

Test-doctoring to keep Japanese women out of medical school

<p>Notes & Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>Japan has made a lot of noise in recent years about demolishing the traditional view that women should stay at home while men go out to work.</p> <p>So it was shocking when, on August 7th, Tokyo Medical University, a prestigious medical school, confessed to marking down the test scores of female applicants to keep the ratio of women in each class below 30%.</p> <p>Their defence was that women are more likely to drop out to marry and have children.</p> <p>To judge female applicants to medical school purely on their merits would leave Japan with a shortage of doctors, they said.</p> <p>The admission has caused outrage.</p> <p>Doctoring has long been a male bastion.</p> <p>But it is not the only one.</p> <p>Discrimination is rife in banks and trading houses, where stamina and loyalty, qualities somehow associated with men, are prized, says Mari Miura, a political scientist at Sophia University.</p> <p>All this embarrasses a government that has promised to make women “shine”, its condescending catchphrase for female empowerment.</p> <p>The policy seems based on the need for more workers rather than on genuine concern for women.</p> <p>Shinzo Abe, the prime minister, says he wants to bring millions more women into the workforce to make up for a labour shortfall caused by its ageing and declining population.</p> <p>In the field of politics, the record under Mr Abe’s premiership is lamentable.</p> <p>Just two members of his 20-strong cabinet are women, including Seiko Noda, in charge of women’s empowerment.</p> <p>Ms Noda, who makes little secret of her ambition to dethrone Mr Abe in a leadership contest next month, has just published a book called “Grab the Future”, her manifesto for pulling Japan into line with “global standards”.</p> <p>She has almost no chance of winning.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	