

What's wrong with "a variety of education"?



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What is "the Program of Free of Charge for Pre-education and Childcare" ?

"The Program of Free of Charge for Pre-education and Childcare" was implemented by the Japanese government from October 1, 2019. Under the program, preschool education is free for all the children between 3 and 5 years old, and day care service also free for the children up to 2 from low-income households. The program covers 55000 pre-education and childcare facilities of licensed kindergartens and nursery schools as well as unlicensed nurseries. However, 89 kindergartens attached to foreign schools licensed as miscellaneous schools are excluded from the program.



The points at issue of the Program of Free Pre-education and Childcare



01

Don't take away the right to an education.

Children excluded from this system will be denied the right to an education in their native or ethnic languages and to an education to foster their own identity at a pre-school that is important for growth.



02

Unfairness. It violates the basic principles of law that underlies the system.

It is unfair to exclude facilities similar to infant education, contrary to the purport of the Fundamental Law, which has "the healthy growth of all children" as its basic philosophy of education, because they do not fall under Article 1 of the School Education Act and they do not fall under nursery facilities other than those approved by the Child Welfare Act.

03

Excluded facilities account for 0.16% of the total. Isn't it discrimination against foreigners?

The program covers 55,000 pre-education and childcare facilities of licensed kindergartens and nursery schools as well as unlicensed nurseries. However, 89 kindergartens affiliated to foreign schools licensed as miscellaneous schools are excluded from the program. Only about 0.16 percent of all schools were excluded. It is discrimination against foreigners to exclude only schools for foreigners from the system.

Only about 0.16 percent of all schools were excluded.

0.16%

Kindergartens and nursery schools in Japan approximately 55,000

89

(As of March 19, 2020)

04

National measures inconsistent with local government support to express quality security of education

Infant education facilities at schools for foreigners approved as miscellaneous schools receive financial support from local governments in the name of subsidies for parents of private kindergartens. This means that the quality of education of miscellaneous schools are guaranteed. The government's exclusionary measures ignore this reality.

Guarantee of "Quality of education"

05

No legal basis! Please make a decision based on the actual state of childcare!

There is no legal basis for miscellaneous schools not to fall under the category of non-approved daycare facilities. Notification of non-approved daycare facilities must judge in accordance with the actual state of childcare under the Child Welfare Law.

Process leading to the implementation

The system uses increased consumption tax revenues as a source of revenue.

The aim is to:

- (1) reduce the burden on the child-rearing generation; and
- (2) take measures against the decreasing birthrate.

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The reason is...

- (1) There are no standards for individual education and a wide variety of education.
- (2) In accordance with the Child Welfare Act, it does not fall under the category of an unauthorized daycare institution.

05

Discriminatory treatment prohibited by various United Nations treaties



Violation of UN treaties

The latest measure violates Article 14 of Japan's Constitution. It also falls under discriminatory treatment prohibited by the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is an unfair measure against the right to expect a distribution of the consumption tax burden on everyone.