending meetings and making arrangements. Secondly, managers are not able to concentrate on management. Overtime work should be done based on overtime order from the supervisor but in reality, many cases of overtime work are recognized by the supervisor after subordinates have actually done the work.

Thirdly, there is the problem of people taking their job seriously. There are many workers who set a high target for their work, or who have more interest in work than leisure and tend to work long hours. On the other hand, I had interviewed a few people in Canada about the current job situation in Canada and I have got two major facts. The first idea from my research is that according to Business Canada (2016), people cannot even find a job. Canada's unemployment rate dropped to 6.8%. The reason is that they do not want to employ people full-time. If they have full-time employees, they would pay higher salary than they pay for temporary staff. The second point from my research is the discrimination of employment. According to CBC News (2009), there is discrimination between Canadian and people from other countries even though Canada is an immigrant nation and approximately 20% of people who lives in Canada are immigrants. For example, job applicants with non-English-sounding names. For instance, Chinese, Pakistani or Indian, have less of a chance of getting interviews than Canadian. When you apply for a job, if your name is not English-sounding, which means the person looking for candidates can recognize if you are from Canada or not, unfortunately, their resume is not even read. The study found Canadians and landed immigrants with names such as "Jill Wilson" or "John Martin" are

40% more likely to be offered an interview than someone with a name like “Sana Khan” or “Lei Li”, given an identical resume. Applicants with mixed name such as “Vivian Zhang” had a 20% better chance to land an interview than job-seekers with non-English names, but still less than the English-only names. I think that there should be no discrimination before employees look at immigrants’ job applicants (CBC News, 2009).

Second of all, I am going to talk about after childbirth. Most Japanese women quit their job after childbirth to take care of their child and become housewives. One of the reason is work schedules in Japan are not flexible, therefore, some women have to quit their jobs even though they do not wish to do so. In Canada, I have never seen my friends’ mothers who do not work. Most women in Canada do not quit their jobs because work schedules in Canada can be flexible (Zhu, 2011). Also I found out through my time in Canada, that the quality of housework is different between Japan and Canada, and it may affects the decision whether or not women become housewives or get back to work. In Canada, there is not that much house chores because most families have dishwasher so what they have to do is just to put the dishes into the machine. Also every family has washing machines with dryers so they do not need to hang

every single clothes outside to dry them. My mother in Japan does not work even though I am in high school and my siblings have also grown up to elementary students. She is still busy with house chores because she needs to do everything by hand such as washing the dishes, hanging clothes and everything. I have heard my mother saying that if she did not have to hang clothes like abroad, she would be free to do other things. For Canadian people, depending on the machine is not only the reason why they can go back work even after childbirth but still it helps them a lot and also they are more effective than Japanese people.

The third and final points that I found out from my interview is that men do not care about work differences as much as women do. Women who work full-time still earn 73.5 cents for every dollar men make. On average, women in Canada earn \$8,000 less than men which is double the global average of \$4,000. It is even worse for indigenous and minority women (The Global and Mail, 2016). Regarding my question “do you think of women and man work differently?” some male participants’ answers were “kind of” or “yes, it is in some way”. It seemed that they did not really care about the gender gap because it does not affect them. On the other hand, some female participants’ answers were “There are

still a lot more men in senior leadership roles compared to women". They seemed to be more concerned because this is unfair for women. Men can get better salaries than women but I think that men should understand more about gender gap between men and women's job opportunities and salaries because women do not think it is fair.

Conclusion

As you can see from my research, people in Canada and people in Japan have different ideas about the view on how gender gap affects the way people think about work and life balance. Also, in Japan and in Canada, they both have their own problems and situations which are not good for workers such as overtime work and even not getting paid enough for that overtime. In addition, women in each country have their own opinions about after childbirth depending on their family situation. Last, women and men work differently. No one tries to understand why women do not have an equal salary with men. In my opinion, therefore, what the women can do is to choose a company which has a good support for the women who work for them.

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Gender and tourism in Australia and Japan

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Introduction

Have you been to other countries? Would you like to go to other countries? Is this for the learning of languages, travel, or work? If it is for travel, you might want to go to see a travel consultant for making the plans, as well as get airplanes tickets. During that time, would you like to talk with a male travel consultant, or would you like to talk with a female travel consultant? Some people think that there are more women working as travel consultants in both Japan and Australia. In this essay I will explore how men and women are viewed in the travel industry. I will look at the gender ratio of travel consultants, discuss the different roles at work given to women and men, explain what gender customers seem to prefer travel consultant to be, and consider how gender affects who has as high salary and high position.

Background

I have chosen to research about gender and tourism because I'm interested in other countries and their cultures. Travel agencies and travel consultants have to have a good knowledge of both of these to sell tour planning to customers. They should be able to talk about the good points of famous places and should also

think about which countries or which plans are matching their customers' needs.

When I was thinking about this task, I thought I would like to learn more about other countries culture and life style. I chose this topic and I tried to relate it to gender issue within tourism.

A point I would like to discuss is about the benefits of tours to other countries or tours to my own country. To be honest, I haven't been to other countries except Australia, where I was an exchange student. I don't know much about other countries' culture and famous places and I want to know more about Japan as well. In Australia, my friends and my host family sometimes asked me about Japan but I could not explain much about it even though it is my home country. I would like to find out more about Japan first, and then I would like to tell foreigners the good points about Japan and Japanese culture.

Next, I would like to explain about what does the job of a travel consultant entails.

You may already know what they do. Basically, travel agents and travel consultants have the same job. The following table gives you details about the daily tasks of a travel consultant in Australia and Japan (Seek Learning, 2017).

~Daily tasks of a travel consultant~



<p>Contact with clients, over the phone or email to discuss their travel requirements.</p>	<p>Advise about the options for the suitable (domestic or international destinations, tours, accommodation, transport, insurance and fares.)</p>
<p>Prepare customised tour plans to suit the clients' preferences and budget.</p>	<p>Make and confirm bookings, often via a Global Distribution System (computerised reservation system).</p>
<p>Issue tickets or relevant documents.</p>	<p>Provide up to date advice on travel regulations including visa and medical requirements, baggage limits, safety and local customs.</p>
<p>Modify existing bookings to suit a change in clients' circumstances.</p>	<p>Research destinations and keeping up to date with travel industry news.</p>
<p>Take part in ongoing training with other team members and management.</p>	

As you can see, Travel consultants have many different tasks and according to Seek Learning (2017), I found that both in Australia and Japan, Travel consultant are doing the same tasks.

Argument

During my period abroad I interviewed four travel consultants from four different travel companies in Australia. At the first company, there were three female employees and no male employees. At the second company, there were three female employees and one male employee. At the third company, there were five female employees and two male employees. At the last company, there were ten female employees and six male employees.

	1 st company	2 nd company	3 rd company	4 th company
Female	3	3	5	10
Male	0	1	2	6
Percentage of female employees	100%	75%	71%	62.5%

Table 1. Number of employees at the Australian companies that I interviewed.

As you can see from table 1 there were far more female employees at the

businesses that I interviewed. In Japan, I also interviewed four travel consultants from four different travel companies. At the first company, there were four female employees and one male employee. At the second company, there were four female employees and two male employees. At the third company, there were six female employees and two male employees. At the last company, there were five female employees and three male employees.

	1 st company	2 nd company	3 rd company	4 th company
Female	4	4	6	5
Male	1	2	2	3
Percentage of female employees	80%	66.4%	75%	62.5%

Table 2. Number of employees at the Japanese companies that I interviewed.

As you can see from the results of my interviews (see tables 1 and 2) there are a higher percentage of female employees working at travel companies in both Australia and Japan. I think this reason may have an effect on the role of women and men at work.

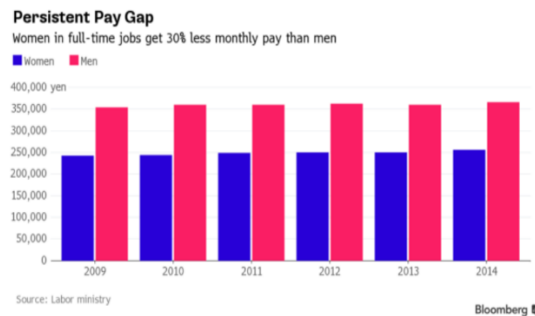
Now I am going to look at what is the role of women and men at their workplace.

At the companies that I interviewed, all of the women worked as travel

consultants but half of the men said they were the business owner. I believe this could be because men are more likely to be promoted to the top of the company. In Japan, I think there is a similar situation. This may be linked to the difference between who has a high salary and a high position. I think that most people imagine that men should get a high salary and high position. This could be because, until recently, Japanese men have been the ones working and women stayed in the house as a housewife. That is the reason why I think men are more likely to be promoted to top job of a company.

Next, let's look at what gender customers prefer for their travel consultant. Out of the four travel consultants I interviewed, three responded that they don't think that customers have any preference between male or female travel consultants. However, one respondent answered that they think that both male and female customers would prefer to have a female travel consultant. The reason that they gave for this answer was that they think women are friendlier and more organised. Although, this may be because this respondent worked at the travel company that only has female employees.

travel consultants are likely to be in the same position as other women in Australia.



(Nohara, 2015)

With regards to Japan, I also could not get clear details about who has a higher salary and higher position for the travel consultants. So I searched about who has higher salaries and higher positions in Japan in general. While the employment rate of women age between 15 to 64 has gone up to a record 65.4 percent (82.3 percent for men), full time female workers on average still earn about 30 percent less than males (Workplace Gender Equality Agency, 2016). Although women have equal skills and experience, they are paid less than men who do the same job. The pay gap is the third widest among members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Workplace Gender Equality Agency, 2016). From the OECD data, it seems that men, in Japan and

Australia, get higher salaries and higher positions than women. Therefore, I might be able to say that it may be the same for travel consultants.

Conclusion

As you can see from my essay, there are more women working as travel consultants in Japan and Australia. Female employees are more likely to work as travel consultants, while male employees are more likely to work as business owners. So I think that is why we usually mostly see female employees at the travel companies. Furthermore, I think that most people do not care whether their travel consultant is male or female, so I could not view this as gender discrimination for this issue. However, with regards to salary and position in the companies, men are more likely to than women get a higher salary and higher position. In both of Australia and Japan, I have found similar results from my interviews and research. Nowadays women try to get more equality regarding salary and positions, even though men are more likely to get a higher salary and higher position. I hope that the government and travel companies will take the opportunity to change so that women can have a better chance to receive equality at work.

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Gender gap of flight attendants in Japan and Canada

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January 22, 2017

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Introduction

I studied abroad for almost a year in United States of America. I wanted to study native English and American culture, such as English phrases that I cannot learn from English textbooks and cultural differences between Japan and America. During the time that I studied abroad, I interviewed some people about gender discrimination between men and women. In addition, I asked them about their thoughts about flight attendants. I found interesting facts about gender discrimination between men and women and about flight attendants.

Have you ever seen male flight attendant? Some people say not really. Do you know why? In Japan, many people believe that most flight attendants are female. Many people prefer female flight attendants for many different reasons; however those reasons might not be what you expect.

Background



The reason why I chose this topic was because when I thought about flight attendants I wondered why most of flight attendants are women. I wanted

to know if there are differences between female and male flight attendants. Also, since my childhood, I have wanted to be a flight attendant.

The reason why I want to be flight attendant is I would really like to visit many different countries. I thought that if I become a flight attendant, I can go to many countries, and get money at the same time. On the other hand, I think this job is very hard and I will need stamina. I think it is a challenging job.





Flight attendants have many different jobs. There are two main jobs. First, they provide a service to customers, so that people can enjoy comfortable air travel and they sometimes sell beverages, meals, and snacks. They take care of passengers' needs, particularly those with special requirements. In addition, flight attendants try to make flights comfortable and stress free for passengers. For example, they serve the food to passenger when it is time to eat and they also serve beverages. If you need help during your time in the airplane, they can help you no matter when it is, because that is their job. Second, flight attendants work towards the preservation of the airplane. Flight attendants are responsible for the life of passengers; therefore they have to prepare for dangerous things, such as airplane crash, emergency landing or hijacking.

As you know, flight attendants' most important job is to keep passengers' safe. As a result, flight attendants do emergency and rescue training every year (Collegrad, 2017). Furthermore, they are not allowed to work on the plane if they do not pass this training test. Airlines provide initial training, ranging from three to six weeks before flight attendants provide services to passengers. The training usually takes place at the airline's flight training center. Beginners learn emergency procedures such as how to evacuate from an airplane, operating emergency equipment, and administering first aid. At the end of the training, students can practice how to serve passengers. They must complete the training to keep their job with the airline. Flight attendants do a wonderful job, but being a flight attendant is hard work and needs requires. It is different from other jobs because flight attendants do not only provide a service but also they are responsible for the security of other people.

Now let's look at the Gender gap which is the differences between women and men, especially as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes (Dictionary, 2015). The Global Gender Gap Report from the World Economic Forum (2017) quantifies the consequence of gender disparities and tracks their progress over time, with a specific focus on

the relative gaps between women and men. To sum up, I looked at the difference between man and woman with regards to work.

In the ranking of gender gap Japan is 111th. On the other hand, America is 45th, and the lowest country is Yemen at 144th place which is a Middle East country. Japan has more discrimination between men and women than America (World Economic Forum, 2017). In my opinion, Japan has a lot of discrimination between men and women. Japanese people have stereotypes that flight attendant is a woman's job. Thereby, there are many female flight attendants in Japanese airlines.

Rank	Country	Score
1	Iceland 	0.874
45	United States 	0.722
111	Japan 	0.66
144	Yemen 	0.516

The highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality)

(World Economic Forum, 2017)

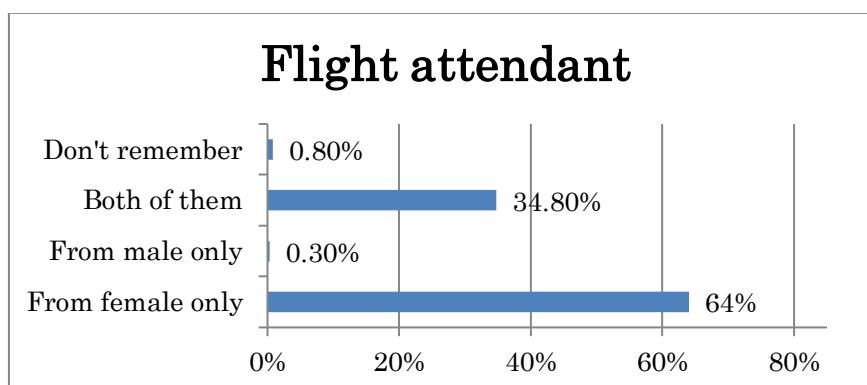
Main Arguments

First of all, I am going to tell you about why most flight attendants are female. In my opinion, many people have stereotypes about flight attendants. For example, they think that flight attendants should be female. People think that it is easier to talk with women and they are good at being flexible with passengers. Also, some people prefer female flight attendants because most of flight attendants have a good figure and are beautiful.

During my study abroad period in United States of America, I interviewed some people about why most of flight attendants are female, and here are some of their answers: A 17-year-old girl told me that flight attendant is a woman's job, on the other hand, a 31 year-old woman who is a flight attendant with Delta airline told me that from her experience male flight attendants are either popular or unpopular. Also a 28 year-old woman told me that she think that the majority of flight attendants are female, and maybe it is because of the lifestyle and the work being flexible. In addition a 16 year-old girl told me that flight attendants so do a wonderful job.

Now I would like to look at the gender ratio of flight attendants. However, I found that there are many people working as flight attendants who are male.

Although I did not find any data about the ratio of about female flight attendants and male flight attendants. So I instead with use this graph made from questionnaires filled in by passengers who receive service from flight attendants.



As you can see from the data, the majority of flight attendant is woman.

There are two reasons why most of flight attendants are female. First of all, it is strongly related to history of airlines. When the airlines were established, the first flight attendants were nurses. Then after a while, nurses were not on duty and it was uncommon that male nurses to be on duty as a flight attendants. In old times, many people had never had the opportunity to go on an airplane and everyone was scared when they were on an airplane. Each airplane companies thought that female attendants could calm passengers down better than male attendants, because women are thought of as being supportive. This is one of the reasons why most of flight attendants are mostly female. Second of all, there are many women who want to be flight attendants in Japan. Of course there are

men who want to be flight attendants too. It is just that there are no male flight attendants in Japanese airline. Then you may ask where do men who want to be flight attendant work. I found an interesting fact that many men who want to be flight attendant are working for Middle Eastern airlines. Japanese Airline Corporation does not accept men who want to be flight attendants. Strictly speaking, they accepts male employee but not as a flight attendants even if those man want to be flight attendants. I searched why they do not accept male as a flight attendant, but I could not find any information about this. Based on these factors, we can see that a lot of male who want to be flight attendant start work with Middle Eastern airlines, which accept a lot of male as flight attendants. Then why do Middle Eastern airlines accept male employees as flight attendants. The Middle East has serious gender discrimination. For that reason middle eastern airlines accepts a lot of male as flight attendants without difference between male and female is in order to improve gender discrimination. Now let's have a look at the Gender Gap Index of Middle East to see which Middle Eastern airline has a base airport in Middle East. As you can see from the graph, Middle East has a low rank in the gender gap index (World Economic Forum, 2017). In my opinion, Middle East has a low rank it might be because of their culture. I

heard that in the Middle East schools separate girls and boys. Also most of women who are citizen of Middle East have to wear a burqa (or similar) which covers everything except eyes for hiding their face from men. From this information I think that Middle East has discrimination between men and women.

Rank	Country	Score
119	United Arab Emirates	0.646
122	Qatar	0.645
130	Turkey	0.624
141	Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.580

(World Economic Forum, 2017)

Conclusion

In conclusion, from my research and from the interviews that I conducted I found that the majority of flight attendants in Japan are female. This could why many Japanese people consider flight attendant to be woman's job. Furthermore, a lot of people prefer female flight attendants for various reasons. I think that the main reason is there is stereotype that flight attendant is a woman's job. So it is hard to work as a flight attendant. In my opinion, Japanese airline companies should accept men who want to be flight attendant for reduce discrimination

between women and men. Then society can reduce discrimination and stereotype that women and man. Furthermore Japanese gender gap ranking will increase and it should not hard to work for male flight attendant.

From these reasons if in the future society's opinion of this job change, it will be easier for men to work as a flight attendant and also it can give good effect to other job which many people think that is women's job. People can change their stereotypes. I think it is important that to make good environment which is men and women can work together without gender discrimination.

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Differences of Family Gender Gap between Japan and New Zealand

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Introduction

Do you think women should do chores and men should work outside the home? Do you think women cannot get jobs as well as men can? In Japan, many people think mothers should be in the house and fathers should be earning money for their family. On the other hand, people in other countries like America, Canada, England, and New Zealand may not think like this. For my study abroad program, I went to New Zealand and I interviewed a few people there. In this thesis, using my research, I will write about the differences between families in Japan and New Zealand.

Background

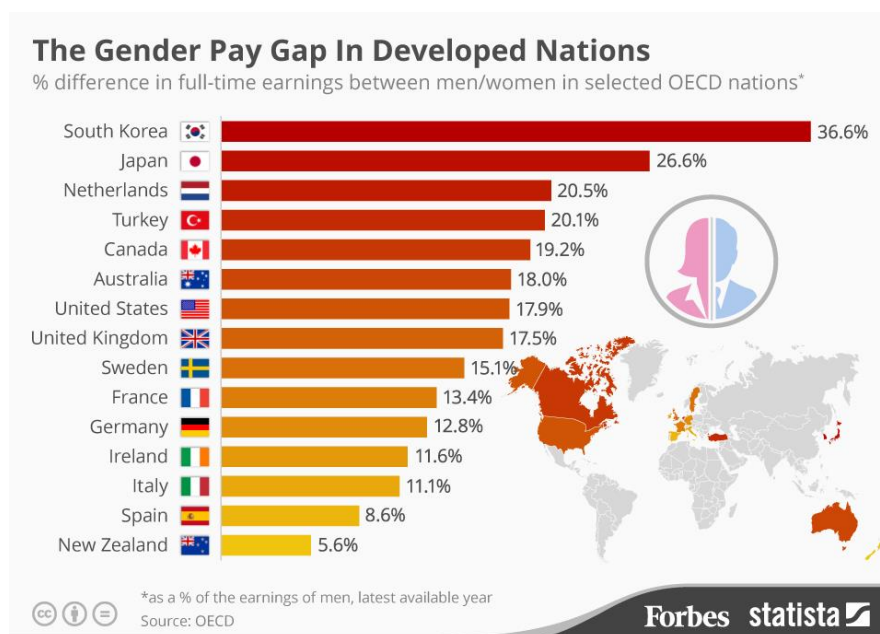
The reason why I chose my topic is when I had to choose a topic, I really did not know what I wanted to do, so I asked my teacher and she told me that “Family” is the easiest topic to understand and write a report on. The other girls in my class were writing about future jobs that they want to do, but when I was thinking about the gender issues of the job I want to do, I could not find any differences, so it was hard for me. However I could find differences between mothers and fathers because generally speaking, in Japan, women do

housework and men work outside the home and in my family's case, my parents are both working but mostly my mother does chores, cook three meals and clean our house while my father is working outside the house. I started wondering whether most Japanese families are like mine and how about other houses in countries other than Japan. For these reasons, I decided to research and write about the gender gap that affects family life. This is the reason why I decided I wrote about this topic.

Supporting Arguments

Firstly, I am going to talk about the gap between women and men. Every country has a gap between women and men. Some of them have a big gap and some of them have a small one. However there is a huge inequality gap between men and women in Japan. I have known since I was little about the gap between women and men and I do not know how I knew about it but I think as I grew up, I knew it naturally, which is bad because when people know something naturally, it means it is a common thing. In Japan, it is a common to have a gap between women and man. For example, at work, mostly women get paid less than men which is called Pay Gap. As you can see the graph below (McCarthy, 2016),

Japan and Korea have a higher percent than other countries but New Zealand is in the lowest place.



In Japan, if women get pregnant, they will most likely leave their job eventually because many people think women who get pregnant cannot work as well as men. If women get pregnant, their stomach will get bigger day by day and it will affect their work. They cannot move faster than before get pregnant and people around them have to much more work than usual for them. According to OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) outlook (2013), in Japan, the employment rate of women between the ages of 25-54 years old is 69.2% and it is 24th out of 34 countries who are members of OECD. The OECD's member states are regarded as developed countries. However, men's

employment rate is 91.5% and it is 2nd out of 34 countries. This shows that the lower employment rate of women is not because of economic problems as the unemployment rate of men is very low. One reason that could contribute to the gap in employment rate between men and women is that as OECD (2013) says, after graduating from school, most women get a job but about 60% women leave their jobs after they have a baby. Similarly in New Zealand, from my interviews, all the participants said that they thought men get paid more than women. However during my study abroad, I saw many women were working the same as men, so I think New Zealand may have a gender gap, but it may be lower than Japan does.

Ranking	Country	Score
9 / 144	New Zealand	0.781
111 / 144	Japan	0.66

Here is the Global Gender Gap Index from OECD (2013) which the highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality). As you can see, New Zealand has a high score and Japan has low score. Out of 144 countries, Japan has a bigger gap between female and male than many other countries.



Secondly, let us move onto the main purpose of my thesis, which is about the family life's gender gap. As you can see in the introduction, in Japan, most people think that mothers should take care of their children and fathers should work outside the house. I often hear that being a mother is really hard work especially taking care of really young children. Babies cry every night and many children like their mother more than their father, so mother have to hold them up until they stop crying. After a while, babies start crying over and over again, so I often hear that mother cannot sleep when their children are young. In Japan, I think that most mothers get less sleep than fathers. As I have pointed out before, this is because mothers in Japan tend to look after their children and they have to do the washing, cook every meal, and clean the house. However during my time in New Zealand with my host family, this was not the case. My host mother and father tend to look after their children together and also they do share chores. I thought other countries would have been different from Japan and we should know how other countries have different roles in the house

between fathers and mothers. I interviewed four people in New Zealand. Everyone said that "House work should be shared" and they all said "Childcare is father and mother's job". During my study abroad, my host mother and father were sharing jobs and taking care of their children. In my host house, they had two rules about sharing house jobs. First rule was my host mother cooks dinner on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and my host father cooks dinner on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and on Sunday, they cook dinner together. I think it is a pretty good idea to make that kind of rules because if mothers cook dinner every day, they might get stressed from it but if fathers help mothers, they do not get stress because they are cooking dinner together. The other rule was, on my host mother's working day; she drove her children to the school and picked them up on the way home. On my host father's working day, he did the same things as his wife, so when my host mother did not have work, she did not have to wake up to take her children to the school. Both parents could sleep until the time they wanted to wake up. If I get married with someone and have a family, I would like to make those rules. However I realized maybe Japanese people are not able to do the same as New Zealand people do because in Japan, most fathers are working outside the house and they get home late at night. In New Zealand,

most of mothers have a job as well as fathers do, as I said before, and both of them finish working around 4:30 ~ 5:30. If you go to New Zealand, you can see that almost every shop is closed at 5:00 p.m. and everyone goes home. This way, people have time to spend with their family and do house works. There is no difference in the finishing working time between men and women but in Japan's case, you can see that most shops are opened until late and men have to work harder because they are believed to be stronger than women. Most fathers get home really late and it means that mothers have to do all the chores, cook dinner for everyone and look after their children. Mothers get stressed, because they are doing everything. I wondered why in New Zealand, the women can work the same as the men do. I think it may be because they are doing Gender Equality Policy and New Zealand develops women's social advancement (Casey et al, 2010). Gender equality is the notion that all men and women should receive equal treatment in all aspects and should not be discriminated based on their gender. Even though, there is still have a gap, I think we should copy New Zealand and other countries and try to have no gap between male and female.

Thirdly, these days, the number of people in Japan who thinks that father should look after their children as well as their mother is increasing, little by little.

I often see fathers who are taking care of their children in the same as mothers and they called “Ikumen”. Many people say that it is a good thing that the men are doing childcare. I think it is really good thing too because it is not only the mothers job to take care of children. If the news about “Ikumen” is on TV, many people would get to know more about it and Japanese thinking might be changed, step by step. In addition, I think that is if men do the jobs which most of Japanese people would say it is women’s, women could do the job which Japanese people would say it is men’s easily and the women would get paid or work the same as the men do. Eventually, there will be no gap between men and women.



In conclusion, we know there is a gap between women and men all over the world. It does not matter if it is big or small but in Japan, we still have a huge gap. In the future, I would like to have the same work opportunities and salary as men. I think we can have a little gap between men and women because we have

different abilities and men are thought to be stronger physically than women. However if the gap is way too big, women cannot earn money more than men forever. Women cannot get a higher position than men. It does not mean men should get a lower position than women. We should live together equality.

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Volunteering in Portland, U.S.A

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Introduction

Most people consider volunteering as a good thing. In Japan, how many people do you think participate in it? There is almost no one who volunteers around me in Japan. However, things are different in United States of America. There were many people who volunteered around me when I was staying in U.S.A. In this essay, I am going to talk about volunteering, my experience in Portland, U.S. and gender.



Background

One day I saw on a TV program about volunteering during the Ebola virus crises. I was amazed by the people who helped preventing the virus because those people could be infected, too. I was very impressed. That is why I have decided that my topic would be volunteering.

Volunteers are defined as people who do unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization (Free dictionary, 2017). I joined a community, managed by Christian people which was called International

Christian Fellowship, (ICF). This organization offers dinner to international students and gives the opportunity to learn about Christianity. I learned many things about the bible through ICF.

In the United States of America, about 62 million people volunteer through an organization at least once between September 2014 and September 2015. Although, the volunteer rate declined by 0.4 percentage point to 24.9 percent for the year ending in September 2015, according to the U.S. (Economic News Release, 2016). In Japan, the number of people who volunteer is about 30 million in 2014 (Zenkoku, 2014). This is only half of the people who volunteered in the U.S.A. in 2014. American people, I think, have their own time, such as spending time with their families or do their hobby. On the other hand, Japanese people are very busy. They do not have enough time to do their hobby. Moreover, in Japan, we do not see people who are in need each day. Nevertheless, I think that Japanese people should know about more about volunteering.

In the United States, the number of women who volunteered were 27.8 percent in 2014, and was about 28.3 percent in the previous year. The volunteer rate for men has remained stable at 21.8 percent for the year ending in September 2015. Across all age groups, educational levels, and other major

demographic characteristics, women continued to volunteer at a higher rate than men (Economic News Release, 2016). In Japan, the number of the male volunteer is about 13 million, female is 16 million (Jissen, 2011). Therefore, it seems that women do more volunteer than men do in both of countries. I think that it may be because men have more responsibilities with their jobs and they do not have enough time to volunteer.

In the U.S. 18.4 percent volunteer of 35- to 44-year-olds and teenagers have a relatively higher volunteer rate, at 26.4 percent (Economic News Release, 2016). For example, while in the U.S, I had a friend called Ken, who volunteered in South America since he could speak Spanish. He told me that work there was fun. He played soccer with orphans and taught them how to fold a bird by Origami. However, he looked stressed out to me. In South America, the public peace is not good that is why he was very careful about the environment around him. In Japan, however, the highest portion of people who volunteer are 40-44 years old at 35.6%. On the other hand, the lowest portion is the age group of 25-29 at 16.5% (Jissen, 2011). I think this is because that people who are in ages between 25-29 get married and have a young child who they have to take care of.

In the U.S, 29.9 percent people who are married volunteered in 2015, compared to only 19.9 percent of those who had never married and those with other marital statuses at 20.2 percent. In 2015, parents with children under age 18 were again more likely to volunteer than people without children, with 31.3 percent versus 22.6 percent (Economic News Release, 2016). In Japan, about 70% of people who volunteering are married (Jissen, 2011). I think this is because of that, married people have opportunities to think about others since they have their own families.

Argument

I asked John to be interviewed for my research on volunteering. John is the person who is the leader of ICF. According to his answers, in America, many people enjoy volunteering. He does volunteering for many international students by taking care of them, including me, since he knows how difficult it is to stay somewhere where it is hard to get used to. He lived in Japan for 3 years then he realized how difficult it is to live in a country where he never lived before. After living in Japan, he and his wife started helping international students. This is all the data from the interview that I could analyze. Therefore, I am now going to talk about ICF and I will talk about what I did when I took part in it. The ICF is an

organization whose leader is John. He lives close to where my host family lives.

The ICF meeting started 6:30 p.m. every Friday. There were many international students, and we had dinner and learned about bible together.

To be honest, it was very hard for me to keep going to ICF until I got used to English because we talked in English and learned bible in English. That is why I was very disappointed when I did not understand English. I barely spoke English at the time. As you can guess, it was kind of torture when I had a conversation with more than two people who spoke English at the same time. The more they talked, the more they talked fast and I felt lonely.

I had one more problem. It was when we learned about bible. We read the bible out loud. I was terrible at reading out loud. Every time I read, I felt awkward and was sure of that they would not understand my English without their bible. At least they saw what I read, so they could understand. Moreover, I did not understand what I was reading about. I was reading the bible. That was it. Therefore I did not understand what my friends and posters were talking about. It was also very awkward. Last thing is that, we prayed together. When I realized that preaching time was finishing in a minute, I could not stop sighing because I did not like praying at the same time as others. I did not know how to pray since I

am Japanese. I had never prayed until I came to Portland.

During the month of May, An Egyptian girl came to ICF. She was the same age as me. There were no people who were high school students in ICF but I was. So I was very excited to talk with her. We became friends straight away. I was laughing all day long on that day. Sometimes, I did not understand what she said but I did not care about it somehow. I think that because it was May, and I finally got used to English. Further, she was always sweet and sincere. She was very patient with me.

In summer, I had a chance to try wind surfing through the ICF. I was wondering if I would be able to stay long on the board because of my balance ability, but I decided to go wind surfing anyway. I had a great experience over there. I think I will not get a chance to try wind surfing in Japan. Unfortunately, I was the only one to need to be rescued by a life saver. It was very embarrassing.

One week later, we had a Canada trip for four days. I was very nervous actually because I still did not have the confidence about my English ability. I was thinking that I would become embarrassed. Contrary to my expectation, the Canada trip became my best memory. I enjoyed talking with my friends until 2:30 a.m. on the first day. We had sightseeing. We also went to hike which was

horrible. We kept going up some stairs or rocks for over one hour. Of course at the end of hiking, we had a great view. For me, I do not want to go hiking for a while. On the last day, we went to an authentic Chinese food restaurant. One of my Chinese friend ordered delicious food for us.

Since this Canada trip, my life in Portland was changed. Honestly, I did not enjoy staying in America at all. I did not even try to have fun because I was concentrating on how to improve my English ability. Without having fun with learning English, there is no way to improve it. I learned this important thing through ICF.

Conclusion

When I was spending time with ICF, I noticed that people like to volunteer in an area where they feel is needed and where they have some skills or talent. I think that this make them feel rewarded when they help someone. In general, I think men want to do something physical when they volunteer where as women may like to work on making good relations. For example, John was a track and field athlete, so he takes international students on hikes or wind surfing. On the other hand, his wife, Yoriko gives advices the students who need it and tell them about the bible.

There is a lot of variety of volunteering, like the ICF in the world.

ICF helped me very much while I was in Portland. Volunteering is such a wonderful thing. Volunteers do not work for money but people who are in need. I would like to do some volunteering in the future.



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