

SURVEY OF ATTITUDES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN JAPANESE YOUNG PEOPLE

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How young Japanese people perceive environmental problems is thus a relevant question as they carry the future of the nation on their shoulders and their responses will determine the future course of environmental issues. The present paper reports on a questionnaire survey carried out on specific populations at a women's university and a junior college in Japan. The survey content and answer were as follows:

Appraisal of the state of environment: 74% considered their own country's environment to be bad.

Awareness of environmental problems in urban, rural and other areas of the respondent's country: 27% viewed automobile exhaust gases as a problem in urban areas and 43% viewed dioxins a problem in rural areas and deforestation as a problem in other areas.

Rating of environmental problems in order of seriousness: air, water, soil and noise pollution.

Estimation of the future development of environmental problems: 77% expected conditions to worsen.

Evaluation of environmental education for children and adults: important and necessary.

Opinionating to investment by overseas industry and business: Safety assurances, bans on cross-border movement of toxic substances, and concessions to preserve the local environment.

Opinions relating to dioxins: Incineration (55%), factories (28%), and agriculture (13%).

Transport to place of study and preferred transport system in respondent's city: Electric train (66%), subway (8%), monorail (6%), bus (5%) and diesel train (3%).

Smoking status: 31% smokers (17% female).

Measures taken by respondent against indoor pollution: 60% of respondents took some measures.

Environmental support to developing countries: Support which includes dispatch knowledgeable personnel (87%).

Corporate environmental performance and job hunting: Of the surveyed respondents, 67% did.