



U.S. AND JAPANESE FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD SCHOOL UNIFORMS

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To gain better perspective on school uniform adoption, we investigated the effect of contrasting experiences (wearing or not wearing school uniforms during secondary school) on U.S. and Japanese university student attitudes toward uniforms. The responses of female students in Tokyo (n=188) and Virginia (n= 167) to the questionnaire survey were analyzed (1) by comparing response means to 36 attitude statements using independent samples t-test and (2) by considering correlation patterns using principal component factor analysis.

While both Japanese and U.S. students appeared to share some attitudes, the independent samples t-test suggested that Japanese students' attitudes toward school uniforms were much different from U.S. students' attitudes. Principal component factor analysis identified six components with significant differences. U.S. students agreed to the educational value of school uniforms yet they disliked uniforms because uniforms were ugly, uncomfortable, and unfashionable. Also, uniforms limited self-expression, prevented creativity, and hindered the development of individuality. Japanese students expressed opposing attitudes. This preliminary study suggested that the experience of wearing or not wearing uniforms during secondary school had an influence on subsequent attitudes toward uniforms.