

Report

Relaxation of University Admission Restriction for Students with Abnormal Color Vision

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In the year of Showa 60 (1985), as a member of the School Health Care Committee of Japan Ophthalmic Medical Association, I collected University Admission Guide Policies of 484 national, public and private universities of Japan national wide and conducted a survey on the admission policies of these universities for students with abnormal colour vision. I then proposed a report to the Japan Ophthalmic Medical Association. The report proposed that it is not appropriate to have normal colour vision as a condition of university admission in accordance with "The Rights to Education" and "The Equality of Education Rights" as laid at by the Constitution of Japan and in line with other developed countries. The report proposed to relax and repeal any relevant restrictions. In response, the Association of Public Universities and the Association of Private Universities, headed by the Association of National Universities all supported this proposal. As stated in last year's report, Showa 62's (1987) University Admissions Guides have had a large degree of relaxation and repeals of these restrictions. I conducted a follow up survey in Showa 63 (1988) which details in following:

In the year of Showa 61 (1986), 47 out of 94 national universities still have colour vision requirement restrictions. While in Showa 62 (1987), the figure has reduced to 23 universities. However 12 university admission guides include such vague expression as "Students who suffer from diseases or abnormality that affect their academic performance may be refused admission". This year, the number of universities who have similar vague expression has risen to 57 in total. In Showa 63(1988), the number of national universities which still have colour vision restrictions plummeted to 9 however the number of universities who have vague expression in their admission guides is rising.

Only two universities, The Medical School of National Mie University and The Literature Faculty of Rissho University (Private), had colour vision admission restrictions last year but cancelled them this year. 14 national universities, 1 public university and 2 private universities had these restrictions last year but relaxed them this year in favour of vague expression this year.

With regard to the implementation of “vague expression”, the question is whether the effect of academic performance can be judged by colour vision test alone.