

EMPOWERING EDUCATION THROUGH SHARED GOVERNANCE AND PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

by:

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School governance serves as the foundation upon which the entire education system stands. It is the framework through which decisions are made, priorities are set, and policies are implemented. Basically, effective governance ensures that the voices of all stakeholders, from teachers to students to parents, are heard and valued in the decision-making process. This inclusivity fosters a sense of ownership and commitment within the school community, driving towards common goals of academic excellence and holistic development.

Research by Tamir et al. (2020) underscores the critical role of proper management in school governance. When human, financial, and material resources are managed efficiently, schools gain the autonomy necessary to execute programs and initiatives effectively. This autonomy is not about independence, but rather about the ability to align resources with the needs and aspirations of the school community. It is a delicate balance that requires astute leadership and a deep understanding of the school's unique context.

Supriadi and Widyastuti's (2021) study delves into the connection between good school governance and principal decision-making. Their findings highlight the critical role of principals as decision-makers and facilitators of shared governance. Indeed, the principal emerges as a linchpin, orchestrating the collaborative efforts of teachers, students, and other stakeholders. Without the guidance and support of an effective principal, the full potential of shared decision-making remains unrealized.

In practice, good school governance transcends hierarchical structures and fosters a culture of inclusivity and transparency. It is not merely about distributing authority but about empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to the collective vision of the school. In my own experience, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of shared governance under the leadership of an exemplary principal. By involving all stakeholders in the crafting of school improvement plans, learning recovery initiatives, and other strategic endeavors, our school has cultivated a sense of ownership and accountability that reverberates throughout the entire community.

For instance, our principal regularly convenes meetings with representatives from the student body, parent-teacher association, and faculty to discuss key issues and solicit input. This collaborative approach has led to the implementation of student-led initiatives such as peer tutoring programs and mental health awareness campaigns, which have had a tangible impact on student well-being and academic performance.

Moreover, shared governance has enabled us to overcome challenges such as the transition to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. By engaging teachers, parents, and students in the decision-making process, our school was able to swiftly adapt to changing circumstances and ensure continuity of learning for all students. This agility and resilience would not have been possible without the strong foundation of trust and collaboration fostered by our principal's leadership.

Finally, the impact of good school governance extends far beyond academic outcomes. It shapes the ideology of the school, nurturing a culture of collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement. As we navigate the complexities of modern education, let us heed the lessons of research and practice, embracing the principles of shared governance and principled leadership as cornerstones of educational excellence.

References:

Supriadi, D., and Widyastuti. (2021). Good School Governance: An Approach to Principal's Decision-Making Quality in Indonesian Vocational School

Tamir, E., Etgar, R., & Peled, D. (2020). Decision-Making Processes Using WhatsApp. Research in Educational Administration & Leadership