

Political Interest and Education

0-0 Introduction "Politics" is a system that leads various social problems to solutions or improvements. In Japan, we use "elections" to reflect the opinions of the people. However, voter turnout has been decreasing in recent years. In this paper, I studied the decline in voter turnout from the perspective of political education and proposed ways to improve education for the next generation.

0-1 Research Purpose This paper assumes that the decline in voter turnout and interest in politics is caused by insufficient political education, including schools and social systems. I aim to clarify which systems are missing and propose new ones to increase voter turnout and interest through the education system.

0-2 Research Method Based on background knowledge and an original survey, I will develop my ideas by referring to books and official websites. I also made proposals based on systems in other countries.

1-1 Current Situation Analysis According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, voter turnout is generally trending downward. When I looked at the national curriculum guidelines for junior high school social studies, I found that the most important goal is "thinking about how to face social issues." However, there are no opportunities to learn the specific knowledge needed for action or to discuss daily political topics. The path for citizens to take an active role has not been clearly shown.

1-2 Hypothesis Through a survey, it became clear that people have a weak sense of having choices, lack knowledge about voting, and tend to avoid talking about politics.

2-1 Proposals I propose the following eight measures:

1. Introduce a "Youth Parliament" and a "Children's Ombudsman" system.
2. Link student councils with teacher meetings and boards of education, and respect students' opinions.
3. Create a system for "mock elections" at schools to make the opinions of minors visible.
4. Let the Election Administration Commission create websites that show party promises (manifestos) and use them in class.
5. Strictly follow the "Beutelsbach Consensus."
6. Introduce lessons that fairly teach the policies of all political parties.
7. Use moral education to teach that political opinions and personality are different things.
8. Include debates and discussions in classes starting from compulsory education.

3-1 Conclusion This paper argued that the current education and social systems are not enough to increase future voter turnout. These eight proposals are essential for protecting democracy. By combining these ideas, they will become more effective and practical.

3-2 Future Outlook This paper focused on systems and the curriculum. However, we still need more discussion about busy teacher schedules, political neutrality, and budgets. I want to continue studying how to make society better and more modern.