

# **The Waste of Water in Japan**

Narikoku Team-A

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## 1. Abstract (WE)

### The Waste of Water in Japan

Japan is known as a country which has a high annual precipitation. We have a lot of rain during rainy season and much snow in winter. As a result, we, Japanese, tend to use more water than necessary. We sometimes keep running water while taking shower, brushing our teeth and doing the dishes. Nowadays, however, even Japan is said to be short of water especially in summer. This might be due to global warming, but our habit of using much water might cause such water shortage.

On the other hand, we learned that people in some countries can't get enough water to use in their daily life. Compared with those countries, Japan is blessed with water. Now, we, young Japanese should reconsider the importance of water. We should think of ways of helping people in those countries suffering from water shortage. In summary, we want to study how to inform Japanese people of the importance of water and ways of reducing water usage. In addition, we want to provide a specific suggestion for helping people in water poor countries. (179 words)

## 2. Keywords

global warming, shortage, importance of water, water usage, suggestion

## 3. The purpose of the research

Our final goal is to help people in water shortage countries. We, Japanese high school students learn that there are a lot of countries which are suffering from serious shortage of water in school classes. Nevertheless, our consciousness of importance of water seems to be comparatively low. Because, in Japan, we rarely have trouble with water to live a life. As for Narita City, where our school is located, there is no history of drought in Narita and the amount of water received has not been reduced below the standard of water supply project.

So first, we have to confirm our consciousness of water. If our consciousness about water is really low, we should know how important it is to save water. Then, we should persuade other high school students to help people in water shortage countries.

In the end, we will look for what we, young people can do for people in water shortage countries.

## 4. Method of the research

We surveyed 315 students at our school. All of them are in the first grade. Then we asked the following three questions. They are:

Question 1 "Do you think Japan is short of water?" If YES, why?

Question 2 "Do you usually conserve water?"

If YES, how? /If NO, why?

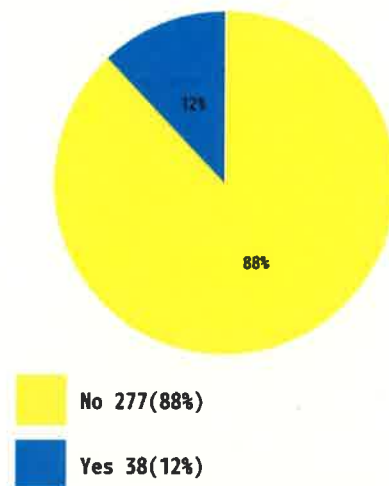
Question 3 "What should you do to increase people who are more conscious of conserving water?"

We have studied in this way.

## 5. Results of the experiment (research)

### 5.1 Answer to the question 1

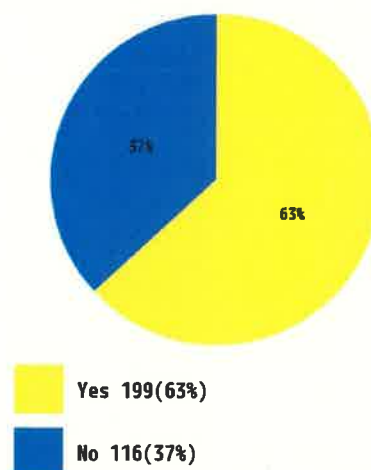
Do you think Japan is short of water? To this question, only 38 students (12%) answered yes, but 277 (88%) answered no. From this result, they are not serious about the shortage of water in Japan.



This is not a surprising result at all. We, Japanese, are blessed with water. We haven't been worried about shortage of water since we were born. However, there are some of the students who answered YES. They remember the cases of disaster such as earthquakes. Water does not come out from the tap in such emergency cases. Others remember hot summer after the "dry" rainy season. In such summer, there are areas where the dam water runs out. So supply of water is shut down. If water can not be used freely, our life may be inconvenient. That's why water is important.

### 5.2 Answer to the question 2

Do you usually conserve water? To this question, as many as 199 students (63%) answered YES. From this result, they are not serious about the shortage of water in Japan, but they are conscious of saving water.



Those who aren't conscious of water saving think that water saving is not necessary, because they have enough water in Japan. Then how do they save water? Some say that they don't run shower water all the time, or keep water in the tub and use the bath water again and so on.

### 5.3 Answer to the question 3

What we should do to increase people who are more conscious of water saving? They answered, for example, we should experience life without water, or they should command of a high price of water. Mass media should call for water saving. We should know more about countries in which there is not enough water and so on.

From these questions and answers, more than half of high school students will be ready for saving water. Fortunately, Japan is not short of water unless we have some emergent situation. Then we can do something for water shortage countries.

## 6. Conclusion

Based on these results, we thought that if Japanese were more conscious of water conservation, we could create surplus by actually saving water. Then we will collect surplus and we can donate money for helping water shortage countries. People in such countries can make wells and water tanks.

Our team learned that there are many countries which are suffering from water shortage in school classes. Education can give us an opportunity where we can think of this problem. So, first of all, we will learn the real situation a lot and then will make efforts to make other young people know about water shortage in the world.

## 7. Acknowledgement

I would first like to thank our team advisor Principal Watanabe of Narita Kokusai High School. He gave a lot of advice and guided us in the right the direction whenever he thought we needed it.

## 8. References

So far, we haven't referred to particular books and researches. We referred to some internet sites which deal with water shortage problem.

・塩 将一 (2010) なぜ「節水」が二酸化炭素の削減につながるの？

Masakazu Shio (2010) Why does saving water lead to CO2 reduction? <https://allabout.co.jp/gm/gc/45622/>

・キッチンやお風呂、トイレなど家庭でできる節水方法やグッズの紹介など The way to save water in houses: kitchens, bathtubs, and toilets <http://sessuihouhou.com/>