Should University Education in Japan Be Free for All Students?

Sentaro Sakura

About one hundred million yen is average university tuition for one year of university in Japan. How many people can afford this? Some people even give up going colleges because they simply do not have enough funds to pay for the expensive tuition. Recently, some countries have made university free for students and some people claim that Japan should follow this trend for several reasons: it would allow students to focus on their studies and promote equal access to higher education.

First, making college fees free would allow students to study harder. Students can feel stressed by the pressure of financial problems. According to the research conducted by Japan Institute of Life Insurance, about half of Japanese university students rely on student loan. These loans create significant burden after graduation. Once people graduate, most of students are forced to work hard to repay these loans. These pressures can distract students from their studies. If they do not have to pay tuition, this anxiety can be greatly eased and they may feel a lot more comfortable to study. Therefore, students can fully focus on their studies more if colleges tuition is free.

Furthermore, free higher education can promote equal access to education. The current system is not fair to students since their financial background can affect their college life. Financial constraints often prevent people from pursing their academic interest. In fact, college tuition continues to rise steadily. However, education should be equal. Max Page, Professor of Architecture, and Dan Clawson, Professor of Sociology, both at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, stated: “A century ago high school was becoming a necessity, not a luxury; today the same is happening to college. If college is essential for building a career and being a full participant in our democracy as high school once was, shouldn’t it be free, paid for by public dollars, and treated as a right of all members of our country?(2017)”. By providing free university education, equal opportunities can be ensured for every individual.

Some people might claim that students would not take their studies seriously if they do not have to pay tuition. Some people suggest that students feel responsibility to complete their degree because they or their parents pay large amount of money. Even though this might be true for some people, according to Recruit, about 17 % of students work part time job to pay for their tuition. Removing the financial burden would enable students to have more time for their studies. Another objection is that Providing free higher education may not necessarily ensure equal access. For instance, students from underprivileged communities may lack the necessary academic preparation. However, it is important to address these parties by providing additional academic supports. By implementing supports for students, universities can close the gap and people can make sure that everyone has a equal opportunity to pursue their studies. In short, the benefits of free higher education outweigh these potential challenges.

In conclusion, making colleges fee free benefits for everyone by giving more comfortable area to concentrate on their studies and promoting equal access of education. Students can be more motivated if they do not have to be concerned about tuitions. Also, higher education would eliminate the financial burden to pursue their academic interests regardless of their social status. These benefits will enhance Japan’s education quality and contribute to the society.

Reference list

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