



Multi-Site Study of Principal Leadership Management in Building Superior Junior High Schools

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This research examines the principal's strategy for building superior schools and how superior school service systems are built. **Method:** This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach, with a case study type and a multisite study design, where data collection uses in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation studies. The analysis uses data display, reduction, drawing conclusions, and verification. The subjects of this research were student guardians, administrators, school principals, and teachers. It was conducted at two Islamic boarding school-based private junior high schools in Lamongan Regency. **Results:** The principal's strategic management begins with a) School Self-Evaluation, strategic planning, strategy implementation, and strategy monitoring and evaluation; b) Formulating the Vision, Mission, and Goals of educational institutions involving all elements; c) Developing the quality of education begins with organizing teacher human resources starting from recruitment strategy, career development, improving welfare, further education as well as providing rewards and punishments, d) Creative and innovative learning management by the concept of an independent curriculum which is also modified with Islamic boarding schools curricula such as reciting the yellow book, tahfidz Qur'an program, and Dauroh, e) management of infrastructure facilities. **Novelty:** The school principal's leadership strategy management will be effective if it is adjusted to the targets. This research is a community with a Santri background, so effective management of superior schools must also be based on Islamic boarding schools.

INTRODUCTION

In the current age of swift transformation, the capacity to adjust and create new ideas is crucial for the achievement of both an individual and a nation. An education of superior quality lays the groundwork for cultivating these skills. 21st-century learning encompasses the comprehension of concepts, the practical application of these concepts in real-life situations, and the cultivation of abilities (Ciarli et al., 2021). Hence, it is crucial to acknowledge that investing in high-quality education is imperative and obligatory. In order to accomplish this objective, it is imperative to engage all relevant stakeholders, including the government, educational institutions, and society. The impact of education on individuals and the nation as a whole is influenced by the level of its quality (Li, 2022).

Several factors might indicate a school's success, but one of the most crucial is the leadership style employed by the principal. "Leadership," defined by Alan Tucker (Arar, 2019), refers to the capacity to exert influence and motivate individuals or groups to pursue specific objectives or targets under particular circumstances and conditions. The success of school principals in fulfilling their obligations is seen in their capacity to establish a pleasant school culture, which in turn influences and motivates instructors, employees, and students to carry out their responsibilities wholeheartedly. The

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