A Summary of the Article “Do School Uniform Lead to Uniform Minds?: School Uniforms and Appearance Restrictions in Korean Middle School and High School”

According to Kim Do-hyoung(2011), Korean society appears to be less creative than the societies from the rest of the world. The fact that Korean people are better in fields such as informational technologies or mathematics implies that they, as a nation, lack creativity.

One possible reason as to why low creativity level is widely spread among Koreans is that they are forced wear uniform at the school.

The main purpose of the article is to evaluate the effect of strict uniform requirements in Korean schools on pupils’ academic achievements and creativity. Research procedures such as documentary research, focus group interviews, and Internet research were applied for this study. On top of that, middle and high school students were questioned about any grievances regarding school uniforms.

Korean students are usually believed to be less creative because of shortage of practices and trainings at the school. For instance, schools in Korea mostly focus on theory rather than practice, by making students note information teachers give and memorize the lessons.

This trend is strongly decreasing inventiveness of students. Also, Korean students wear the uniform more half of a day, which makes uniform significant aspect of the daily life(Lee and Lim 2010: 180).

Despite the fact that students are prohibited to wear something different than the uniform,

they tend to modify uniforms by changing them slightly. The evidence that trending films and series also affect students’ wish to change their style in Korea represents the uncreativitiness of students.

Han claims that there are many queries and suggestions about the uniforms that are being received by uniform producing companies in Korea. Even though it is not possible for companies to adhere suggestions, they alter the uniforms in a way that makes them more practical having the functionalities such as perspiration evaporation and UV-ray protection(Han 2011).

In conclusion, there is no strong basis to allege that wearing school uniforms leads to poor academic performance. Many other factors can contribute to low creativity level among Korean students as well, however, having strict uniform suppresses students from revealing their true personalities. Hence, it is recommended for governments and schools to listen to students’ suggestions and ideas in order to promote the sense of individuality in each of them.

**References**

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