

2023年度

総合型選抜Ⅲ 世界人材志向型

適性検査

第1問 次の英文を読み、300字以内の**日本語**に要約しなさい。解答用紙(1)に記入すること。

Having a college degree might do more than potentially boost your bottom line; higher education might also lead to a more fulfilling family and social life. A recent study finds that people who graduated from college are more likely to have more friends and are less lonely than their counterparts with a high school diploma or less. Overall, Americans in general are experiencing a "friend recession," according to Daniel Cox, director of the Survey Center on American Life and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. "Americans have fewer close friends today than we did in the early '90s. But some groups were particularly affected in that they seem to have experienced a much more dramatic decline over that time period," Cox says. "And there are two groups that really stood out. The first is men. And the second one is people without a college degree." The Survey Center of American Life interviewed 5,054 people this past summer and found that Americans with a college degree feel more socially connected and civically engaged and are more active in their communities than people who didn't attend college. As a result, college graduates report feeling less lonely or isolated.

"If you look at the traditional institutions supporting Americans without a college degree, they were — in no particular order — religion, marriage and unions," Cox says. "Unions were primarily financial, but they also offered a lot of social support and social connection and feelings of belonging as well. The decline of unions, the decline of marriage and the decline of religion have all disproportionately affected the noncollege group. ... I feel pretty strong that those three things are at the heart of this story. A 2012 study found that college-educated women were much more likely to get married than women who dropped out of high school. Cox points to research that shows that people who are married tend to have larger social networks and more close friends and report feeling lonely less often. According to a Pew research poll, Americans are less religious overall. The percentage of Americans who say they're "religiously unaffiliated" rose from 17% in 2009 to 26% in 2018 and 2019. It's the continuation of a trend first documented by Pew in 2007. When it comes to union association, the percentage of workers who belong to a union has almost halved since 1983, when 20% of U.S. workers were union members. Union membership had dropped to 10.8% by 2020.

The loss of religious, associational and marital connections hits people who didn't go to college the hardest, according to Cox. The American Community Life Survey found that about 1 in 10 (9%) college graduates say they have no immediate social connections. That number rises dramatically among Americans without a degree, where almost 1 in 4 (24%) say they have no close friends. "They are becoming increasingly socially isolated; their social networks are shrinking," Cox says. "This social and

civic decline among those without degrees can be mitigated by finding alternative social outlets to offset the decline in religious participation, associational life and marriage," Cox says.

Reference

Dora Mekouar. (2021, December 28) College-Educated Americans Have More Friends, Are Less Lonely, Study Finds. ALL ABOUT AMERICA. Voice of America. Retrieved July 25, 2022, from voanews.com/a/college-educated-americans-have-more-friends-are-less-lonely-study-finds-/6371353.html

第2問 次の英文を読み、その要旨とあなたの意見を解答用紙(2)に**英語で**書きなさい。
(語数は問いません)

Although the topic of same-sex marriage may not be a topic of interest for some people, it has been a topic of debate for many years around the world. In the year 2000, the Netherlands became the first country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage, and as of today in 2022, a total of 32 countries permit same-sex couples to get married; however, Japan is not one of them. It is time for Japan to recognize same-sex relationships and allow same-sex couples to marry because it would be a step towards reducing discrimination against same-sex couples, and it would grant equal status to all members of society, regardless of sexual orientation.

One reason why Japan should legalize same-sex unions is because it would be one step towards reducing discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender (LGBT) people. “Among the Group of Seven industrialized nations, only Japan has not yet introduced a same-sex marriage or same-sex partnership system at the state level,” said Ken Suzuki, a law professor at Meiji University. “It is a shared awareness among advanced nations that excluding same-sex couples from the legal marriage framework constitutes discrimination against lesbians and gays.” (Hirano, 2017) Therefore, there is a possibility of reducing discrimination against a group of people when the government recognizes them as equal citizens, so Japan should allow same-sex marriage.

Another reason why Japan should legalize same-sex unions is because it would allow equality to all members of society. The basic definition of equality is “the right of different groups of people to have a similar social position and receive the same treatment” (Cambridge English Dictionary). Japan may be a mostly homogenous society in regard to culture and ethnicity, but that does not mean that all Japanese citizens and non-citizens are treated equally. “Most gay people still face discrimination when searching for public housing, visiting critically ill partners in hospitals or inheriting property, on the legal grounds that they are not family” (Hirano, 2017). By allowing same-sex couples to marry, they would be considered “family” and would be allowed the same benefits as “traditional” families. That is a step towards equality; therefore, Japan should allow same-sex couples to get married.

Opponents of same-sex marriage claim that by allowing same-sex couples to marry, the birth rate in Japan, which is already quite low, would become worse because same-sex couples cannot have children. However not all heterosexual couples in Japan have children. “Infertility is believed to afflict 10 percent of married couples in Japan, with men and women equally contributing to the problem,” according to urology specialist Dr. Iwamoto (Otake, 2017). If you compare this to the estimate of the number of LGBT

in Japan, which is 5 percent (Sechiyama, 2017), the claim that the birthrate will be affected by allowing same-sex couples to marry is completely absurd and illogical.

In conclusion, Japan, as a leading economic power in the world, needs to make changes in step with the global trend of legalizing same-sex marriage. The benefits of allowing same-sex unions would be reducing discrimination and allowing for equality for all people in Japan regardless of their sexual orientation. Japan must join the trend of equality that is sweeping the globe in order to be a true member of this global society.

References

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