

JICA

Young Leadership Training (Math & Science) 2019. Mr. Dumi Litwayi

Volume 1, Issue

Newsletter Date

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1 Japanese and its Culture

Based on my observations, Japanese people are the most respecting, amazing and ethical hardworking people on the planet. Wherever you go in Japan, they will say 'hallo' (Konnichiwa) to everyone. Their culture is built on peace and harmony, show respect to everyone by means such as greeting and appreciations "Arigato gozaimashita".

Greeting and welcoming someone involve bowing. When you bow, you are showing respect. Men and women do not bow in the same manner and bowing types are based on the type of greeting. If people are able to greet and appreciate one another then that defines 'civilization'.

Civilized people work together in order to achieve common goals. Goals such as zero conflicts, hard working, equality or even the sustainable development goals etc. Children are raised with the

same culture instilled in them, reminded about those norms at school and apply them in their daily activities.

Division amongst people is driving Africa backward. If we want to change then I believe our starting point will be ETHICS. We need to change ourselves in order to dream about development. It is now 75 years since Hiroshima City vanished due to the Atomic Bomb by the Americans. Within such a short period of time, Hiroshima today is regarded as one of the most developed city

in the world. According to Prof. Shaw Fujii (Hiroshima museum) "war is a human error and its now up to (us) young people to find means and work together to develop our own communities, cities and nations". Conflicts and violence must come to an end, we the youth must find ways to end it and work together without divisions in order to develop Africa. How and where to start? We start with ethics. Children at home and at school must learn how to avoid conflict to promote peace. This will create a safe future environment.

Special points of interest:

- Their culture is built on peace and harmony
- There's a very big gap between politics and schools
- Teaching Math and Science should clearly indicate active learning / learner centered.
- There are many areas in our education system that need urgent changes
- The centre should have modern courses for teachers and school managements especially on information technology and other recent benefits to Education

Education system in Japan

The education system in Japan is divided into four phases: the elementary/primary, junior high, senior high and tertiary/higher education. School is compulsory in Japan. Six (6) years of primary school, 3 + 3 years of secondary school and 4 years of higher/tertiary education. Equal opportunity for male and female as well as between rich and poor. Hence 1947 to date: the enrollment rate



By Moritani san: African Young Leadership Training Award Ceremony 2019, Hiroshima—Japan

have been between 99.8% -100% in primary, 62%-99% in secondary and Higher education is currently estimated between 57%-70%. About 18% scholars find jobs after completing secondary school while 24% go for vocational course schools. With regard to slow learners, two textbooks are used. The education

system is designed to promote equality, inclusiveness, help with development and improve living standard of all. There's a very big gap between politics and schools hence schools are under the municipal. Learners are attending public schools within their prefecture borders. This does not apply to private schools.

Teaching Mathematics and Science

Mathematics and Science are practical subjects. Learners must practice and discuss more in Mathematics, observe and find out more in Science. We can not teach science without teaching materials at all. Learners should be guided so that they find out on their own and report back to class. Lessons must be prepared prior to starting and the science laboratory must be fully equip. Improvisation shall then be backups for unavailable teaching materials.

Teaching Math and Science should clearly indicate active learning / learner centered. Learners must know their roles in class and in their respective groups. Groups must have leaders, secretaries etc to keep order. In Japan time is a very important aspect in everything you do therefore every work is prepared before hand. A prepared teacher will always deliver unlike those that are just in the industry to collect their salary. Its very important that a

learner have books and all needed stationaries to learn. Learners do not sit with their bags but only the books needed for that lesson. It helps eliminate interruptions. Learners must enjoy learning all the times. Group discussions help them to learn from one another if missed to understand from the teacher. It should be an ongoing process from lower grades till higher education. Having such culture makes work easier as learners are progressing to the next grade. Use of local languages in Math and Science lessons especially at elementary will help learners understand certain concepts and avoidance of misconceptions.

Teaching Mathematics requires less theories and more practical. The teacher shall introduce the topic, explain the lesson's competences (not too many per lesson) and give problems to learners to solve with reference to the competence. Prepared notes from the teacher shall help learners to remember what they have learned in class or with homework. Good communication between parents and teachers. Excellent support from the school principal.

“Soloban”

A SOLOBAN is a manual numbered tool used in elementary schools to help learners excel in mathematics especially when it comes to the basic operations. According to Ayoka San (my family in Japan) during our home visit “Solobans were mostly used long time ago in schools and have made learners to become best and problem solvers in mathematics”.

Since it's a manual tool, technology has dominated and currently they are hardly used in many schools. I then witnessed a grade 4 learner doing best in Mathematics, using a Soloban to calculating 3 digits sum and multiplication within few seconds. He completed five calculations in less than 2

minutes. The good thing about the Soloban is that if you master it then you can calculate through imagination whereby you don't have it in your hands but act like you have it.

As a teacher I tried to compete but unfortunately I took long while the grade 4 learner finished within 2 minutes. We have a very big problem in Namibia when it comes to Mathematics: learners are not best at it and I believe sometimes the cause is the methods we are teaching learners.



By Moritani San, Grade 4 Science lesson, Takayanishi Elementary School, 20 Nov 2019, Japan

For example we keep teaching BODMAS and learners need to memorize. We don't have to teach learners about BODMAS, we rather find a way which is easier for the learners because BODMAS requires them to memorize and what is learner forget the issue of left to right. The most important thing is to find a way best to teach learners and move away from old European methods which are not helping us. Teachers must start writing textbooks.

Development in Japan

I believe there are three most important keys used by Japan to develop: 1. Peace, 2. education and 3. Plan.

Their culture itself promotes peace and respect of all. They protect that for the sake of civilization. Where there is peace there is trust and togetherness.

Now Japan is the most safe country on the planet one would love to live in.

Education in Japan is based on what is available to them. Before development, they sent groups of young people to go and study different fields from different countries with an aim to come back develop the country. Such investment in human resources helped them so much. Higher institutions are not training people based on what is not available in the job market. Jobs with are not existing now and fields of studies under proposal are researched on.

Everything in Japan is planned before implemented. Proper planning. Schools are built based on population in every prefecture. The layout structure should be drawn and researched on, evaluate, approve and then implement. These three points will always bring in other aspects on board and the combination will always results in development. Everything is possible and we are the determining factor. Up to us.

Where to change in Namibia

There are many areas in our education system that need urgent changes. I will point out few that we should change if we want our education system to improve and yield results.

Teachers are the keys to change especially those at Junior Primary. It is important to inform the teachers through in-service training. Every teacher in Namibia must be trained on these two aspects:

Ethics

Ethics plays a vital role in education, we should start now to include these types of teaching in our curriculum if we want the future educated individuals. Behaviour is the key to all. One can excel good in school but if his/her behaviours are not good then the person is not an asset. Our children are dropping out of school, choosing to or not to go to school and parents have no control. In Japan there is no such thing. Children are taught to respect one another, schools are doing more to promote respect and good ethics. At home parents are doing very good to make sure their children don't get out of the way, it is very important and helping young people achieve their dreams. If we train all teachers on the modern ways of dealing and managing their classes then we will have a better future. Teachers must talk more about Ethics and motivate learners. Universities' curriculums for teachers must focus more on ethical part. Many countries doing good and developing faster are those that are improving their ethical part. In Japan, you must greet and thank whoever you talk to. It can be done in Namibia too but we start with the pre-schools until grade 12. We will manage our classrooms better if we have behaving and responsible pupils. If teachers are on the same page, they will take it into learners and their parents. Parents will then take it into their children to make up the community. It's up to the ministry of education to make this initiative possible.

Teaching methods based on majors

Teaching is very easy, everyone can do it but for teaching to be effective, we teachers must be guided on how to teach spe-

cific subjects. Teachers should be reminded on how to deliver best lessons to the learners. Science is improving through training offered to teachers by B2 Gold Namibia. Other subjects, not all teachers are exposed to the workshop done such as Mathematics congress. Much is needed to be done in order to eliminate all holding education backwards. Target the young teachers hence they have many years ahead to teach. The use of teaching materials, Improvisation, excellent teaching environment (classrooms), preparation and teaching guided by the syllabi. If we teachers are to understand and keep reminded about those 5 components then we will eventually change our teaching style to active. We are busy giving answers to children in class, using terms which are not of learners' level, explaining the whole lesson, theory and notes and most of all not using teaching aids. We are teaching based on how we were trained and we can not go back to University to learn about the new curriculum but through in-service training we will make it. I have learned how I shall teach Maths and Science in Japan and I am here to change where I am allowed to.

Assessment – the way we assess learners is worrisome because it doesn't tell the true picture about learner's ability. Numbers talk but they talk less. Why can't we evaluate learners' work? It should not be about scores, our focus must not be scores because we have better scores on report cards but yet a learner can not solve a basic problem under that subject. We need to switch to evaluation whereby a problem/work is given to a learner based on what is learned and the learner must solve/analyse it and report back to the teacher on what he/she did to solve that problem (mathematics based). The teacher will then be able to evaluate the work by the learner and also understand the class based on learners' reports. Yes promotion is granted but it helps to identify where one is good at as you progress to the next grade until you specialise on the field you are good at. Scores indicate a pass of 50% but maybe a learner got that average because of memorising or optional work (level one

question) but then the learner cannot solve any Math simple problem. We need a change step by step.

The need of teacher's training centre - the centre should be there to assist and train teachers whenever the need arise. Human minds are filled with many things therefore teachers turn to forget what they were taught in varsities as time goes. The centre will then welcome teachers and remind them about these varsity lessons. The centre should have modern courses for teachers and school managements especially on information technology and other recent benefits to Education. The centre shall as well help with counselling and work hand in hand with schools counselling committees. Assess academic progress to identified schools and help on improvement.

Link between education regional office and schools. Shall research and give suggestions to the ministry of education especially on the curriculum change and enrolment which I know as the most two difficult sections the ministry is struggling with over the past 30 years. The centre will recruit experts, researchers and best-hard working teachers for it to be successful. Headed by the hardworking people like Mr. Vries (director of education), for sure this will be the problem solver. The law must change for scholars: it should be illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to be out of school. It should not be allowed because those are the people who will be frustrated in the future with less earning and join the street. Whatever comes out of the street is always negative. These roles must be made clear to the nation, it will clean up the laziness and bring people to realise their role in the society. It's a good thing we have vocational training institutions therefore everyone must go through the same path and acquire a certificate to make

a living. Those that choose work after grade 11 or 12 is not wrong, the important thing is to have a grade 11 or 12 certificate through evaluation for right recommendations. This is something doable but need critical thinking and best decision making because it shall meet the job market demand and government commitments.



Mr. Dumi

Recognition of teacher's effort country-wide. Where there is no competition, so it shall be no hard work too. Teachers who go extra miles must be recognised and rewarded for what they have done, it will make them do more and serve the purpose better. Teachers must be encouraged all the times, they are going through a lot and in need of their bosses' supports. Principals as well, everyone and it should be like that throughout. There are few teachers devoting their afternoon times on coaching and training learners without any recognition.

When I mention recognition or rewards it shall not sound as money, no, it can be anything, and they will surely appreciate and bring others to the game. Sports, creative dances, dramas and learning supports are neglected due to: teachers are not supported.

Invite stakeholders and sponsors. This is for the ministry of education. Companies are doing less for our education. I don't know what is in place in our ministry but I believe there are plans drafted for example: feeding scheme project in schools. Companies can help where possible but if they are


not presented with a project plan I don't think if they will come in. In a form of invitation for willing stakeholders. JICA is doing more and here we trained, B2 Gold is doing well too through teachers' in-service training (headed by Mrs. Muyunda) and many others are willing but we don't present information to them.. If we want to be successful like Japan then we should come up with some of these changes.

The issue of textbooks: the government must provide textbooks (at least 70%) without any excuse. Writing

come from parents but yet 40% from the government. Many parents are unemployed and that shall not disadvantage learners.



By Mahmoud: certificate awarded to Mr. Litwayi after completion of training



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Grade 5 Mathematics
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JICA

Young Leadership Training (Math & Science) on basic education 2019 —
Hiroshima, Japan

Active learning and learner-centered

books can

I consider myself as the luckiest teacher in Namibia because I was nominated to represent Namibia at the 'Young Leadership Training' in Japan together with fellow colleagues from other African countries. I am truly grateful to JICA because the training I received have changed me as a person and my ways of teaching. I went to Japan to serve the purpose and learned so I am back as a different teacher. Given an opportunity to help on developing our country especially in education sector, I will surely do my best. Within two years, I will conduct trainings at school and clusters levels after submitting my proposal to JICA and the Ministry of Education. With your permission, I will do more to share what I learned in Japan., not only in Khomas but I would like to deliver even outside Khomas region and most importantly at the Mathematics Congress of 2020. After two years, my projects will be completed and I will present my report both to JICA and to the director of Education. I will then seek and apply for scholarships to go do my Masters and Doctorate in Japan. Meanwhile I will continue learning Japanese to better my communication on the other side. I have made friends in Japan and appreciate the opportunity. THANK YOU VERY MUCH JICA, I AM NOW TRAINED AND IT IS BECAUSE OF JICA. Aligato gozaimasu.

