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## *Fostering Global Citizens in Japanese Higher Education*

適用分野

Preparing students for study abroad and working in global settings. Ensuring that students can develop their critical thinking skills.



研究名称

Designing curricula and projects that foster critical thinking skills necessary for global citizens

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内容

Fostering critical thinking skills has become a necessity when teaching English as a Foreign Language in higher education settings as university students are expected to possess problem-solving skills and think about issues from various perspectives as global citizens. However, Asian students are often criticized for being reticent, passive, and lacking in critical thinking skills due to their group-oriented culture and learning environments that emphasize rote memorization.



The aim of my research is to investigate how university students in Asia feel about engaging in group discussion and debate projects that are intended to build on their critical thinking skills. Asian students reflected on cross-border group discussion projects. Their reflections demonstrated that critical thinking skills can be fostered among Asian students despite the underlying assumptions of collectivist cultural values and teacher-fronted learning environments in Asia. The Japanese students in particular felt inspired by the proactive and cooperative nature of the other Asian students who were unafraid of voicing their opinions and sharing their knowledge on a variety of global topics. Over time, the Japanese students found that in order to have fruitful discussions and debates online and in person, they needed to learn how to contribute to learning environments where they could discuss a variety of topics from soft to hard topics. The students also realized that they should prepare adequately by doing research so that they could participate actively and positively as global citizens.

キーワード

intercultural understanding, e-learning, debate, critical thinking skills, group discussions, active learning, global citizens

連携方法

■ 講演   ■ 研修   ■ 研究相談   □ 学術調査   □ コメント   ■ 共同研究