

Official statement for “Tokyo Medical University has manipulated the entrance exam results of women”.

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The first impression that I heard the report of Tokyo Medical University is

“This is really setting the clock back!”. It is astonishing that women in Japan are still being stripped of their right to seek entry into the medical profession. In

Japan, the Promotion of women’s participation and advancement in the

workplace Act was enacted on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The Japanese Government is

aiming for “Promoting Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens” and that should

include woman. Medical university institutions should not in this day and age

shut the door on any qualified entrants and more specifically should never shut

the door on qualified entrants who happen to be women.

Ginko Ogino is the first woman who passed the doctor's national examination in

Japan. She wanted to become a doctor when she was 19 years old but was not

allowed the chance to learn medicine just because she was a woman. Because

there was gender discrimination, it took nine years before she was allowed to enter the private medical college. She graduated from a college with excellent results but still she was not allowed a chance to take the national examination because of gender discrimination. She negotiated with a government official to take a national examination and she ultimately was able to take an examination two years later and passed it. Ginko Ogino would certainly be surprised that women are still being subjected to such insidious gender discrimination in modern Japan.

The ratio of women among all medical students in Japan rose steadily to 10% in 1965 then it was with 30% in 1995. After that the levels remained at the same levels to up until this date according to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's "school basics investigation". The ratio of female medical students is higher than 50% in some Japanese universities as stated in this investigation's findings.

I cannot help wondering that the ratio of female medical students remains at the same level at 30%.

Instead of worrying about women quitting jobs, they should do more to create an environment where women can keep working. Work reform should not be strictly limited only for "karoshi" prevention but must also aim to make the workplace a more inclusive environment where individuals can demonstrate their talents regardless of one's gender.

The nonprofit foundation Japan Medical Women's Association set up a gender equality committee in 2007 and holds "the career symposium for women who want to become a medical professionals" once a year. We continue to appeal for the creation of ideal workplaces for female doctors and continue to work to challenge preconceptions about the division of roles of men and women.

We are continuing our efforts to fight gender discrimination and will work to prevent women from being stripped of their right to seek entry into the medical profession.

Aug. 2nd, 2018