

Principal's Leadership in Responding to The Reform of Indonesian Education: Studi in Elementary School 1 South Tangerang

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Abstract

The principal in elementary school as a leader in an educational institution organization in Indonesia has a very strategic role. The existence of educational institutions is one of the important points to advance the Indonesian nation so a school principal has a burden and responsibility that must be shouldered because the principal has a hand in every renewal of Indonesian education. The purpose of this study was to determine the leadership responsibilities of the principal of Elementary School 1 South Tangerang to education reform, especially in Indonesia. This research uses a qualitative approach method in collecting data through literature studies that use data sources from International and National Journals as well as several relevant research results. The results of this study show that there is a big role that can be done by school principals in responding to the renewal of Indonesian education, one of which is by preparing and improving facilities and infrastructure in educational institutions and providing modern learning tools in the spirit of learning in the 21st century. Thus, the principal has a major contribution to realizing 21st-century learning which is part of the renewal of Indonesian education, so without his leadership, it will be difficult to realize an enlightened Indonesian education.

Keywords: *Leadership; Education; Curriculum; Principal*

Abstrak

Kepala sekolah pada sekolah dasar sebagai pemimpin dalam suatu organisasi lembaga pendidikan di Indonesia memiliki peran yang sangat strategis. Keberadaan lembaga pendidikan merupakan salah satu poin penting untuk memajukan bangsa Indonesia sehingga seorang kepala sekolah memiliki beban dan tanggung jawab yang harus dipikul karena kepala sekolah memiliki andil dalam setiap pembaharuan pendidikan Indonesia. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui respon kepemimpinan kepala sekolah SD Negeri 1 Tangerang Selatan terhadap pembaharuan pendidikan khususnya di Indonesia. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode pendekatan kualitatif dalam pengumpulan data melalui studi kepustakaan yang menggunakan sumber data dari Jurnal Internasional dan Nasional serta beberapa hasil penelitian yang relevan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat peran besar yang dapat dilakukan oleh kepala sekolah dalam menyikapi pembaharuan pendidikan Indonesia, salah satunya dengan mempersiapkan dan meningkatkan sarana dan prasarana di lembaga pendidikan serta menyediakan perangkat pembelajaran modern dengan semangat. pembelajaran di abad 21. Dengan demikian, kepala sekolah memiliki andil besar dalam mewujudkan pembelajaran abad 21 yang merupakan bagian dari pembaruan pendidikan Indonesia, sehingga tanpa kepemimpinannya akan sulit mewujudkan pendidikan Indonesia yang tercerahkan.

Kata Kunci: *Kepemimpinan; Pendidikan; Kurikulum; Kepala Sekolah*

Introduction

Indonesia is one of the countries that has a fairly large population compared to various other countries. Indonesia is proven by Idris (2021) conducted a population census in December 2020 and it proved that the total population owned by the Indonesian state has reached 271,349,889 people. A very fantastic amount for the population owned by a country. Indonesia is part of a developing and developed country and even has a population that can be quite a lot compared to countries that are considered developed countries. Because Indonesia is part of a developing country, not all people can feel what the government has sought and given to all its people. This is because there is always inequality in every area, especially in every area on the periphery. Even the regions that are in the center of the country do not all get the same thing regarding what the government gives (Madya, 2012). If those who are in the center of the country alone are not able to get it, let alone people who are in the periphery or far enough from the center of civilization of the country. Tentu alone will be increasingly criticized because of the unevenness of the gifts made by the government. One of the efforts and facilities provided by the government to all Indonesian people is education.

School principals have an important role in realizing quality education. The principal is not only the number one person in the school. But he is also an educator, leader, manager, motivator, facilitator, and who takes care of administrative matters. Therefore, the leadership role of the principal is a good measure of whether or not the educational institution is managed. Especially in the case of elementary schools that have a variety of very complex problems, ranging from small to large problems. The principal's institutional leadership certainly determines the direction of school policy. A good curriculum comes from an overwhelming response from the principal. Thus, the principal's response can be seen from the extent to which he can become a school leader by providing policies that can advance the educational institution.

Education is needed both as an individual and as part of society to get balance and perfection in every development (Hety Dwi Lestari, 2020). Therefore, the government considers education as one of the important things to be part of nation-building. Since education is related to the fate of a nation and a country, then every country cannot ignore how the level of education in the country. Developed countries, always strive to improve their education because after all education is one of the important factors for the progress of the nation. In addition, in the future, it is the next generation who will continue the struggle to advance their country. Therefore they always strive to improve it and think for their country.

Following their developed countries, Indonesia always strives to update or improve the quality of education it has to educate the nation's generation who will one day lead the Indonesian nation in front of other countries (Daryono et al., 2021). There is another reason behind the government's continued efforts to improve education in the Indonesian state. Among them are that there are still many complaints filed with the Minister of Education and Culture regarding the established curriculum and seeing that there is a mismatch to be applied to every student who is in each different area. How also Indonesia is a country that consists of many islands and has different tribes and cultures that are owned so the government must continuously adjust the educational curriculum that can be used for every student starting from Sabang to Merauke.

Meanwhile, in line with that, education according to Triwiyanto (2014) is an effort carried out consciously by individuals, families, communities, and state governments carried out through activities such as guidance, teaching provided, and efforts given in the form of training so that the efforts given can be carried out or occur in schools and the environment outside the school (Somantri, 2014). This effort is carried out over a certain

period because it is used to prepare each student to become part of society in the future. In addition, to be able to enter the social environment of society, it is required to have some knowledge, of course, to be able to survive in the social environment because in that environment it takes a lot of expertise to do anything to survive.

One of the locations that were carried out to respond to the renewal of education was schools. This educational institution is an institution that according to Putri (2020) is an institution where the educational process takes place in which a process is carried out aimed at changing each individual into a better individual through interactions carried out with the surrounding environment. This is a place where students want to learn knowledge for the sake of a brighter future for students. An educational institution is an institution that oversees the level of education that is carried out formally, of course, has rules that must be carried out with the education system and has a different level.

A school is an educational institution that is governed by a certain structure that serves to regulate the course and processes that occur during the course of the school (Mansir & Wadham, 2021). The structure of this organization is led by a leader whom we often refer to as a principal. The principal is the leader of an educational institution so a principal is the biggest determinant in every regulation issued by the school and a principal is also the main person in charge when there are various activities carried out by the school (Supanda et al., 2019). Therefore the principal is also an important point in every change in education in each school because it is possible to implement the curriculum that has been determined by the government, and each school has a different design to implement it according to the needs needed by each student.

Indonesian education provided by the school is a science given to be able to provide direction and goals to each student in the hope that students can grow and develop and be able to adapt to the social environment because each region has its environment (Triwiyanto, 2021). It is hoped that every student will be able to adapt wherever they are. Because every environment around is constantly changing, it takes organization and order to be able to achieve the ultimate goal expected by the government in the field of education. The environment around us will always change by keeping up with the times that have occurred so far. Therefore, existing education must also continuously undergo changes and developments so as not to be left behind by the ongoing changes, especially in the current era of the industrial revolution where all things are changing very quickly so that many things become left behind very quickly (Mansir, 2022). Previously, education in Indonesia implemented the 2006 curriculum or we often refer to it as Education Unit Level Curriculum. The type of curriculum 2006 or Education Unit Level Curriculum is one of the long-standing curricula that has been adopted by the Indonesian government. Education Unit Level Curriculum gives freedom to each teacher to determine the curriculum needed in each student and pay attention to the characteristics that each individual has and is not forgotten the environment in which they carry out the educational methods applied.

Because this curriculum has been adopted for quite a long time and is not by the developments that are happening at this time, a new curriculum is formed and implemented, namely the 2013 curriculum where this curriculum emphasizes how the character education of each student is formed, the skills needed to enter the community environment, the ability that each student has to understand every material given, the ability to present to be able to manage the public speaking skills of each individual, and have good manners because in this era everything goes very fast so that it is felt that there is a lack of filtering that can be done to the culture that enters Indonesia so it is hoped that with this curriculum, every student can have manners that are by the identity of the Indonesian nation.

Because the education applied in Indonesia will always change along with the changes that occur in this era, therefore schools as educational institutions must be able to prepare themselves to follow the current that is happening in education in Indonesia because the purpose of schools is to educate the nation's generation (Walker et al., 2012). If it aims to educate the nation's young generation, of course, schools as educational institutions must prepare to compete with the latest technology, for example, to be able to keep up with the flow that occurs over the next few years (Mansir & Syarnubi, 2021). Because the role of educational institutions is needed, the role of the principal as the organizational leader of this educational institution is needed in keeping up with the changes that occur in the world of education because after all, it is the principal who is in charge of being responsible for one school so that it is expected to play an active role in keeping up with the changes that are happening in the world of Indonesian education today.

This research uses a qualitative approach so that it is used in collecting data with the literature study method. This article is a collection that contains theories and findings from other researchers' research materials so that it can be used as a reference to become a foundation in ongoing research. This literature research is a research method used to solve problems that are used as topics in research for their resolution using data from various researchers. This research can run smoothly as desired by the researcher, but the difficulty of using literature studies is the lack of material that can be obtained from various researchers because the topics discussed are quite rare to be used as research material. The data comes from the research results of international and national journals as well as several books relevant to the research topic. In analyzing the data, descriptive analysis is used by coding the data to bring up research results that also answer the formulation of research problems.

Method

This research uses a qualitative approach so that it is used in collecting data with the literature study method. This article is a collection that contains theories and findings from other researchers' research materials so that it can be used as a reference to become a foundation in ongoing research. This literature research is a research method used to solve problems that are used as topics in research for their resolution using data from various researchers. This research can run smoothly as desired by the researcher, but the using literature studies is lack material that can be obtained from various researchers because the topics discussed are quite rare to be used as research material. The data comes from the research results of international and national journals as well as several books relevant to the research topic. In analyzing the data, descriptive analysis is used by coding the data to bring up research results that also answer the formulation of research problems.

Result and Discussion

The leadership of the principal of elementary school 1 South Tangerang in responding to education reform is very good and fast. In this case, it is the renewal of education in Indonesia. Because education in Indonesia always experiences very fast and rapid progress. Therefore, good principal leadership is needed. The renewal of education in Indonesia is very fast. If the principal does not respond quickly, he will fall behind. The case that occurred at elementary school 1 South Tangerang was very good. This is due to the leadership of the principal who can respond quickly, and make quick movements to respond to various existing progress. So that the school leader is not left behind by the times. In addition, the quality of education obtained by students is very good and can also compete with various existing schools. With good and fast leadership

of the principal, it can produce good quality education, adequate facilities, and infrastructure. The quality of teachers is also very good because it is facilitated with super complete services by the principal.

Good principal leadership can be seen in the quality of the school leader. Access teachers and students to get information and comfort in carrying out their obligations at the school. This is reflected in elementary school 1 South Tangerang, with various facilities obtained by students including teachers, providing their points and positive values for the progress and quality of educational institutions. Leadership qualities not only provide good learning media but also pay attention to the welfare of teachers. Especially in the era of education that is increasingly progressing, it is necessary to be conditioned by the situation and location of the school. So it will appear that a good and quality school depends on how the principal leads.

According to the view of Somantri (2014) that to achieve a good quality of education, various factors can be the reason, one of which is good school management. When it comes to the management carried out by the school, of course, the principal has an important role in it to achieve the goals expected by the school in shaping the nation's generations to be molded into a generation that is intelligent and useful for the nation and state. Nature's efforts to achieve good quality are carried out renewal, especially in the field of education. According to (Madya, 2012), it is known that there are proposals related to education, namely in the learning process, the grounding process is carried out. This process explains that to give every young child the opportunity for them to live their life which is still sacred because they are still young every child can keep up with the development and growth they should get because it is their basic right to be able to receive basic education during the 9 years of schooling in Indonesia.

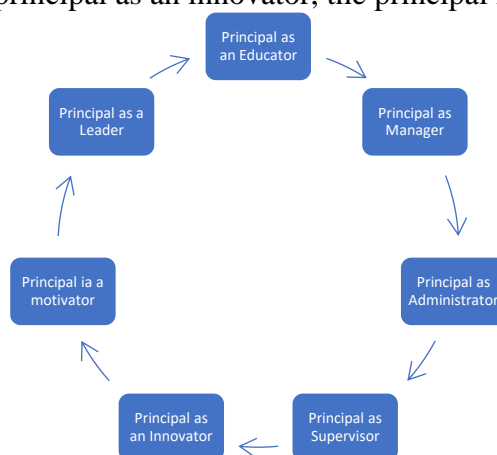
The learning process, which is said to be grounded, is expected to be carried out through activities suitable for each child, conducting dialogues so that each child can actively interact in the classroom (Wadham & Mansir, 2022). The gas given by each student can solve the topic of the problem and also the similarities in the language used so that they can understand each other. If this continues to be done, then there is a possibility that in every given learning, being able to share the values that are related to the life of each individual can appreciate how life exists even though it has many differences. Indonesia knows the term Regional Autonomy, matters related to the territory of each regional leader will certainly be the power of the regional leader. No exception is related to the process of appointing principals for educational institutions, empowerment carried out for each elected principal, and dismissal of qualified principals (Mansir, 2021). All these things become the authority of every regional leader, be it the authority of the Regent or the local Governor.

Nowadays, schools are one of the educational institutions that play an important role in spreading knowledge to their students or the surrounding community (Jones et al., 2015). This school certainly has an organizational structure that is headed by a principal. This principal has an important role in making changes to a school, both in the education system and in other aspects such as extracurriculars or school administration and facilities (Mansir, 2021). The principal is a position that has power in whatever matters occur within his school environment (Dinham, 2005). The quality and capability of a principal also determine how the standards in a school are apart from other tools 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 by improving its education system or the facilities provided or also good quality Human Resources.

Examples that can be done by the principal carrying out his role by quoting from Supanda et al. (2019) there are several examples, namely:

1. Activities that take place in schools are arranged in such a way that they can run effectively and efficiently
2. Providing briefings to each coach and teacher and conducting appeals 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 creating programs that are expected to be able to improve and build the character of each student
4. Adding hours outside of school hours to support programs that are expected to improve and shape the character of each student
5. Work with various agencies to be able to support programs that aim to improve and shape the character of each student
6. Provide additional literacy to be placed in the library and familiarize each student with reading the literacy in the library
7. Develop harmonious relationships 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 quoting from Fitrah (2017) are principal as an educator, principal as a manager, principal as administrator, principal as supervisor, principal as a leader, principal as an innovator, the principal is a motivator.



Character education which is an effort in the latest curriculum for the renewal of education in Indonesia today is based on Hamdani (2019) that character education has the aim of shaping every character of the generation of the Indonesian nation who are more moral, producing the nation's youth who are smart and have a rational mind, can innovate and work hard, have a patriot spirit, be optimistic and much more so that changes are needed in the era of education that towards an education that can apply character education to every child of the nation so that every student can strive and maximize what is the basic advantage (Mansir, 2021).

The education system that exists in one school with another often has a quality that is not much different. But of course, each school always has its advantages of the vision and mission made by the principal or the results of deliberations from the principal and other devices (Goff et al., 2014). The renewal of the education system is of course also needed by each school to maintain quality and also so as not to be less competitive with other schools. The renewal of the education system often starts with the idea of a qualified and capable school principal (Al-Safran et al., 2014). The existence of this update can later correct the shortcomings that existed in the previous system which may be felt to be less than optimal or there are many shortcomings in several aspects.

The renewal of education, which began with the idea of the principal, certainly requires a short time in its implementation, which in this case requires other parties who also participate in its implementation (Nir & Hameiri, 2014). If a school has a principal who has sufficient quality and little capability, it will certainly hinder the course of educational renewal in the school. This is because the role of a school principal is very vital in the direction of education renewal in a school. If it is likened to it, then the principal is a captain of a ship that sails the vast ocean. Where this ship is going, of course, the decision is in the hands of the skipper who leads, this is the same as in the school, where the direction of educational or non-educational renewal in a school is of course held by the principal (Ibrahim & Al-Taneiji, 2015). A good skipper will direct the ship towards the destination with good technicalities and not harm his subordinates, as well as a good principal, will direct the renewal of education in his school without causing any losses in the surrounding environment and or even helping the surrounding environment to grow and develop in the future (Hauserman et al., 2013). The direction of education renewal can be seen from various aspects that exist. One of them is the curriculum used in the school, if the curriculum used in a school still uses the old curriculum that does not meet the standards, it will be highly recommended to update the curriculum for the good of the school or students studying at the school (Pina et al., 2015). In addition to the curriculum, educational updates, one of which can be carried out in the facilities provided by the school, for example, the availability of adequate science laboratories, computer laboratories with the latest equipment, comfortable libraries, clean canteens, quality classrooms, and sports fields that are by standards.

This adequate laboratory will make it easier for students or teachers who want to do research or just do a practicum to meet subject scores. In addition, the availability of adequate laboratories can also increase the accreditation of the school which can improve the overall school ranking. Computer laboratories that use the latest devices can also considerably influence educational renewal. In today's age of globalization, it is easier for students to find information through the internet where almost everything they are looking for can be found there. This computer laboratory can also help students learn how to use several software programs that will later be used in the world of work and their daily lives. This convenient library can later make it easier for students to find information in the library collection books. In addition, improving the quality of the library also means expanding the existing collection of books so that students will have more references. A library with a calm atmosphere can also provide tranquility for visitors who may be looking for a place to refresh for a while from the boring atmosphere of the classroom. The availability of a clean canteen can also support the renewal of education in a school, with a clean canteen condition accompanied by serving healthy and nutritious food so that it can provide adequate nutritional intake for its students. In addition, a clean canteen can also have a good impact, such as reducing the risk of students buying food outside the school.

This quality classroom can provide a sense of comfort to students when carrying out teaching and learning activities, with this students can focus more on absorbing the knowledge gained from the teacher. In addition, the availability of projectors and speakers can also be useful for teachers to deliver material in other ways besides explaining conventionally, such as using attractive presentations, animated videos, games, or films. Not to mention that sports fields that are by standards can also improve educational renewal, where not all students like academic lessons, and there must be some students who prefer non-academic lessons such as sports. Therefore, schools should provide adequate facilities to maximize the potential of their students so that it will increase the opportunity to make the school proud in existing competitions.

In addition to having a good impact on students and teaching staff in the school, some of the facilities above can also have a good impact on the school itself. 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, one more aspect can affect the renewal of education, namely the quality of teaching staff. Teaching staff who can creatively deliver lessons are needed so that students do not get bored easily during the lesson. In addition, using unconventional methods in teaching also increases the creativity of its students. In this era, teaching using conventional methods is no longer considered ineffective. Apart from making students get bored quickly and not paying attention to the lesson.

But that does not mean that conventional methods should not be used in schools, conventional methods should still be used in schools but combined with non-conventional methods so that there will be no sudden changes (Wasserman et al., 2016). This combination of methods allows for accelerating the renewal of education in schools which stems from the important role of the principal as the 'skipper' of a school. Although the principal plays an important role in the renewal of education in a school, the environment and human resources are also important in the process of implementing educational renewal in schools. This renewal of education is very important for every school. Each principal should also be given training on educational renewal so that later it can be implemented in schools within the city or national scope. The progress of this education renewal is also one that is accounted for by the principal to the Minister of Education so that each school will later have approximately the same educational standards.

If each school has more or less the same educational standards, then every student who studies there will receive knowledge equal to or even the same as each other (Mansir, n.d.). From here, it will be created in the world of education where every student gets the same quality of learning without the need to look at the existing social status, later it is hoped that all students will be able to receive the same knowledge with the same facilities and the quality of teachers is more or less the same as well (Kaso et al., 2021). Starting from the role of the principal in updating education in his school, can affect the equal rights of every Indonesian citizen to get a decent education of good quality (Mansir, 2021). With this, the standard of learning in Indonesia is expected to increase and can be a turning point in the rise of Indonesian education to always improve and provide the best for students or for teachers who devote themselves to the future of futures of the nation's bright successors and can compete with other countries in Asia or the World.

Conclusion

The leadership of the principal in educational institutions in Indonesia has a very strategic position because he can determine the direction of school policies and put the school's position at a better level and standard. The performance of the principal with his leadership attitude contributes greatly to determining the quality of the educational institution. Responding to the progress of Indonesian education, the principal needs to even be obliged to release his various potentials so that the school he leads does not run in place or even experience setbacks. The progress of Indonesian education or in terms of educational renewal cannot be hypothesized let alone abandoned. Because he needs to be responded to and the principal has the authority to see various educational opportunities and challenges that can impact Indonesian educational institutions. The education applied in Indonesia will always change along with the changes that occur in this era. Therefore, schools as educational institutions must be able to prepare themselves to follow the currents that are happening in education in Indonesia because the purpose of schools is to educate the nation's generation.

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