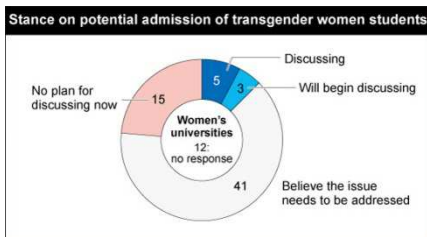


Transgender admissions in discussion at 5 women's colleges



1) Eight women's universities in Japan have the issue on their agenda of how to approach admitting transgender students who were born biologically male but identify as female, an Asahi Shimbun survey has found.

2) Forty-one women's universities, or more than 60 percent of those that responded, said they believe the issue needs to be addressed in the future, even though they have yet to make any concrete moves at present. How

such a change would be managed remains to be seen.

3) Women's universities in Japan have to date operated on the basis that being female means being listed as female in the family register. But new measures are being weighed, such as introducing decisions based on medical certificates that prove gender identity disorder. (gender identity disorder 性同一性障害)

4) A number of women's universities in the United States are admitting transgender students on the basis of their self-assessment or by other means. (self-assessment 自己評価)

5) The Asahi Shimbun sent questionnaires to the presidents of 76 women's universities across Japan and obtained responses from 64, or 84 percent, of them.

6) Of the eight universities that have either begun, or are planning to begin, discussing the option of admitting transgender students, two are national and the other six are private.

7) Five of those universities said they are discussing whether to admit transgender students who were born biologically male but identify as women. They include Japan Women's University in Tokyo's Bunkyo Ward, which said in March that it would begin discussing the issue; Ochanomizu University, also in the capital's Bunkyo Ward; Tsuda University in Kodaira, western Tokyo; and Tokyo Woman's Christian University, in the capital's Suginami Ward.

8) A further three universities, including Nara Women's University in Nara and Gakushuin Women's College in Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward, said they are planning to begin discussing the matter in the future. One university in each category declined to be named.

9) Ochanomizu University began discussing in fiscal 2016 whether transgender students who are not listed as female in their family register should be made eligible to take entrance examinations.

10) "We are discussing the matter on the basis of societal circumstances and needs," said Ochanomizu University President Kimiko Murofushi.

11) Tsuda University in May set up a committee of eight officials, including the president and vice presidents, to address the issue. The committee is assigned to discuss, among other things, eligibility for admission, the definition of "women," and the handling of students who switch gender while they are enrolled.

12) "The requirement of being listed as female in the family register is not enough, by itself alone, to cover the whole diversity of women," Tsuda University President Yuko Takahashi commented. "We are hoping to shape our stance at the committee's meetings."

13) Ten universities said they had received inquiries from transgender students or their guardians as to whether transgender women are eligible to be admitted, indicating interest among transgender students to enter women's universities. 【2017-06-29 | Asahi Shimbun】

☆Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What do you know about transgender? Do you know anyone who is a transgender?
2. When accepting transgender students, what kinds of preparations do universities should make?
3. What challenges that people who decide to change their genders could face?
4. If one of your family members confess that he/she would like to change his/her gender, what would you do?
5. Make sentences using the following words: biologically, self-assessment, eligible, circumstance and diversity.