

Only 20 percent of Japanese universities teach students about war crimes by doctors

Only about 20 percent of Japanese universities' medical faculties hold lectures or seminars on war crimes committed by medical workers such as those in Nazi Germany and in the former Imperial Japanese Army's Unit 731, a medical survey has shown.

In Germany, however, almost all of the universities' medical faculties that responded to the medical survey held such classes, highlighting a gap between medical education methods in Japan and Germany.

The survey, conducted by a group representing doctors who own their own clinics across Japan and other medical researchers, found that 42 of the 43 universities in Japan that responded to the survey held general ethics lectures and seminars using textbooks and videos.

However, only 12 universities (28 percent) held classes such as those mentioning the Declaration of Helsinki, a set of medical principles developed by the World Medical Association to guard against human experimentation based on lessons learned from medical war crimes.

Furthermore, only 21 percent of the universities in Japan that responded to the survey taught students about Unit 731's human experiments with biological weapons in China, vivisections of prisoners of war at Kyushu Imperial University, and other war crimes by doctors.

In Germany, however, 10 of the 12 universities that responded, or 83 percent, taught students about the Helsinki declaration, while 11 universities (92 percent) held lectures on war crimes by doctors under Nazi administration. (Mainichi)

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