

SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN TURKEY AND THE EFFECT OF SOCIO-POLITICAL CHANGE

Öđr. Gör. Lale Solak
Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi
Meslek Yüksek Okulu
Giyim Üretim Teknolojisi programı
İstanbul
lalesolak@yahoo.com

Abstract

In Turkey, school uniforms are specified and uniform regulations are prepared for students according to decision of a commission subordinate to the Ministry of National Education. Personal preference is not a matter of discussion. Even having to put on prespecified uniform emphasizes the obligation that the child has to obey the rules determined regardless of his preferences. In history, uniforms worn in schools have been affected, changed and transformed according to political changes in the country and in the world, economic developments and educational policies implemented. Based on the idea that knowing about the past helps understand the present, evaluation of change in school uniforms may give us important information about cultural and historical process.

In this research, the reasons of change in primary school uniforms will be discussed through documentation of what uniforms represent in history other than simple clothings. The aim is to reveal the relationship between the political changes, the structural changes in primary schools and the changes in school uniforms worn by students. How school uniforms are imprinted on people's mind, and its effect on their individualization and socialization are other emphasizing points of this study.

Key Words: School Uniforms in Turkey, School Uniforms, School Uniforms and Transfiguration