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## The Leadership Role of The School Principal in Effective Educational Management

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### ABSTRACT

The success of an educational institution is highly dependent on the effective leadership of the school principal, which directly impacts the quality of education. By focusing on quality leadership, educational institutions can ensure continuous improvement in the quality of education. The aim of this research is to analyze the leadership role of the Principal in improving the quality of education in schools. The method used in this research is the Literature Review Method, where the analysis is carried out by referring to two relevant journals. The leadership of a school principal who promotes change can effectively improve the quality of education in the school environment. School principals can improve student management by intensifying their discipline and organizing innovative programs to improve the quality of education. With optimal leadership of the school principal, it is hoped that the quality of education can experience a significant increase.

**Keywords:** Principal Leadership, Education Quality, Teacher Performance.

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### INTRODUCTION

The success of an educational institution cannot be separated from the effectiveness of the principal's leadership. The key role played by the school principal has a significant impact on the progress and improvement of school quality (Hariyani, 2021). The school principal's leadership ability is a crucial aspect, it is hoped that he can develop and build school management that is oriented towards achieving educational goals (Santika, 2017). The policies implemented by the school principal have a major influence on the quality of education, and improving the overall quality of education is very dependent on the leadership abilities of the school principal (Mulyasa, 2022). A number of studies have confirmed that school principal leadership plays a significant role in improving the quality of education (Fitriyah & Santosa, 2020); (Arjunaini et al., 2022). In summary, the success of an educational institution is highly

dependent on the effective leadership of the school principal, which directly influences the quality of education. By prioritizing quality leadership, educational institutions can ensure continuous improvement in the quality of education.

The principal advances all activities in the school through his conceptual skills, developing the school's vision and mission (Hidayatullah & Dahlan, 2019). With social skills, he guides, provides support, and creates a safe environment for all members of the school community as well as related parties outside (Juniarti et al., 2020); (Mahfud, 2020). In the realm of technical skills, he guides collaboration with colleagues, devises methods for carrying out tasks, and effectively conveys information regarding planning, implementation, and work results. Efforts were made to build group cooperation, and as a leader, he showed a strong commitment to carrying out the duties and responsibilities he carried out (Muftahu, 2020).

Improving school quality requires planning and implementation that is in accordance with targets and objectives, in line with the vision, mission and objectives that have been set within a certain time limit (Sastrawan, 2019). In an effort to achieve better quality education, a series of corrective steps are needed that are carried out with strong determination, even in the face of obstacles that may arise. Even though they want to change conditions for the better, someone may be reluctant to change themselves for the better.

In essence, to improve school quality, a strategy is needed to improve the quality of education by giving authority and responsibility to the school principal in decision making, involving all school personnel and community members (Pratiwi, 2016). The role of leadership is very important considering the ongoing developments of the times. An effective school principal is one who can carry out his role as a manager and leader in a balanced manner. A leader must have the ability to read every change facing his school in order to improve the quality of education. School principals, as leaders, need to have a strategy so that these changes can be implemented, create new innovations, and improve the quality of learning. Changes in a school are efforts made by the principal to increase the effectiveness of the school, seen from the extent to which the goals that have been set are achieved. Thus, these changes are directed at improving the quality of education in schools.

Efforts to improve the quality of education can be made through the involvement of school principals and other members of the school community (Sutisna et al., 2023). The participation of all school members is very important to commit to improving the quality of education in schools. The leadership role of the school principal has a major impact on improving the quality of education in a school (Noprika et al., 2020). Several studies have concluded that teacher performance is influenced by the principal's leadership and teacher motivation in carrying out their duties (Gumilar & Munzir, 2018); (Setiyati, 2016); (Erlangga, 2015). Thus, the teacher's success in completing tasks and showing good performance is closely related to the leadership of the school principal.

A clear understanding of the leadership role of school principals in planning, organization, direction and staff coordination is an important foundation for improving the performance of school principals and teachers in implementing the learning process. Many studies have been conducted regarding the relationship between teacher performance and school principal leadership. Research findings show that the principal's leadership has a positive and significant impact on school quality. The more effective the principal's leadership, the higher the performance demonstrated by teachers and staff. Therefore, research is important to analyze the role of school principal leadership in improving the quality of education (Kurniady et al., 2018). Through understanding the conditions of leadership, an overview of the school principal's ability to carry out his managerial duties can be obtained.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

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This research adopted a literature review method by collecting data through searches on Google Scholar and Sprout using the keyword "school principal leadership". This process involves five stages, namely (1) interpreting the scope of the topic to be reviewed, (2) identifying relevant sources, (3) reviewing existing literature, (4) compiling the review, and (5) applying the literature to the study. will be done. Three articles were chosen as the main data in this research, and each article was chosen because it had a relevant topic and thus enriched the information. The data analysis technique applied is qualitative analysis.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

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The principal plays a central role in coordinating all activities within the school environment. In an effort to improve the quality of education, school principals need to work together with all members of the school community. The ability to make changes, have commitment, implement strategies, and provide motivation are very important qualities for a school principal in improving educational standards in their school. Research has shown that a school principal's leadership has a significant impact on improving the quality of education, and to achieve this, a school principal must meet certain competency standards. These competency standards involve personality, managerial, entrepreneurial, supervisory and social competencies. Leadership based on these competencies can be more effective in improving the quality of education in the school environment. Therefore, the principal, as the main driver in school activities, has a crucial role in the success or failure of an educational institution, and his ability to implement change is key in improving the quality of education in his school.

Changes in school principal leadership can improve the quality of education. The school principal has a vision and mission to improve student management through tightening discipline. Innovations introduced by school principals aim to improve school quality. Innovative educational programs are created to shape the character of students and improve the quality of learning. The principal's leadership encourages change and innovation within the school

community, aiming to improve the quality of education. The principal plays the role of person in charge, locomotive, philosophical, and working partner, building school culture, enforcing rules, and providing direction to teachers to design more innovative learning. The principal's leadership strategy in shaping teacher character involves example, discipline, instructional leadership, and improving teacher quality. The principal also empowers the entire school community.

The principal's leadership skills in forming collaboration, motivating, and creating a positive sense of family. The principal's leadership ability in motivating his subordinates to carry out their duties well is realized through example, guidance and motivation for teachers. As a locomotive, the school principal has a key role in moving the school towards superior quality. An effective school principal can develop school culture, create discipline, act as a work partner, and build cooperation among all school members to create a friendly environment and oriented towards common goals. Thus, the principal's leadership has a positive impact on improving the quality of education through effective leadership in schools.

Quality leadership from the school principal has a positive impact on student achievement. Apart from that, good leadership can also increase teacher motivation and self-confidence. From the results of this research, it can be concluded that the principal's leadership has a positive and significant influence on teacher performance, their motivation, and student learning achievement. Good teacher performance, high motivation and satisfactory learning achievements will contribute to improving the quality of education in schools. Therefore, effective leadership from the principal can create a productive school environment, which in turn will positively influence the quality of education. The research results also show the need for a supervision program to improve the quality of education and the performance of school principals in completing their duties.

## **CONCLUSION**

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Quality leadership can have a positive impact on teacher performance, their motivation, and student learning achievement. School principals who are able to make changes, have commitment, and implement effective strategies can create a productive school environment. School principal competency standards, including personality, managerial, entrepreneurial, supervisory and social competencies, are the basis for achieving improvements in the quality of education. Changes in leadership, such as tightening discipline, educational innovation, and character development, can also make a positive contribution to the quality of education in schools. Therefore, the principal's leadership has a significant impact in creating a quality and effective learning environment.

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