

COMPLETION REPORT

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Subject of Research Project: Intercultural Contact of Indonesian Workers in a Third Place: A Study Case Of Indonesian Trainees in Japan

Indonesian Migrant Workers in Japan refer to Indonesian trainees (Jisshusei increasing year after year. In the upcoming year, it is expected will continue to rise as new programs called *tokutei ginou* are introduced. In their daily life as migrant workers in Japan, Indonesian trainees face intercultural contact (IC). Intercultural communication can also occur in the work environment. There may be difficulties between two people with different nationalities, languages, and cultural backgrounds. The incidence of misunderstanding between people of different cultures is predicted to be relatively high. Therefore, the intercultural competence of the trainees who will plunge into the cultural, social, economic, and Japanese language, which is different from the Indonesian language, will result in intercultural contact.

In this study, we collect data using mixed methods combining quantitative data from questionnaire results on the experience of intercultural interaction: verbal contact, written contact, media contact, and understanding the importance of those contacts. Approximately 128 participants submitted the questionnaire. The questionnaire is sampled from around Japan and has various fields such as food manufacturing, machinery, fisheries, etc. The qualitative data was collected through a qualitative approach by making Focus Group Discussions (FGD) twice between May and August 2022. And then we collect and investigated their intercultural contact by making diary studies for 2 weeks. The participant that collected the diary were around 14 people. Then, after we analyzed the content, we took follow-up interviews for their activities described.

Based on the findings of the questionnaire, the trainees' verbal contact is still limited in work. They mainly interact only with co-workers, Sempai, and supervisors. This is supported by a statement that respondents rarely engage in social activities outside of work, which more than 70% of respondents indicated. In the written and media contact. Because they still lack reading Kanji, their contact with media such as magazines, newspapers, or television is low. Only 20% of trainees enjoy reading magazines or newspapers in Japanese. Another contact zone is through technology, some of the trainees appear to participate in social media groups for interaction with the local Japanese. Another finding is that the trainees acknowledged the value of the Japanese language in their daily life in Japan. Therefore, some of them take the JLPT test and take Japanese lessons in their spare time.

The result of the diary studies captured and strengthen our questionnaire results. Their interaction is still limited at work only to supervisors, co-workers, patients, etc. 10 out of 14 of the participants work in the Kaigo service, so they often interact with the patient and connect with them. Others have also seen contact with Jisshusei from other countries. Some outside activities with co-workers include attending festivals, volunteering, taking trips, etc. Although mostly 2 years after, they can socialize well within work, their interaction with local people is still limited. We hope that to interact more with the local people, they should attend gatherings so their understanding of the society and culture of Japan would be increased.

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