

2. Outline

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Large-scale Immigration to Japan

I. Introduction

- Prime Minister's announcement on the possibility of accepting large-scale immigration
- Controversy caused by the announcement

Thesis Statement

Japan should welcome large-scale immigration because of its merits for human capital, economic effects, and culture.

II. Facts on foreign residents in Japan

- A. Total number
- B. Countries of origin
- C. Acceptance ranking in the world

III. Positive effects of immigration (1): New knowledge and skills for Japanese industries

- A. Highly skilled and educated foreigners in manufacturing and technology
- B. Example: Foreign researchers invited by the government of Singapore
- C. New opportunities in education in Japan

IX. Positive effects of immigration (2): Supplying human capital to the Japanese economy

- A. Objection to immigration: Possible job insecurity
- B. Answer to the objection: Foreign workers in less desirable jobs

X. Positive effects of immigration (3): Experience of foreign cultures

- A. Foreign workers bring their own culture
- B. Japanese people have more opportunities to learn about foreign cultures
- C. Example: Foreign food restaurants

XI. Conclusion

5. Final Draft

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Should Japan Accept Large-scale Immigration?

Recently, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that Japan might consider accepting a massive number of immigrants, possibly as many as 200,000 a year, to make up for the rapid aging and shrinking of its population. This announcement caused a debate over whether Japan should accept more foreign labors as immigrants or not. Some people claim that they are against large-scale immigration to Japan as it can lead to productivity overdependence and it can lower the average wages of some occupations. I, however, believe that Japan should welcome large-scale immigration due to three main reasons: it can positively affect the nation's technology; increase the supply of human capital; and, be a living textbook for foreign cultures.

In 2011, the number of foreigners living in Japan was 2 million which constitutes 1.6% of the Japanese population (Hoffman, 2012). Thirty percent are from China, 23% are from Korea, and 10% are from the Philippines. The number of immigrants in Japan is rising, yet it is only ranked as 125th out of 195 countries.

I believe that large-scale immigration can bring a positive effect in the areas of manufacturing and technology. With the introduction of foreign workers, it will be possible to obtain highly skilled and educated expatriates in these fields. In Singapore, for instance, researchers from all over the world are invited and paid by the government to conduct research, which is beneficial to the government and people of Singapore. They are conducting advanced research such as investigating cures for cancer. The knowledge and experience introduced by

foreign workers can also be used to develop various other fields in the host country. In Japan, for example, this can be applied to language education in which children are able to learn how to communicate with foreign workers.

Secondly, introducing large-scale immigration can fill gaps where it is difficult to find workers and supply human capital to the Japanese economy. Some argue that introducing large-scale immigration will result in a higher unemployment rate and reduce employment opportunities for the locals. On the other hand, less desirable jobs, such as in the fields of agriculture or nursing, are always understaffed. Hiring foreign workers is one of the solutions for an aging society to supply labour to these less desirable jobs and remain competitive in the world market.

Thirdly, large-scale immigration provides more opportunities for Japanese people to experience foreign cultures, and more Japanese will become familiar with cultural similarities and differences. There will be more restaurants providing unique tastes from all over the world. Japanese people can experience various aspects of foreign cultures even though they stay in Japan.

All in all, there are many upsides about introducing large-scale immigration to Japan. By accepting many immigrants, Japanese technology will be advanced, understaffed jobs will be filled, and foreign cultures will become more familiar to local people.

Reference

Hoffman, M. (2012, October 21). Only immigrants can save Japan. *The Japan Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.japantimes.co.jp>