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THE ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This article described the role of a principal as a leader and manager in educational institutions in responding and contributing to educational reform in Indonesia. The leadership of the principal is one of the important points to advancing Indonesia. Along with their roles, principals should be able to bear the burden of responsibility in preparing the quality of education by the tasks and goals to be achieved. The research method in this article used a literature study with a qualitative approach. The results showed that there are many roles that a school principal can contribute in educational reform, such as improving educational facilities and infrastructure for students. Thus, the improvement of good facilities will support the learning and reflect the manifestation of the seriousness of a leader and manager in educational institutions.

Keywords: Principal, Educational Reform, Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that has a large population compared to other countries. In the population census in December 2020 (Asmaradhana et al., 2021) Indonesia has a total of 271,349,889 citizens. A very fantastic number for the number of inhabitants of a country. Indonesia is part of a developing country and with a quite large population compared to the developed countries. Since Indonesia is still a developing country, not

equally everyone can feel the government's efforts to prosper its people. This phenomenon is due to the inequality in each region, especially in the outskirts areas (Chotimah & Khomsiyah, 2019). Even the regions in the center of the country do not necessarily always obtain the government's resources (Daheri & Warsah, 2019). Therefore, in the case of those who are in the center of the country are not able to get it, it is high impossible for those who are on the periphery or isolated from the center of civilization.

One of the efforts and facilities provided by the government to all Indonesian people is education access. Education, according to (Hety Dwi Lestari, 2020) is a highly necessary process for individuals and society to get balance and significant improvements in its developments. Therefore, the government considers that education is an integral part of the nation's development (Mansir, 2022). Since education is related to the fate of a nation, every country cannot simply ignore their level of education, including developed countries that are always trying to improve their education (Amri et al., 2022). Also, education is one of the important factors for the nation because the future generation will inherit everything and push the country forward.

By reflecting on the developed countries, Indonesia also always strives to reform or improve the quality of its education to educate the future generations who will one day lead Indonesia to be better than others (Ikhwan, 2019). Another reason underlying the government's continued efforts to improve education in Indonesia is due to many complaints submitted to the Minister of Education regarding the curriculum (Mansir, 2021). The number of discrepancies to be applied to each student in each area is different. After all, Indonesia consists of many different regions and cultures, and the government must continuously adjust the educational curriculum to suit every student's needs, from Sabang to Merauke.

In another view, education, according to (Triwiyanto, 2021) is a conscious effort made by individuals, families, communities, and governments carried out through activities such as guidance, teaching, as well as various training inside or outside the school (Arrafii, 2021). This effort is carried out during a certain period to prepare each student to become part of the community in the future. In addition, to be able to plunge into the broad society, people are required to have the necessary knowledge and skills to survive.

Therefore, education in Indonesia will always adapt and change along with global developments (Mansir, 2020). Schools as educational institutions must be able to prepare themselves for any drastic changes (Mansir, 2020). Especially when it aims to educate the nation's younger generations, schools must be well-equipped with the latest technology. As a result, the significant role of educational institutions leads to the vital role of the principal as the organizational leader in balancing the changes in the world of education. Also, principals are expected to play an active role in Indonesian education now and in the future.

METHOD

The method used in this article was the literature review. In literature review research, data collection with theories and findings from previous research materials were referred to as the basis for research. In this study, the relevant literature was compared to each other, and then taking the essence of the discussion or made decisions related to the discussed topics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The principal leads an educational institution called a school. Schools in this context are educational institutions which, according to (Putri, 2020) are institutions where the educational process takes place and occurs where this process is aimed at changing every student to be better through interactions with the surrounding environment. A school is a gathering place for students who want to learn knowledge for their future. Educational institutions offer formal education, which of course, has rules that must be carried out. Therefore, education can be tailored to the needs of the community because everyone in Indonesia has the equal right to access education provided by the government for at least nine years.

A school is a facility provided by the government for teachers to share knowledge with each student at every level (Shah & Cardozo, 2014). Since school is a formal institution, it has an explicit structure. As a result, rules and figures are needed to regulate and make rules in the school. Accordingly, in a school environment, a leader is needed to regulate the organization because schools are assets owned by the government for the community. That way, the figure of a school principal is vital to realizing a high-quality education.

School Principals as Agents of Educational Change

A school principal is the leader of an educational institution and is the most significant determinant in every regulation issued by the school (Mansir, 2020). A school principal is also the person in charge of various activities carried out by the school. In addition, the principal is also an essential point in every educational change in every school because it is only possible to apply the curriculum that has been determined by the Ministry of Education and Culture suited to the needs of the students. The education by the school provides direction and purpose to each student in the hope that students can grow and develop and be able to adapt to the social environment. Due to different intervening factors of each region, tailored education is expected to assist students in adapting to any environment.

Quoted to (Somantri, 2014), achieving good quality of education needs various supporting factors, including good school management. Consequently, in terms of school management, the principal has an important role in achieving the targeted goals in shaping the bright future generation. To achieve high-quality education, reforms are carried out, especially in the field of education, (Madya, 2012) stated that some experts propose to ground the learning process.

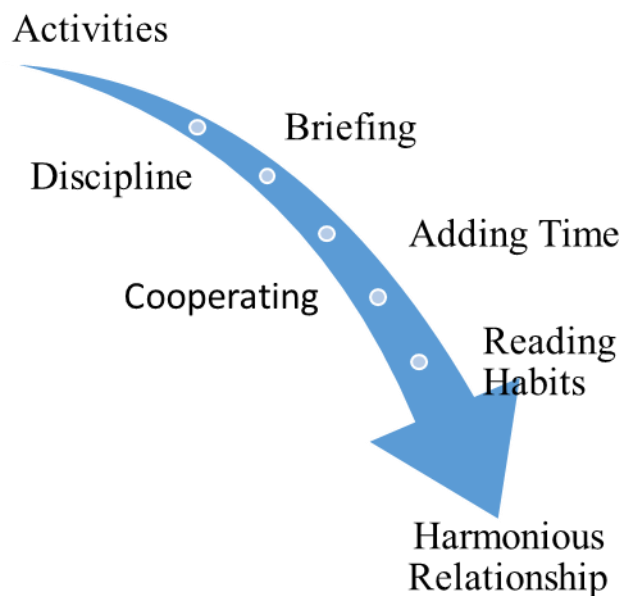
This process is elaborated that the government should give every child the opportunity for them to live a kid's life so that every child can follow the development and growth that they should experience. The learning process, which is said to be grounded, is expected to be carried out by activities that are suitable for each child, conducting dialogue so that each child can interact actively in class, the suitable tasks given so that each student can solve a significant problem, and using similar language to interact with each other better. When the plan runs smoothly, there is a possibility that every lesson may share life values to respect differences.

Nowadays, a school is an educational institution that plays an important role in disseminating knowledge to its students or the surrounding community (Mansir, n.d.). The school has an orderly organizational structure led by a principal (Kurnianingsih, 2018). The school principal has an important role in bringing changes to a school, both from the education system or from other aspects such as extracurricular or administration and school facilities. Therefore, the principal has significant power in

whatever happens within the school environment (Juliantoro, 2017). The quality and capability of a school principal also determine how standards exist in a school apart from other components such as vice principals, curriculum coordinators, student coordinators, and others.

Therefore, a school principal with good quality and capability can certainly increase the possibility of a school having good educational standards (Gaol & Siburian, 2018) by improving the education system or the facilities or high-quality Human Resources. There are several examples that school principals can do in carrying out their roles as quoted from (Supanda et al., 2019) including:

1. Activities that take place in schools are arranged in such a way to run effectively and efficiently;
2. Provide briefing to each coach and teacher as well as make comparisons with various other educational institutions to improve the quality of both teachers and coaches in the school;
3. Improving the discipline possessed by students such as developing programs that are expected to be able to improve and build the character of each student;
4. Adding time outside of school hours to support the program to improve and shape the character of each student;
5. Cooperating with various agencies to be able to support programs that aim to improve and shape the character of each student;
6. Provide additional books in the library and encourage students to improve their reading habits;
7. Develop a harmonious relationship between staff in the school environment and form a good relationship between the school and the surrounding community.



In addition, to improve education by supporting changes in education, a school principal has many functions, including (Fitrah, 2017) as an educator, manager, administrator, supervisor, leader, innovator, and motivator. In this regard, character education is an effort in the latest curriculum for educational reform in Indonesia as said by (Hamdani, 2019) that character education is to shape the future generation of

Indonesians with morals, smart & rational, able to innovate, hardworking, having a patriotic spirit, and optimistic (Mansir, 2018).

The education system in one school, when compared to others, is often not much different (Mansir, 2020). However, every school always has its advantages, each adapting to the vision and mission made by the principal or the results of deliberation from the principal and other stakeholders. Each school needs educational reform to maintain quality and also not to lose with others (Kastawi et al., 2021). Accordingly, the reform of the education system often starts with the idea of a qualified and capable school principal (Saputra et al., 2021). These updates can correct the deficiencies in the previous system considered less optimal or any shortcomings that may disrupt the development in the future.

Principal Contribution to the Advancement of Education

This educational reform began with the idea of the principal would require a long period in its implementation (Supanda et al., 2019), which in this case requires other parties who also participate in its implementation. If a school has a principal with insufficient quality and not much capability, of course, it will hinder the course of educational reform in the school since a principal is very vital in the educational reform in a school. The principal is described as a captain of a ship that sails the vast ocean. Wherever this ship goes, the primary decision is for the captain, and similarly, the direction of educational or non-educational reform in a school is primarily directed by the principal.

A good captain will direct the ship to its destination with good technics and guard the safety of his subordinates. Likewise, a good principal will direct the education reform in his school without harming the surrounding environment and even supporting the surrounding environment to grow and develop in the future (Hidayat et al., 2020). The direction of this educational reform can be seen from various aspects of (Mansir, 2020). When the curriculum is still using the old curriculum that does not meet the standards, it is highly recommended to renew the curriculum for the students. In addition to the curriculum, one of the reforms of education can be done at the facilities in the school, for example, the availability of adequate science laboratories, computer laboratories with the latest equipment, comfortable libraries, clean canteens, high-quality classrooms, and standardized sports fields.

An adequate laboratory will make it easier for students or teachers to do research or practical work (Mansir, 2020). In addition, the availability of sufficient laboratories can also increase the accreditation of schools and improve the overall school ranking. Computer laboratories with the latest equipment can also have a considerable influence on educational reform. In the current era of globalization, it is easier for students to find any information online. The computer laboratory can also help students to learn how to use several software programs to be used in the job world and in everyday life.

The comfortable library will ease students to find information in the library. In addition, improving the quality of the library also means increasing the existing collection of books so that students will have more references. A library with a calm atmosphere can also provide peace for visitors looking for a place to refresh from the classroom atmosphere. The availability of a clean canteen can also support the renewal of education in a school with a clean canteen accompanied by serving healthy and nutritious food to provide adequate nutritional intake for students (Mansir, 2019). In addition, a clean canteen can also have a good impact, such as reducing the risk of students buying food outside of school.

A high-quality classroom can give students a sense of comfort when carrying out teaching and learning activities. Students can focus more on absorbing the knowledge. In addition, the availability of projectors and speakers can also be useful for teachers to deliver material in other ways besides conventional explanations, such as using attractive presentations, animated videos, games, or films. Sports fields by standards can increase educational renewal, where not all students like academic subjects. There are certainly some students who prefer non-academic subjects such as sports. Therefore, schools should provide adequate facilities to maximize the potential of their students. This will increase the opportunity to make the school proud by achieving non-academic feats.

Some of the facilities above, in addition to having a good impact on the students and teaching staff in the school (Mansir, 2020), can also have a good impact on the school as a whole (Mansir, 2019). For example, increasing the accreditation of the school also increases its ranking among other schools to remain competitive and maintain its quality. After the facilities, there is one more aspect that can affect educational renewal in the quality of teaching staff. Teachers who can deliver lessons creatively are needed so that students don't get bored easily during lessons. In addition, using non-conventional methods in teaching also increases the creativity of the students. In this era, teaching using conventional methods is starting to be ineffective, apart from making students bored quickly and not paying attention to their lessons.

In this context, it does not mean that conventional methods cannot be used in schools (Mansir, 2020). It can still be used in schools but is combined with non-conventional methods to make no sudden changes. The combination of these methods allows accelerating educational reform in schools that stems from the critical role of the principal as the 'master' of a school. Although the principal plays a vital role in the renewal of education in schools, the environment, and human resources also play an essential role in reforming education in schools. This educational renewal is significant for every school. Each school principal should also be given training on educational reform to be implemented in schools from the city to the national scope. The progress of this educational reform is also the responsibility of the principal to the government so that each school will later have more or less the same educational standard.

If each school has more or less the same educational standards, every student who studies there will receive knowledge equal to each other (Mansir, 2020). From hereon, justice will be created in education where every student gets the same quality of learning regardless of the existing social status. In the future, all students will be able to receive the same knowledge with the same facilities and the same quality of teachers. Starting from the role of the principal in carrying out educational reforms in his school, may affect the equal rights of every Indonesian citizen to get a decent and good quality education. Therefore, the standard of learning in Indonesia is expected to increase and can be a turning point for the rise of Indonesian education to always improve and provide the best for students or for teachers who devote themselves to future generations.

CONCLUSION

Education in Indonesia will always transform along with the global condition. Therefore, schools as educational institutions must be able to prepare themselves to follow the change because the purpose of the school is to educate the future generation. Since it aims to educate the future generations, schools as educational institutions must prepare to compete with the latest technology, for example, stay updated with the latest

trends for the next few years. Because the role of educational institutions is vital, the role of the principal as the organizational leader is crucial in balancing the changes in the world of education because the principal is responsible for his school and is expected to play an active role to inspire changes in the world of education of Indonesia today. In the future, there needs to be more specific research on the management of school principals in educational institutions. It aims to be able to measure and see the actual performance of school principals in Indonesia. This research could be better if it was continued with quantitative research involving many respondents. Therefore, if educational institutions want quality, the role of the principal is needed

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