

Socio-Economic Disparities in Japan: A Cross-Sectional Survey

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Abstract: Japan has been experiencing a steady decline in its population in recent times, and many companies in Japan are increasingly relying on foreign-born workers to compensate for the domestic labor shortage. The immigration rules in Japan have undergone significant changes. Under the new system, the Japanese government has decided to issue about 300,000 new visas to foreigners to work in industrial sectors that are facing a severe labor shortage. In immigration research, an important concern for any country welcoming new foreign workers has been to investigate not only the extent of immigrant assimilation, but also the effects of immigration and assimilation on health, education and social programs. Based on an extensive field survey carried out in Japan, this paper examines the existence of socio-economic disparities, if any, between the Japanese nationals and the foreign-born workers. This project identifies (a) the reasons for the disparities, and (b) the unique challenges faced by the foreign-born students and workers, both socially and economically, while living and working in Japan.

Keywords: Discrimination, Immigrant Workers, Public Policy, Wage Differential

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