

Living As Japanese in Turkey: Problems and Difficulties

A Brief Case Study of Cankiri and Ankara

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According to Ritzer statement, the World became globalized with the help of huge movement of information, goods, people, and places. The life occurs in the world where information and people are constantly moving. Because of this reason, Japanese society stays in touch with others all around the world as well as in Japan. Therefore, it is worth to investigate Japanese society's attitudes towards other people that have the different culture. There are some efforts to examine Japanese attitudes towards other people and culture. However, there is not a study about the attitudes towards Turkish people and culture. This study aims to reveal the attitudes of Japanese people who currently living in Ankara and Cankiri towards Turkish people and culture.

Contrary to other studies on the same subject, the quantitative approach has been used for this effort. The problems and difficulties experienced by Japanese in Turkey have been examined as cross-sectional and descriptive research. Quantitative approaches able to analyse a social phenomenon by the help of numbers, and the existence of Japanese people in Turkey is a remarkable social phenomenon. The research population consists of Japanese people living in Turkey for any reason. Japanese people living in the city of Ankara and Cankiri were chosen as the accessible population of the research. Japanese people who are over the age of 18 from the accessible population consist of the research sample. The research data has been collected by asking 59 questions prepared with the help of literature review. As Creswell states that participant observer as a qualitative approach may help to develop survey questions. For this reason, the researcher has attended six organizations - a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 12 hours- arranged by Ankara Japanese Society. This enabled researcher to shape and classify survey questions. The questions were created under the seven different heading: communication, food and shopping, health, education, politics and Japanese community. The intensity of problems was determined by using the Likert scale.

All participants have a problem with language. There is a communication problem with Turkish Citizens because of lack of Turkish language. Language problem also causes having difficulties at the hospital, government offices. Most of the participants have mentioned that language as a culture is an obstacle to communicate with Turkish. However, there is almost no discrimination felt by participants. According to results, Japanese food is vital for the participants. To cook Japanese food, participants order some products from Japan, and they meet with other Japanese friends to eat lunch or dinner. Ordering products from Japan shows that markets in Turkey are limited in terms of cooking Japanese food. In the eyes of participants, Turkey is a country that has political problems, and this bothers the participants. The amount of indecision answer on health illustrates that participants could rarely use the hospital in Turkey.

The information of the resulted data has broad features. Consequently, the most important result of this research is about discrimination. The literature review has revealed that Japanese people lived abroad, mostly Western countries, experience discrimination. Contrary to this, discrimination level felt by participants is low in Turkey.