**How can creativity be nurtured?**  
Today, many schools and educational systems offer children a fixed curriculum—subjects like basic science, mathematics, and sociology. While this is undeniably important, I believe fostering creativity, especially during childhood, is just as essential.

To encourage creativity, adults can provide children with open-ended learning tools. For example, instead of setting a specific goal or showing them what to make, we can simply hand them materials like clay or LEGO blocks and say, “Create whatever you want!”

If a child makes something unique, adults can respond gently and with curiosity—asking questions like, “Can it move? What does it do?” By engaging in open dialogue and showing appreciation for their efforts, we help expand their ideas without imposing our own assumptions.

This kind of interaction lets children think outside the box, free from the limitations of adult mindsets.

Adults can nurture their creativity too.

Nowadays, thanks to the Internet and social media platforms, we have access to a vast amount of information across countless fields and categories. If someone wants to try something creative—like painting or developing a new technology—they can easily find inspiration, tutorials, and examples online to guide their journey.

In short, both children and adults have endless opportunities to explore and develop their creativity in diverse ways.

**Do the advantages of school uniforms outweigh the disadvantages?**

I believe they do. There are several reasons for this.

First, school uniforms help identify students from specific schools, which contributes to ensuring their safety on the way to and from school. This is a major concern for parents and guardians, so it's an important benefit.

Second, uniforms can reduce visible differences between students from wealthy and less privileged families. If students were allowed to wear casual clothes, those from low-income households might not be able to afford trendy or expensive clothing, which could lead to embarrassment or even bullying.

Some argue that wearing uniforms limits children's ability to express their creativity through fashion choices—and that’s a valid point. However, I believe the advantages of school uniforms still outweigh the disadvantages.

Of course, policies on this issue vary depending on the country and whether the school is public or private, so there may not be a one-size-fits-all answer. Still, in my view, the benefits of school uniforms are significant.

**Do the advantages of grade-skipping for gifted students outweigh the disadvantages?**

I believe the benefits of grade-skipping outweigh the drawbacks.

First, regular classes in junior high or high school often feel boring and time-consuming for gifted students, as the pace may not match their abilities. When schools and educational institutions provide specialized classes taught by experts, it can be intellectually stimulating and help foster a passion for learning.

However, special classes alone are not sufficient for their overall development. Emotional and social growth during adolescence is just as important. That’s why participation in regular classes—such as physical education, art, and social studies—is also essential. These subjects help prepare students to function as well-rounded adults.

In my opinion, the most effective approach is a balanced system that combines both advanced and standard classes.

Furthermore, governments should consider lowering the minimum age for college enrollment to support grade-skipping and make the most of gifted students' potential.

Globally, grade-skipping is generally encouraged as a way to foster scientific and technological advancement. Japan, too, should seriously consider embracing this trend.

**What country has an ideal education system that could serve as a good model for others?**

I believe India has one of the most ideal educational systems. As far as I know, in India, each student is assigned a tutor who can provide personalized instruction. This allows students to learn at a pace and level that suits them individually.

For example, if a student excels in math but struggles with sociology, the tutor can help the student further develop their math skills while offering foundational support in sociology.

In Japan, it might be beneficial to adopt parts of this system alongside regular classroom instruction. Of course, there are challenges—such as teacher shortages and limited government funding—but even partial implementation of personalized education could be highly rewarding.

Other countries may also have exemplary systems worth learning from. If we recognize that a certain approach improves education, we should actively adopt it and adapt it to our own context.

**Should teachers be responsible for parenting their students?**

I believe that school teachers should not be responsible for parenting their students. Teachers are professionals hired by school principals to teach specific subjects, and their responsibilities should be limited to what their job descriptions and salaries cover.

However, in reality—especially in Japan—teachers are often expected to take on parenting roles in addition to teaching. The problem lies in the blurred line between teaching and parenting.

I suggest that professionals in child development and mental health should be more actively involved in school life. These experts should take charge of students' emotional and psychological well-being, while teachers focus on academic instruction.

I’ve heard that in some developed countries; schools employ both teachers and child-care professionals to share these responsibilities.

Introducing such a system in Japan may face many challenges, including a shortage of specialists and a rigid, centrally controlled educational structure. Nevertheless, I believe this approach would be highly beneficial in the long run.