

## Man sues women's university

22nd January, 2015



A man has filed a lawsuit against an all-women's university in Japan after they rejected his application to join the university because he is male. The unnamed man claims Fukuoka

Women's University is discriminating against him based on his gender. He also claims the university's policy of admitting female-only students is unconstitutional. The Japanese constitution states that all citizens have an equal right to education. He wants the university to accept his application to study and pay him 660,000 yen in damages for the anguish caused by the rejection. It is the first time in Japan that someone is suing a national or public women's university over its constitutionality.

The man believes he has a good case. He said the women's university was one of his only options to pursue a career as a dietician. He said: "If my application is rejected, the path to become a dietitian would be narrow as I will be forced to go to a university [far away]." The man's lawyer said women-only universities are anachronistic in today's world. He said: "In the past, women's universities had the role of giving preferential treatment to women who had fewer opportunities for education, but that role is no longer necessary." A university official said: "We have a 91-year history of promoting women's education. We are determined to continue to provide education to prepare women for leadership roles."

Sources: *IB Times / Japan Times / BBC*

## Writing

What are the pros and cons of single-sex universities? Are mixed universities better?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*lawsuit / application / discriminating / policy / equal right / rejection / suing / national / a good case / options / career / dietician / lawyer / preferential / necessary / roles*

## True / False

- A man wanted a job at a women's university in Japan. T / F
- The man said the university rejecting him was unconstitutional. T / F
- The man wants \$660,000 in damages from the university. T / F
- Women's universities in Japan are often sued over gender issues. T / F
- The man has strong doubts he will win this case. T / F
- The man does not want to study far away from his house. T / F
- A lawyer said there is no place for all-women's universities today. T / F
- The university said it would continue to teach women for leadership. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. filed         | a. agree to    |
| 2. rejected      | b. sex         |
| 3. gender        | c. road        |
| 4. accept        | d. created     |
| 5. caused        | e. part        |
| 6. pursue        | f. submitted   |
| 7. path          | g. chances     |
| 8. role          | h. turned down |
| 9. opportunities | i. intent on   |
| 10. determined   | j. follow      |

## Discussion – Student A

- What are the pros and cons of single-sex universities?
- How important are universities?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you think the man was right to sue the university?
- Do you think the university was right to reject the man?
- How much equality is there in education?
- How much anguish do you think the man suffered?
- What would you like to study at university (again)?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. A man has filed a lawsuit against an | a. necessary              |
| 2. they rejected                        | b. on his gender          |
| 3. discriminating against him based     | c. as a dietician         |
| 4. all citizens have an equal           | d. by the rejection       |
| 5. damages for the anguish caused       | e. all-women's university |
| 6. pursue a career                      | f. women's education      |
| 7. anachronistic in                     | g. for leadership roles   |
| 8. that role is no longer               | h. his application        |
| 9. a 91-year history of promoting       | i. today's world          |
| 10. prepare women                       | j. right to education     |

## Discussion – Student B

- Should the university accept him to help his career?
- Which are better, private or public universities?
- Are women-only universities anachronistic?
- What advice would you give the man?
- Are women disadvantaged in education?
- What would happen if the man won his case?
- What do you hope the court decides, and why?
- What questions would you like to ask the man?

## Spelling

- A man has filed a isuwlta
- they rejected his npaocilapt
- cgtrdnainmisii against him
- The Japanese notiostitcun
- accept his piitaoalcnp to study
- damages for the gahunsi caused
- one of his only options to euprus a career
- become a dititnaei
- giving tarernleepfi treatment to women
- fewer opnrsoitutiep for education
- rnpiotmgo women's education
- tinermdee to continue

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. b	4. a	5. d
6. j	7. c	8. e	9. g	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Nursery

You think nursery is the place that is the most fun to learn in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so fun. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): elementary school, high school or university.

### Role B – Elementary school

You think elementary school is the place that is the most fun to learn in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so fun. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): nursery, high school or university.

### Role C – High school

You think high school is the place that is the most fun to learn in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so fun. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): elementary school, nursery or university.

### Role D – University

You think university is the place that is the most fun to learn in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so fun. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): elementary school, high school or nursery.

## Speaking – Studying

Rank these with your partner. Put the place where studying is most fun at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| • high school     | • nursery            |
| • university      | • kindergarten       |
| • graduate school | • elementary school  |
| • online          | • junior-high school |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.