

**A Panel Survey of First-Year University Students' Lifestyle  
and Opinions in the First Half of the 1995 Academic  
Year (Part Two) : The Status Quo and its Change**

Koji Murata

**Abstract**

A panel survey of all Hitotsubashi University's first year students of the Faculty of Social Sciences was conducted to explore the impact of a new course of lectures "Shakai-Kenkyu Nyumon I" on their lifestyle and opinions. Our first survey was conducted when the course began in April 1995; followed by a second when the latter half of the academic year began in November. Having earlier reported the changes in students' perception of the Faculty (Murata and Fujishima, 1996), here we consider numerous aspects of their lifestyle and opinion changes. Our consideration included extra-curricular activities, study habits, media use, in addition to their opinions and attitudes concerning information, international issues, environmental problems, and the University's other Faculties.

Our most significant findings were: (1) the course had little apparent effect on students' opinions; (2) some changes were noticed in study habits, media use, perceptions of foreigners, and environmental issues; and (3) comparison with sample surveys of the general population showed the students (especially female) surveyed had a greater interest in intellectual activity and stronger social consciousness.