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Education for Children to Embrace Diversity in Japan

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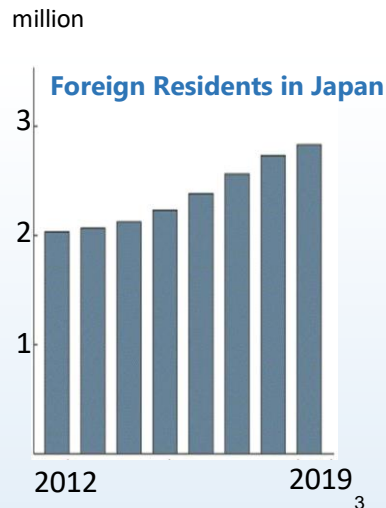
Thesis Statement: Japan needs to implement diversity education in elementary and middle schools to promote ethnic and racial awareness to help Japanese society become more tolerant and accepting of the growing international population in the country.

Eriha Tomita

Change in Demographics in Japan

- **Japan's aging population**
- Government's policy to receive larger number of workers from foreign countries.
- **Increasing number of foreign residents**

Total Population in Japan:
126 million (2020)¹
Foreign Residents:
2.9 million (2019)²
→ **2.3%** of total population



Challenge in Schools

- **120,000 foreign children** of elementary and junior high school age⁵
- **Discrimination** among students.
- **Lack of education on ethnicity and race.**

❖ **Suicide of 12 years old girl (2010)**
She was psychologically bullied due to her physical difference having a Filipino mother.

Ethnic and Racial Identity

Question of "Who am I?"

Social identity derived from membership in and connection to a particular ethnic-racial group and the significance that one attaches to it.⁶

A mature ethnic-racial identity has many benefits for adolescent learners.

- Improved mental health, self-esteem, and greater academic ambition and achievement.
- Promote resilience in the face of risks that threaten healthy development.⁷
- Social group identity becomes more salient for underrepresented or minoritized groups.⁸

Dominant group self-defines racial identity through recognizing and abandoning their internalized privilege and racism.⁹

Family Inclusion



Families encourage positive self-image, regardless of their racial or ethnic identity. The collaboration of parents and schools is fundamental for creating unity in a community.¹⁰

Conclusion

- The ethnic-racial identity development of members of groups with restricted access to resources and power is particularly important as a source of resilience in confronting academic and social challenges.
- Education for school children to support developing ethnic-racial identity in Japan is needed.
- Family inclusion is significant for promoting student self esteem and affirmation as well as developing community's unity.

Culturally Responsive Education

Instruction that acknowledges and builds on the varied cultural resources of learners.

- Helps students make meaningful connections between their cultural identities and academic success.¹¹
- Students have more autonomy to critically examine what they are learning, how it relates to themselves and the world.
- ❖ **Example of New Zealand to engage Māori youth in high school**¹²
- Adopt principles of culturally responsive and relational pedagogy into teaching practice to raise academic outcomes and aspirations among Māori students.
- Embrace culture with values and ideals as Māori.

Identity

Self-esteem

Academic Success



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Diversity
to strengthen
community

