

A Case Study of Enrollment Management through the Development of Students' Academic Skills

Akinori YAMABE, Ph.D.
Jichi Medical University
yamabe@jichi.ac.jp

The seminar's purposes

1. The development of academic skills
 - Gathering of sources
 - Debating skills
 - Presentation skills
 - Learning to write academic papers
2. The development of the will to learn throughout university education
3. An entry into the research of more specific academic fields
4. The realization of social responsibility

Research topic: Great East Japan Earthquake

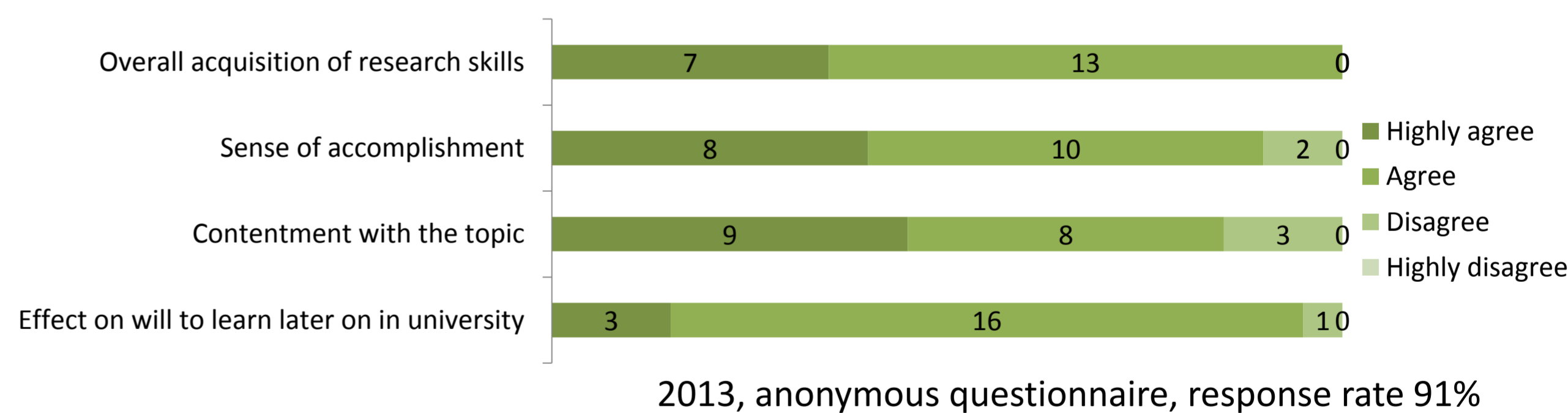
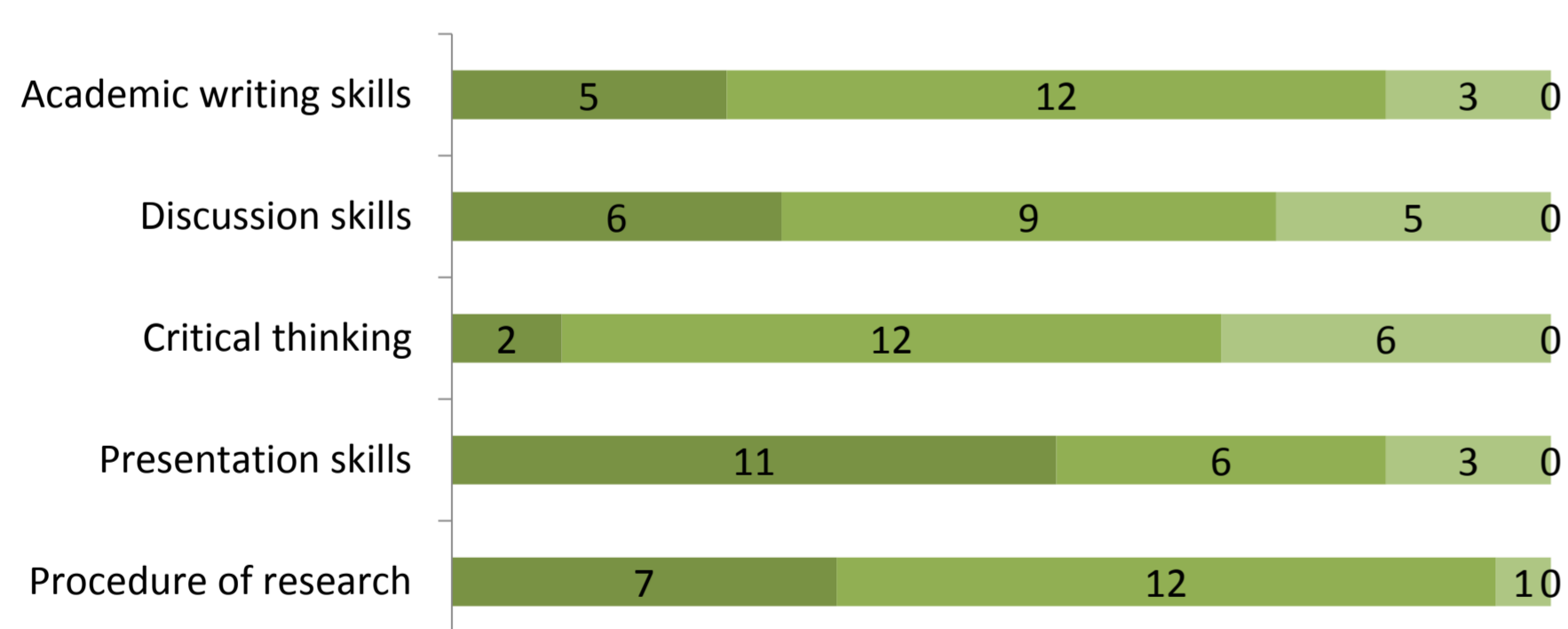
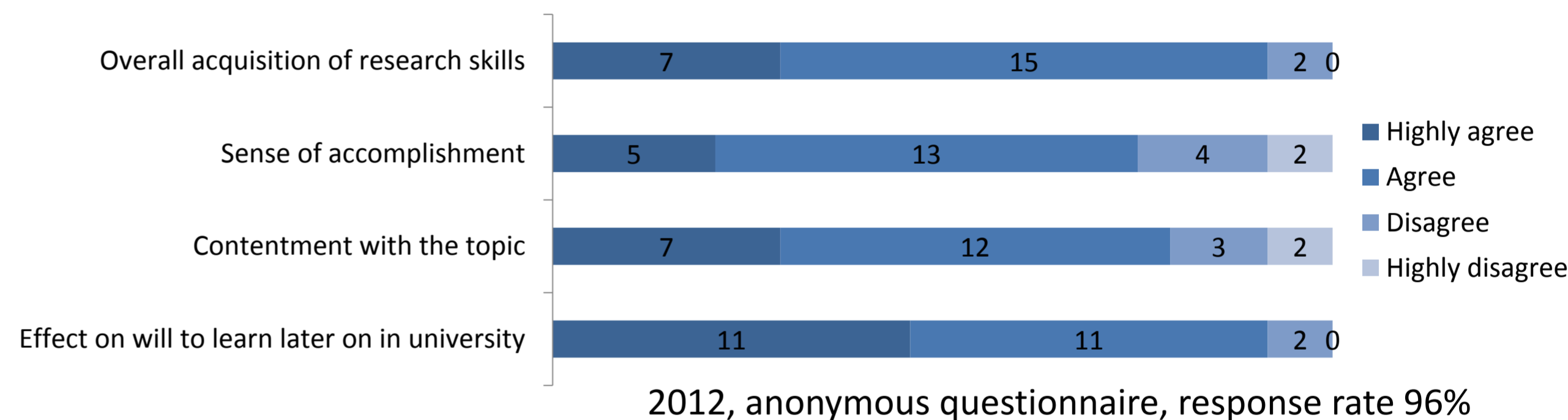
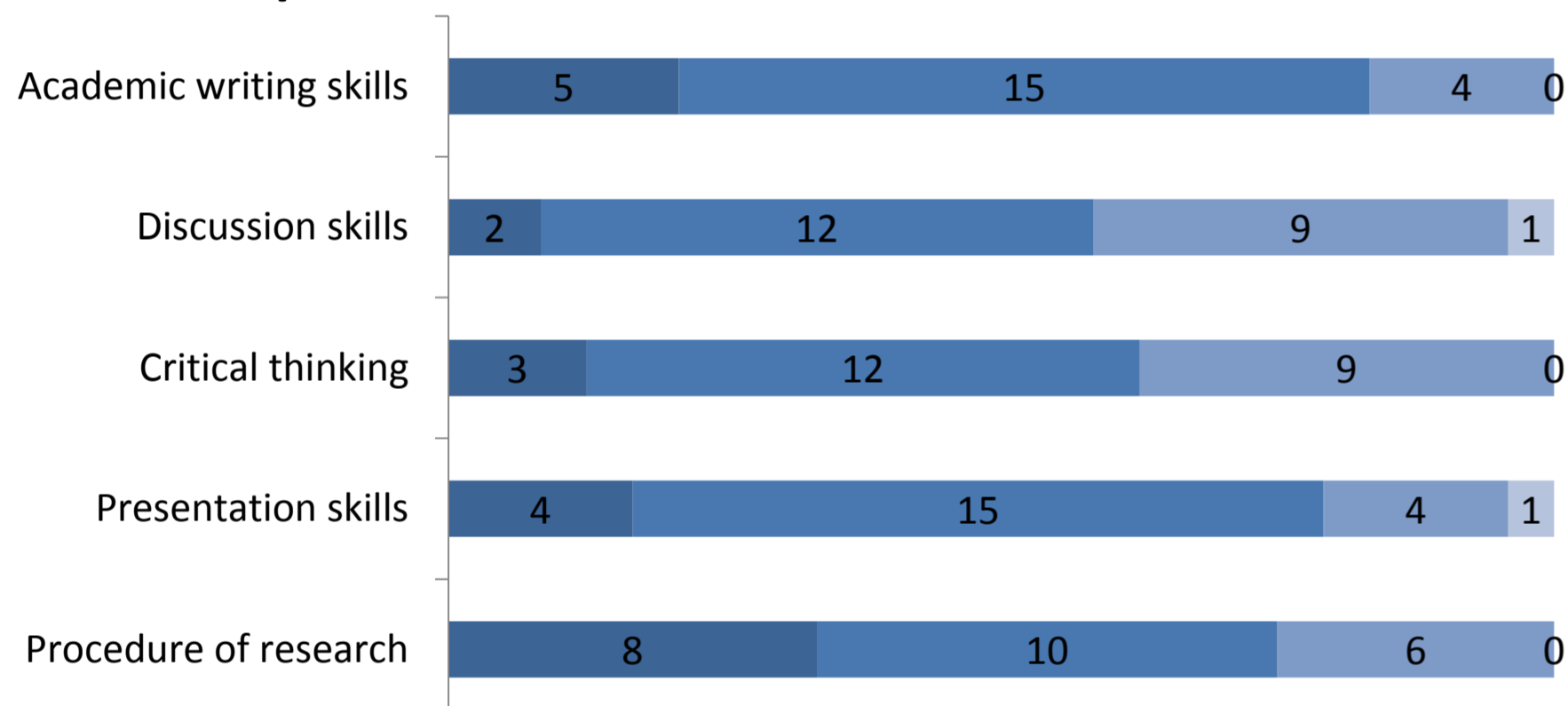
Total dead or missing: 18,508 people
Refugees: more than 400,000 people

Seminar details

April - July 2012, April - July 2013
Number of students: 25 (2012), 22 (2013)
Sessions 1-4: Teaching of academic skills by the instructor
Sessions 5-7: Group discussion by the students
Sessions 8-12: Students' presentations
Session 13: Conclusion by the instructor



Acquisition of academic skills



Examples of research topics chosen by the students

psychological aid for refugees, volunteering in the affected areas, recovery focusing on local communities, risk communication for the nuclear accident, Disaster prevention policies, analysis of new earthquake risks, comparison with similar disasters worldwide

Comments from the students

"The experience of personally thinking about how these problems could be solved and coming up with possible solutions helped train my problem solving skills."

"Through active researches and presentations on the earthquake, I feel that, for the first time, I have truly come to terms with the tragedy."

"I came to understand the social responsibility I have as a university student."

"Through learning about how to make a presentation effective, I came to understand how much I love explaining things to people. My class's high level thinking created a stimulating environment."

Conclusion

The results showed that a very high percentage of the students thought that the seminar succeeded in teaching the students' academic skills and at the same time motivated their learning in the undergraduate program as a whole, gave them a deeper understanding of modern society and developed their social responsibility.