

# The First Step to Changing Japan!

## Increasing Female Membership of the Japanese Diet

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### Abstract

Currently, the number of Japanese women parliamentarians is low. This issue is discussed all over the world. In order to increase the percentage of Japanese women parliamentarians, we must first know why their numbers are so low. In order to do this we must consider the issue as a matter of politics and public awareness. We made two hypotheses and conducted an interview survey to test them.

### Hypotheses






#### 1. "It is difficult for women to become Diet members as a result of the political system"

##### Current Law = Ineffective

Basic Law on Gender Equality Society in the Political Field

"The number of male and female candidates shall be carried out with the aim of being as equal as possible." (May 2018)

##### Quota = Immediately effective

Rank	Country	Percentage of female parliamentarians
1	Rwanda 	55.7%
2	Cuba 	53.2%
3	Bolivia 	51.8%
4	Mexico 	48.4%
5	Sweden 	47.3%

#### 2. "People have strong assumptions that women should not become Diet members, and this is preventing women from striving to become members of the Diet."

##### Method

- Interviewing 17 year-old students over the Internet

##### Responses

"Gender discrimination is gone now."

"Young people are gender equals."

"(Female parliamentarians are) overly-serious."

"I don't know very well (about female parliamentarians)."

"When a woman is married, it is she who is in charge of raising the children."

##### Analysis

Gender discrimination was a thing of the past.

Respondents have no affinity for politics.

Becoming a member of parliament is difficult for women because of gender expectations.

##### Results

1. Respondents think that gender discrimination is a thing of the past.
2. Respondents are not familiar with politics.
3. Gender expectations prevent women from becoming diet members.

### Conclusion



From our results we can say that the preconception that women should not become members of the Diet is preventing capable women from trying to so.

The reason why female membership does not increase is that there are not enough effective measures to overcome the preconceptions regarding gender role division, which has not fundamentally changed.

### Work shop: Raising interest in politics and political issues

### Future perspective

#### Introducing country with a large number of female Diet members

There is a relationship between the high interest in politics and the large number of female Diet members.

Example. **Rwanda** (No.1)  
**Voter turnout: 98.8%** (No. 2)



##### Workshop

**Date:** October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Attendant:** Female high school students (17~18 years old)

We would like to conduct an interview survey of American students with the same questions as in Japan at the age of 17 to know the difference in thinking between Japanese and American students.

##### References

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