

Students studying less to enter universities as population falls

Kyodo News

One out of five college students did comparatively little studying to prepare for college entrance exams in their last year of high school from 2005 to 2006, a nationwide survey by a University of Tokyo research group showed Saturday.

Overall, half spent less than two hours a day in their final year preparing for the traditionally crucial exams, the survey showed.

The results indicate that entering a good college is becoming a less competitive event due in part to the declining birthrate. This in turn is reducing high school students' motivation to enter "exam hell," the traditionally prolonged period of intensive exam preparation, the group said.

The survey was conducted on 4,000 people who were high school seniors in the 2005 academic year that ended in March 2006.

According to the initial survey conducted in fall 2005, 59 percent of the students said they studied little at home or in libraries on weekdays when they were freshmen. Overall, 89 percent of the respondents studied for less than an hour a day.

After becoming seniors, 32 percent of the respondents studied for about three hours or more a day, while 41 percent studied less.

Among the respondents, 49 percent went on to college in spring 2006. Of those who entered college, 1,972 provided valid responses to the research group's second survey in spring 2006.

A breakdown of the responses by studying time shows that 31 percent said they studied four hours or more at home in their senior year to enter college, while 19 percent spent about

three hours, 13 percent spent two hours, 9 percent spent one hour, and 6 percent only half an hour, while 22 percent studied less or not at all, the survey said.

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