

Support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in Japan and Related Issues

Changes in support available in Japan from 1970 to 2000

1970- Deaf students tended to study alone without any support from their universities.

Deaf students borrowed notes that hearing classmates took during class and transcribed them into their own notebook themselves.

1990- Some universities began allocating budgets for support to deaf students and established support centers for deaf students. *e.g. Nihon fukushi Univ. et al.*

Faculty and staff began supporting mainly the training and employment of "Notetakers" at Universities. In Japan "Notetaking" consists of summarizing what is being said in real time so that deaf students can follow lectures, and is therefore different from the concept of "Notetaking" in the U.S.

2000- Quality of support services offered by some universities made rapid progress!

One university began employing a JSL interpreter as a staff member of the university and several other universities have recently followed suit. Furthermore, a voice recognition system for academic communication was developed and this system is already in experimental use at TCT and Gunma Univ.

Present Support in Japan

Universities

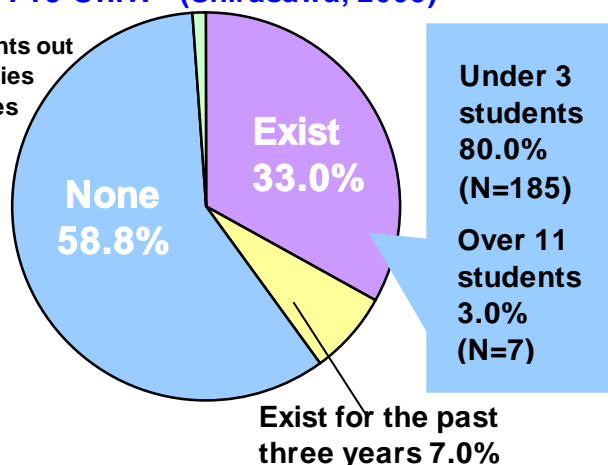
Total: 709
(Nat. 87; Pub.80; Private. 542)
2,809,000 Students (Total)

Colleges

Total: 508
(Nat. 12; Pub.45; Private. 451)
234,000 Students (Total)
(Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, 2004)

Survey on enrollment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students at 719 Univ.* (Shirasawa, 2005)

* 719 respondents out of 709 Universities and 508 Colleges



Support Services

Provision of support strategies to faculty	62.6%
Notetaking service	44.4%
JSL/MCJ interpreting service	12.2%
Notetaking service using PCs	11.8%

150 Univ. provide notetaking services

But... Reward	59% (N=89)
Training	47% (N=71)

Who does the Notetaking?

(N=number of Univ.)

Volunteer students	N=77
Volunteer circles	N=62
Friends of deaf students	N=46
Qualified persons	N=31
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Mothers of deaf students	N=2

Who serves as coordinators between notetakers and deaf students?

Staff members, N=74; Deaf students, N=39, Teachers, N=35; Volunteer circles, N=21; Volunteer students, N=15...Other (e.g. Mothers of deaf students, N=1) (N=number of Univ.)

Some Related Issues

1. We need to further enhance our support services and share our know-how and experiences with other universities and colleges.
2. We need to systematize and improve Self-Advocacy Programs for deaf and Hard of Hearing students and Faculty Development Programs in Japan.
3. We need to establish "Regional centers for universities by university" in order to improve the quality of support services in other universities and colleges in the region.