

## High Quality of Finnish Education

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### 1. Introduction

A television program about a Finnish school introduced how the Finnish take classes, the school system, and the school concepts that differ from Japan. There are no achievement tests or cram schools in Finland. The Finnish academic level is at the top in the world. By determining the factors that influence the Finnish school system and the Finnish way of thinking about education, those points can be applied to the future of Japanese education. We set up hypothesis that the difference between Finnish and Japanese academic ability comes from the unique features of the Finnish system of education, welfare system, and developing students' attitudes toward learning independently when they are young.

### 2. Research

A literature review was used to compare the level of support in Japan and Finland for childcare and education. Comparison of the school systems and the ways of thinking about education in each country.

### 3. Results

First, the students in Finland can study much more freely than in Japan. A specific example of freedom in Finland, is that students can study while listening to music through headphones during class. They are not scolded by teachers because they don't bother other students. Second, the number of students in each class is between 20 and 25. It is smaller than the typical size of a class in Japan. Furthermore, some class members are divided into small groups and students teach their favorite subjects to each other. By helping their friends, students improve their grades. Third, a class is grouped by learning level, which can improve students' academic abilities. There is a supplementary class system similar to Saturday class in Japan which begins from elementary school. Teachers support students who lag behind in some subjects, so there is no big difference in academic ability between students as they reach higher grades. Fourth, before entering elementary school, there are preparatory facilities for six-year-olds to become accustomed to school education and school life. In order to understand how to count numbers and the characteristics of even and odd numbers, children solve computational problems and do quizzes. They also make group presentations with their teacher's help. Fifth, in order to become a teacher of high school or college, a graduate level degree from University is required. Only 10% of examinees are accepted to the faculty of education in Finnish Universities.

Finally, tax revenue is collected to support education. The purpose of the tax is clearly indicated, understood, and supported by the public in Finland to support education.

#### 4. Discussion

In Japan, the amount of time teachers have to take care of students is very short. Teachers can't meet all students' needs, because classes are large and teachers are busy. In Finland, the size of classes is small. Thus, it's natural that students in Finland can improve their grades with more support in smaller groups. Also, the Finnish state is spending more money than Japan on education by employing many teachers and offering ample facilities. If you are well educated when you are an infant you will develop independence, common sense, and self-esteem. This early education can help a child live a happy life in the future.

#### 5. Conclusion

Various educational ingenuities used in Finland can improve the concentration and scholastic abilities of students. Also, Japanese schools don't have the same freedom as Finnish schools. As such, the students in Japan easily lose concentration and get sleepy. Japanese schools should follow the successes of the Finnish school system and give students more freedom to become independent learners.

#### 6. Reference

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