

School Uniforms Encourage Personality

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

What if all of sudden, someone told you that they were part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual. And Transgender (LGBT) community? Would you be able to relate to that person in the same way as before? I have a relative who is transgender. When I was a child, I was not able to grasp this concept especially because it was not a term that was widely accepted. These days, people are becoming more informed about the LGBT community. I was motivated to learn about the issue of gender and how it affects gender assigned school uniforms. Therefore, the theme of my global research is about the differences between schools with and without uniforms. Because I am quite unfamiliar with the topic of gender, I wanted to know more about it. As a student, I have had to wear school uniforms all of my life and this, I wanted to research the advantages and disadvantages of school uniforms and plain clothes in order to learn more about its origins.

2. Introduction

What is a school uniform that allows you to follow your own style? How many schools in the country use plain clothes instead of uniforms? Research: In September 2021, the "School General Election Project," organised by CCC Marketing, Inc., surveyed the adoption rate of "selectable uniforms" at 3,205 prefectural all-day senior high schools by boards of education nationwide, and found that 40% of the schools had added a "selectable uniform" system. Additionally, I

thought about how many schools do not dare to adopt the uniforms that most schools adopt, but instead adopt plain clothes to enjoy the clothes of their choice. Finally, I set up a theory that some schools would adopt one or the other, but not both.

3. Results and Analysis

According to a 2021 survey by each prefectural board of education, 21 of the 47 prefectures had high schools that adopted plain clothes. Among the 21 prefectures, Nagano prefecture had the largest number of high schools that did not have a dress code, so students could wear whatever they liked. According to a 2021 survey by each prefectural board of education, 26 of the 47 prefectures did not have high schools that enforced a dress code. Of the 21 other prefectures that allowed students to attend school in their regular clothes, Nagano prefecture had the most number of schools without a dress code, with a 50 percent rate within the prefecture. In comparison, only two schools in Nara prefecture, Todaiji Gakuen high school and Yamato Chuo high school have adopted this type of system. When we looked into why there are so many high schools in Nagano Prefecture that adopt plain clothes, we found that the reason is that the new high school system was established at the end of the war. According to school officials at that time, they did not place much emphasis on clothing, so they left it entirely up to the students to decide whether to wear uniforms or plain clothes. From that point to the present, we have found that the plain clothes system has always been in place because there were no strong opinions from students or parents. However, on the other hand, there are students who want to wear school uniforms.

In previous exploration weeks, we debated about whether uniforms or plain clothes would be better to emphasise individuality, but the result was that both had their good points and it was difficult to narrow it down to one or the other.

Thus, we were curious what students across the country thought about school uniforms, so we looked into it and found that KANKO, a major uniform manufacturer, conducted a survey of about 1,000 high school students across the country. The most frequently cited good points were, "I don't have to worry about what to wear every day. The good points included "I don't have to worry about what to wear every day," "I can look like a student," and "individual differences in clothing don't show. On the other hand, the bad points were that "it doesn't show individuality," "it is difficult to adjust the temperature according to the temperature," and "the high price of one set of uniforms makes it financially difficult. Based on these opinions, I think it is too much to abolish uniforms because they are a necessary ingredient to make student life more enjoyable and are formal wear for weddings and funerals. I thought it would be a good idea to adopt both. In fact, there is actually a school with a similar idea, and they have been working on a certain effort. It is called "No Seifuku Day," and it was held on June 21, 2021, at International Takii High School in Osaka. As the name suggests, this is a day when students regularly attend school in their own school uniform, and on that day they are free to wear whatever they like, without wearing school uniform. In addition to this school, this effort was also actioned at a national university-affiliated high school in Nagano Prefecture, which has the highest percentage of students wearing plain clothes, and at a public high school in Ehime Prefecture. These schools were able to support the "No Seifuku Day" effort entirely because of student feedback. Oita University Junior High School, which does not wear a school uniform day as same as "No Seifuku Day" for students to come to

school in their own clothes, was planned and actioned mainly by the student council with the hope of valuing individuality and creating a society that appreciates diversity. I thought this effort is a very good initiative. Both uniforms and plain clothes have their own advantages but not only the good ones, so I thought that mixing them regularly would allow students to have a better school life without holding them back from what they like to do. I think that requiring students to wear their own clothes at school would be good because it would allow them to choose clothes that match their “Time, Place, and Occasion” (TPOs) and because they would be able to relax more than usual since they are not as formal as uniforms.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

Ultimately, we decided that it was best if there were more clothing options in schools. In the future, we wonder if schools can create school uniforms that can respect the feelings of various students. In addition to this, we question whether or not events such as “No Seifuku” day can change the minds of people in schools and the community. Through the exploration so far, I thought that if we change the style of our school uniforms, each of us can regard our own identity in school life. There are many advantages to both school uniforms and plain clothes, and I think that adding a system that allows students to wear both, such as a “No Seifuku Day”, would make school life more enjoyable. I thought it would be a good idea to make this happen at our school as well. I learned that high school students in Ehime and Nagano prefecture who planned events such as “No Seifuku Day” that not only thinking about it but also taking action is a good first step. As for future issues, we would like to consider the significance of uniforms in more detail. We would like to

experiment with the idea of a "No Seifuku Day" to see if it actually changes the way people think about school uniforms.

5. Reflection

I had never thought deeply about what to wear to school before, thinking that either uniform or plain clothes were fine, but through this study, I was able to learn about the reasons why uniforms were created and adopted, and the efforts of schools that dare to adopt plain clothes instead of creating uniforms. I learned that even if it is a big global problem, we can gradually solve it by starting with asking simple questions that can lead to answers and solutions. I hope to increase the number of systems that respect the individuality of students without being restrictive by whether they wear uniforms or plain clothes. From now on, I would like to enjoy my school life wearing my favourite uniform with a sense of unity with my peers, while adding a little of my own personality, such as wearing a necktie instead of a ribbon.

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