

Call for Papers: *Educational Studies in Japan* Vol. 20. 2026

**Special Issue: Rethinking Shadow Education in the Context of Supplementary
Education**

Submission Deadline: August 31, 2025

Supplementary education, which may encompass private tutoring, cram schools, extracurricular activities, and out-of-school educational initiatives, has become a global phenomenon with profound implications for education systems, educational equity, and student development. Initially prominent in East Asia, this form of education—often referred to as *shadow education*—is increasingly recognized worldwide as a response to systemic gaps in formal education and growing competition for academic achievement.

Supplementary education is defined here as academically-focused activities that complement, rather than substitute for, formal schooling, and which encompass both private and public provisions. This definition excludes formal schooling programs such as night schools or alternative pathways for formal education. Shadow education, a subset of supplementary education, directly mirrors school curricula and evolves in response to changes in formal education systems. This special issue seeks to explore the multifaceted roles and impacts of these supplementary learning practices.

In recent years, supplementary education has diversified significantly, incorporating innovative models such as nonprofit organizations (NPOs), public-private partnerships, and specialized programs targeting marginalized groups. These include initiatives supporting children in low-income or immigrant families, consulting services for high school students navigating college admissions, and community-based education programs addressing regional disparities. At the same time, new forms of collaboration between public education systems and private educational industries—such as online learning platforms and initiatives connecting education with social impact—are reshaping the educational landscape.

This special issue seeks to explore the evolving role of supplementary education, focusing on its impact on equity, inclusion, and public education. It also examines its connections to parental education strategies, competition for academic success, and social stratification. Contributions that examine supplementary education from institutional, theoretical, or practical perspectives are encouraged. Interdisciplinary and international approaches are particularly welcome.

Thematic Examples:

Supplementary Education and Educational Equity

- Initiatives designed to reduce educational disparities across socioeconomic and cultural groups
- Issues and opportunities in extending access to supplementary education
- Case studies of educational initiatives addressing regional issues

Innovative Models of Supplementary Education

- The role of NPOs in addressing educational gaps
- Case studies of supplementary education programs supporting marginalized groups, including children from low-income families and immigrant youth

Policy and Governance in Supplementary Education

- Education policies supporting supplementary education, such as subsidies for cram school fees
- Policies supporting public-private collaboration in education
- The impact of supplementary education on public schooling systems and policies

Historical Perspectives on Supplementary Education in Japan

- The evolution of Japan's *juku* (cram school) system and its societal impact over time
- Changes in government policies regarding supplementary education, from deregulation to active promotion

Global Perspectives and Emerging Trends

- Comparative studies of supplementary education practices across different regions, including East Asia, North America, and Europe
- The rise of extracurricular activities and consulting services in university admissions

The Impact of Supplementary Tutoring on Student Outcomes

- The risks of deepening inequality, with potential contributions to equity in certain contexts
- The importance of longitudinal analyses for uncovering causal relationships