



ASHINAGA
あしなが育英会

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The Results of Ashinaga’s Emergency COVID-19 Survey (Answered by Scholarship Recipient’s Guardians)

Purpose: To more deeply understand the current reality in Japan, and think of solutions regarding changes in living standards as a result of COVID-19 (most respondents were single mothers, but also guardians of children living in houses who have lost one or both parents, or whose parent has a disability making them unable to work)

Date Surveyed: April 1-10, 2020

Target: 553 households receiving Ashinaga Scholarship

Response Rate: 50.8% (281/553)

What Prefecture in Japan do you reside in?	What is the biggest difficulty you are currently facing?	What worries you the most about the future?	What kind of support to you expect from the government?
Hokkaido	School and workplace being closed. My income has decreased and since the children stay at home, we have more expenses for food and utilities.	Even if I don't have money, I have to feed my children. I am worried but I don't know if there will be a financial aid from the government. In the first half of April I have to pay various fees for my son who is a high school student. Honestly, I cannot afford to pay it.	I would like to receive support for living. Not coupons but cash. Everyone is in a difficult position, but I want to see an increase in aid for single-mother households. No matter how much I try there is an income difference and I feel apologetic about making my children give up things.
Fukuoka	I am unable to do my job. My income has decreased. My children eat a lot, and I don't have money. Utilities are high so my whole family might end up on the streets. I have a high blood pressure and diabetes, which has made me go to the hospital by ambulance several times. I don't know what to do so I am praying to god to protect my children.	I am worried that my children's studies will be delayed. Since I am raising my children alone, I am constantly praying my body withholds a bit longer for the sake of my children.	Everything. On my own, even if I try do my best, nothing will work out.
Tochigi	I am doing double my time at work. At my home I organize calligraphy classes, but because of the coronavirus a lot of	I am worried how much I can support my children as person in the late 50s. The time spent in university of my oldest and second son will	I want them to use taxes efficiently. To extend hands to people in need. I also want to receive accurate information.

	<p>students are canceling their classes and my income has significantly decreased. I am worried how many students will come in April. My oldest son is in his fourth year of studies at a 6-year university and second son is in his third year of high school. The next two years of studies will require money. I am very worried how much I can provide.</p>	<p>overlap for 2-3 years, so I am worried I won't be able to support them. I don't know if I will be able to work at my age and with a chronic disease. My late husband's parents are elderly, so I am worried about getting sick. Since they are in their late 70s and 80s so they might have to start using nursing services soon.</p>	
Chiba	<p>Right now, the items in the stores like food, masks, paper-made items, or sanitary pads are expensive. Every time I buy them, I spend more money than usual. I don't have a car and can't carry a lot; I feel hopeless if the current shortages in Tokyo doesn't change. The other day I had a fever and even though it went down after a day I had to take 4 days off. I am disabled. When I was home I kept wondering; would my daughter be able to manage on her own? I cried so many times.</p>	<p>Right now, my daughter is in her third year of high school. Even though she wants to go to a university there is no prospect of attending school or taking entry exams. I am worried what will happen if this continues.</p>	<p>I don't know. I am extremely worried. When I got 38-degree fever I kept thinking If I get coronavirus and die, how will my daughter deal with everything? She is all alone so how would she manage after I die. I didn't feel as if I was living. Even though I had fever I didn't go to the hospital. I was suffering and crawling to even go to the toilet. There was nowhere I could go to get help in this difficult position. I had to send my daughter to do shopping for me while I was just lying in bed. I don't think any member of the Diet would understand how miserable this feels.</p>
Tokyo	<p>Since I have just been employed, I worry I will be laid off because of the coronavirus situation. I am very worried about being able to pay school fees with my reduced income.</p>	<p>I am worried how much support we will receive if, the way it looks now, Japanese economy will fall into a recession and scholarship recipients' number will increase. If I get infected with the coronavirus there is no relative who could take care of my children. My days are filled with worry.</p>	<p>I expect financial support for living and school fees. I wish from the bottom of my heart that once the coronavirus situation calms down, they will thoroughly think about supporting children's studies and providing backup. I pray that there won't be children who can't to go to university because of a recession caused by coronavirus.</p>

Kanagawa	<p>My children help support household expenses. However, their schools instructed them to not do part-time jobs, so our budget has decreased by close to 100,000 yen, which was the shared contribution of my children - one in high school, one in university. Since they cannot attend school for a long time, I am worried about decline of their academic ability. My son is in his third year of high school. My daughter is in her second year of short-term university and job hunting. Even their commuter passes cannot be reimbursed if there are only 1-2 days they commuted to school. It would be good if they could learn remotely but what about the fees? Now is the time to pay fees for the first semester but I am wondering if I should pay for a school with no classes.</p>	<p>I am a contract worker with an hourly wage so if I take days off it is unpaid. My company itself gives paid holidays. If there are no more paid days left. It would be counted as not working, which would mean my wage is reduced. Right now, I am scared so I don't go out, but no matter how much I explain it to my children they don't understand gravity of the coronavirus situation. My son is taking admission exams for the university and my daughter is doing job hunting. Since they cannot do anything it is very worrying. It is also worrying that my children, who support the household financials as well, can't do the part-time job anymore. I am very anxious of what will happen now.</p>	<p>The government said they will give 300,000 yen of financial aid. However, depending on circumstances like dual-income household with no children, the number of children, single father/mother household, hourly or monthly type of wage, the value of that 300,000 differs greatly. I don't think this will be enough for households in need. The phrase "tax exempt households" is often being brought and my family used to be one but just by one dependent's support decreasing it stopped. But my income hasn't changed and yet I have lost dependent's reduction of tax, which means I can't receive financial aid anymore. I pray that our household will also be a target for this new financial aid.</p>
Fukuoka	<p>My children stay at home the whole time, so food and utility expenses are higher than I expected. I mentioned we spend a lot of money on food and my child replied that they don't mind eating 2 meals per day. I feel very bad about this. I am trying to find some way to help with this situation.</p>	<p>If my family got infected... If I got infected I don't think I could rely on anyone, which makes me anxious. I want to know what I should do and what means are there if because of the virus I wouldn't be able to do anything about my household.</p>	<p>I would like them to provide financial support in cash for struggling households as soon as possible.</p>
Shizuoka	<p>My child is commuting to school by train or bus for over 1 hour and 40 minutes but since we live in a remote place there aren't</p>	<p>The fact that I don't have money. The fact that my income is decreasing. That I can't pay school fees. The fee for April will be larger than</p>	<p>To provide financial support for living expenses. Support for school fees and payment deferment. I want them to help those of us who are</p>

	<p>many trains. Because of coronavirus they finish lessons earlier and I have to pick them by car. For that reason, I have to leave my work earlier and my income has been reduced. Gasoline costs have also increased. I am cutting on food as much as possible, but since my income has been originally low, I am reaching limits.</p>	<p>usual but at this point, I can't pay it. My child is in their third year of high school, so I am also worried about entrance exams expenses. The most difficult thing now is I don't have money or anyone to rely on. If I think that in this situation, I could get infected with the coronavirus I cannot stop worrying.</p>	<p>struggling. If we don't have money, we can't send our children to school. I don't want to crush their dreams and hopes because we don't have enough money.</p>
Mie	<p>Utilities and food expenses are higher than usual because the kids are always at home. Everyday commodities like toilet paper and tissues also get consumed faster. I've lost my part-time job at a day care center I was doing on the side and so my income has decreased by around 370 US dollars after taxes. It's not easy. My grandmother and grandfather who run a restaurant usually help me with the expenses, but now they cannot deliver us food anymore. They also can't help me buying what is necessary for my brother to start middle school this year because they've seen a huge decrease in clients.</p>	<p>I'm worried because school club tournaments will probably be cancelled. Since this spring nationwide selection has already been cancelled, I don't have as many things to write on the report to the school. If this year tournament gets cancelled, will my son be able to get his sports recommendation for college? If it's going to be cancelled maybe he should start studying for normal admission instead. I'm worried about his future.</p>	<p>Money for sustenance. Tax exemption on car taxes. Reduction or exemption of health insurance fees etc.</p>
Kyoto	<p>My kid's school closed early, so he spends much more time at home, so the amount of money I spend on food has grown. As a high school student, he can stay home alone, but he's still only a kid. Because of Coronavirus the work I was counting on has been postponed, and since I get</p>	<p>I'm very worried about having to pay the news semester fees when my salary has taken a hit. I'm not a regular employee, because of Coronavirus my workload has been heavily reduced. I feel very insecure. Without being able to go to school my kid's schoolwork has also been negatively affected.</p>	<p>I'd like to see my kid's school feels reduced, also because of the period he is not being able to attend lessons. For us single parent tax exempt families, I'd particularly want them to provide us with the money for our kids' education. I can try to cut corners on the food expense by not eating for a certain</p>

	<p>paid by the hour, I'm directly hurt by it. It's almost spring, which means I'll have to pay school fees. I'm supposed to be earning more now, I'm very worried.</p>		<p>period, but I cannot avoid school fees. I'm happy with food tickets for meat, fish and other products, but receiving cash would be the most helpful. In this state of emergency, I would also like to see a reduction on utility charges.</p>
Okayama	<p>My son who will graduate high school next year is attending a special program, but now on his most important year the school is closed. He's working hard on the remaining materials, but I can't help feeling frustrated by the government ambiguous response to the pandemic. Why do I have to sacrifice my son's future because of the government's selfish decision? Give me a break. I wish the Board of Education and the Governor of Okayama paid more attention to us.</p>	<p>Will the University's exam be hold as usual? Will he be able to apply for a scholarship? Why do they want to reopen the school now, when the number of cases is growing by the day? My son too scared of having to go to school. The timing is wrong.</p>	<p>I cannot pay my electricity bills. There have been days when I had to ask him not to use it. To a boy in hid growing phase, I can only serve vegetables. If I prioritize the school fees, I don't have the money for sustenance, and it spirals into a vicious circle. I wish at least the government provided us the money for public transport and for school textbooks. I don't need masks. I want to make sure first we have the money to survive.</p>
Nagasaki	<p>Since my sons have stopped going to school, I wanted to find job, but the school I was trying to get a job at has closed, and because of the stay-at-home orders, I haven't been able to go to the unemployment office. At the moment I have no salary, and my sons who are at the age where they eat a lot, are always hungry and this make the grocery expenses skyrocket.</p>	<p>They can't go to sports practice, so I would book time at the gym and let them practice there before it closed down. After that, I would bring them to the park to exercise. I should be looking for a job now, but in these conditions, I cannot find the courage to start working. I'm relying on Ashinaga's money and my pension. My oldest also had to renounce going to open-school outside of the prefecture. I'm very worried of what could happen if this situation continues for much longer.</p>	<p>I want them to provide sustenance allowance.</p>

Okinawa	<p>I work to do paperwork in a school in Okinawa Prefecture. Here, tourists come by plane every day from the cities. Currently, you cannot get tested for coronavirus even by going to the hospital. Maybe because of that, the infected count is at zero. For that reason and because flights overseas have been canceled, many people come from the areas like Tokyo, where the restrictions have become tighter. So many that the big sightseeing buses move in groups of two.</p>	<p>Young people are riding rental cars, filling up the grocery stores, and Japanese pubs. Almost everyone in the island is in direct contact with tourists. On an island that even in normal circumstances has a poor health system, I'm scared of getting the virus, because I work in a school. And I would lose my salary if the school closed.</p>	<p>I ask for stronger regulations so that the virus won't spread and at the same time, I want them to provide everybody indiscriminately with money for sustenance. And for those people who can make it without the money, it would be nice to have a portal where they could donate it back. To make sure nobody is left behind, I think it should first be delivered to every citizen.</p>
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