
The Relationship Between School Principals' Managerial Skills and Teacher Performance Quality

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Abstract: The quality of teachers' performance is a key factor in the success of education. This study is significant as it highlights the role of school principals as leaders who can motivate, guide, and support teachers in achieving educational goals. The research aims to analyze the relationship between school principals' managerial skills and the quality of teachers' performance. This study employs a qualitative research method with a case study approach. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, and document analysis at three selected schools. Data analysis was conducted thematically through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing to identify the relationship between school principals' managerial skills and the quality of teachers' performance. The results reveal that school principals with strong managerial skills can create a conducive work environment, motivate teachers, and provide support for professional development. This directly impacts the improvement of teachers' performance quality, particularly in lesson planning, implementation, and evaluation. This study concludes that training in managerial skills is crucial for school principals as a strategic effort to enhance the quality of education. The practical implication is the necessity of policies that support the continuous development of school principals' managerial capacities.

Keywords: Managerial Skills, School Principals, Teacher Performance, Qualitative Research.

INTRODUCTION

The quality of teacher performance is a key factor in the success of education. High-performing teachers are not only dependent on their professional competencies but also on the support and management provided by school principals. As educational leaders, school principals play a strategic role in creating an environment conducive to teaching and professional development. In this context, the managerial skills of school principals are essential in influencing the quality of teacher performance (Jongyung, 2024; Roache, 2023; Secăreanu et al., 2024).

Effective school leadership involves the ability to motivate, guide, and optimally manage available resources. Principals with strong managerial skills can foster a positive work culture, enhance collaboration among teachers, and support innovation in teaching practices (Education Leadership Consultancy & Phil, 2023; Krauel & Ramos, 2024; Simatupang et al.,

2024). Therefore, understanding the relationship between school principals' managerial skills and teacher performance quality is critical to improving overall educational standards (Alstete et al., 2024; Mulyasa, 2007, p. 43).

In practice, many principals face challenges in effectively executing their managerial roles (Badrudin, 2013, p. 23; Iskandar, 2017; Zancajo, 2018). These challenges may include a lack of specialized training, limited policy support, and the complex dynamics of the school environment. Moreover, principals must adapt to evolving educational demands driven by technological advancements and globalization (Muliadi, Rasyidi, et al., 2024; Nasri et al., 2023). Hence, studies exploring the relationship between principals' managerial skills and teacher performance are highly relevant and necessary (Nasri et al., 2023; Nasri, Indinabila, et al., 2024; Nasri, Mulyohadi, et al., 2024; Nasri & Rahmatullah, 2025; Saefudin et al., 2024).

Several previous studies have examined this relationship. Syarifah Nargis et al., (2024) in

The Managerial Competence of School Principals in Improving the Quality of Secondary Education, highlighted the importance of principals' managerial competence in enhancing secondary education quality. Aliffany Pualam Ariarta et al., (2024) in their study *Principal's Managerial Competence in Improving Teacher's Professional Competence*, explored how principals influence the development of teachers' professional competencies. Ria Fransiska et al., (2024) in *The Influence of the Principal's Managerial Leadership and Work Discipline on SMA Teacher's Performance*, emphasized the impact of managerial leadership and work discipline on teacher performance. Jainul Abidin et al., (2024) through their review *Unravelling the Dynamics of Madrasah Principal Performance and Teacher Quality: A Literature Review*, discussed various dynamics of madrasah principals' performance and its effect on teacher quality. Lastly, Aprizal Syafriantoni et al., (2024) in *The Role of School Principals' Leadership in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teacher Performance at State Elementary School 145 Seluma*, identified the role of school principals in improving teacher performance effectiveness (Apipuddin et al., 2024; Azzahidi & Nasri, 2024; Fahrurozi et al., 2024; Indinabila et al., 2024; Nasri, Muliadi, et al., 2024; Nasri & Adiba, 2023).

While these studies provide valuable insights, gaps remain in understanding specific aspects of principals' managerial skills, such as strategic decision-making, conflict resolution, and problem-solving, and how these impact particular dimensions of teacher performance, including lesson planning, implementation, and evaluation (Arikunto, 2008, p. 53; Suryosubroto, 2004, p. 43). Most of the previous research has also relied on quantitative approaches, which often measure outcomes without delving deeply into the interactive processes (Alim et al., 2024; Arif Saefudin et al., 2024; Haris & Nasri, 2024; Muliadi, Abd. Karim, et al., 2024).

This study's uniqueness lies in its use of a qualitative approach to uncover the dynamics of the relationship between principals' managerial skills and teacher performance quality holistically. The case study method employed in this research offers a more contextual depiction of how principals with strong managerial skills create supportive work environments that enhance teacher performance (Haryadi et al., 2021; Nasihin et al., 2024; Nasri, 2019b, 2023;

Nasri, Gufran, et al., 2024; Nasri, Wahid, et al., 2024). The contribution of this study can be seen in two main aspects. Theoretically, it enriches the literature on school principals' managerial skills by providing a deeper and more contextual perspective. Practically, it offers strategic recommendations for principals and policymakers to develop training programs and policies that support the enhancement of principals' managerial capacities to create quality and sustainable education (Nasri, 2016a, 2016b, 2017, 2019a; Walad et al., 2025).

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative research method with a case study approach to explore the relationship between school principals' managerial skills and teacher performance quality (Eftenaru, 2023; Grenier, 2023). The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows for an in-depth investigation of the dynamics between school principals and teachers in real-world contexts. The case study approach enables the research to understand holistically how school principals with specific managerial skills influence the work environment and teacher performance in schools (Deschênes et al., 2024; Nasri, 72–85; Spinuzzi, 2023).

Data for this study were collected using three main techniques: in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis. In-depth interviews were conducted with the school principal, teachers, and support staff to gather diverse perspectives on the implementation of the principal's managerial skills and their impact on teacher performance (Dursun, 2023; Kahlke et al., 2024; Yamineva, 2023). Participatory observation was carried out to directly observe the principal's managerial practices, interactions with teachers, and the school work environment. Additionally, document analysis involved reviewing official documents such as school work plans, performance reports, and educational policies to support the research findings (All-Russian Scientific and Research Institute for Records and Archives management & Kyung, 2024; Tănase, 2017; White, 2006).

Data analysis was conducted thematically, following three main stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. In the data reduction stage, relevant information was selected, categorized, and simplified to facilitate

analysis. Data presentation involved organizing the findings into a systematic narrative to reveal patterns and relationships. Conclusion drawing was carried out by interpreting the analyzed data to answer the research questions and explain the relationship between school principals' managerial skills and teacher performance quality (Mihas, 2023; Schwandt, 2021).

The validity of the data was ensured through methodological triangulation, which involved comparing the results from interviews, observations, and document analysis. Additionally, member checking was performed by involving informants to confirm the validity of the findings and interpretations made by the researcher (Berge et al., 2024; Jansen et al., 2022; Nagashima et al., 2024). This process ensures that the data obtained accurately reflects the reality in the field and can be trusted. This research methodology is designed to provide a comprehensive and contextual understanding of the role of school principals' managerial skills in improving teacher performance quality. With this approach, the study not only describes the existing relationship but also provides insights into the mechanisms underlying that relationship.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results

The findings of this study reveal a significant relationship between the managerial skills of school principals and the quality of teacher performance. Data collected from in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis provide insight into various aspects of this relationship. The analysis of these data revealed several key themes.

1. Leadership and Motivation:

School principals with strong managerial skills were found to be effective in motivating teachers. They created an environment that encouraged collaboration and professional growth. Teachers reported feeling more valued and supported when principals demonstrated active leadership, such as providing constructive feedback, setting clear goals, and recognizing achievements. This approach significantly impacted teachers' morale and performance in the classroom (Education Leadership Consultancy & Phil, 2023; Krauel & Ramos, 2024).

2. Support for Professional Development:

A key finding was that principals who prioritized teacher development through training and mentoring had a positive influence on the quality of teaching. Teachers reported that continuous professional development programs initiated by the principal were essential in enhancing their teaching skills and knowledge. These initiatives included workshops, peer coaching, and participation in educational conferences (Andriani et al., 2024; Karppi et al., 2024).

3. Communication and Collaboration:

Principals with high managerial competency effectively facilitated communication between teachers and other school staff. They established open channels for feedback, shared school goals, and promoted teamwork. This communication led to better coordination among teachers, resulting in improved lesson planning and teaching practices (Özkan Alakaş, 2024; Sun et al., 2024).

4. Conflict Management:

Another crucial aspect was the principals' ability to manage conflicts within the school. Principals who exhibited strong conflict resolution skills were able to address disagreements among staff members constructively, ensuring that conflicts did not negatively affect the working atmosphere or teacher performance (Ensari et al., 2023; Kim et al., 2023; Li et al., 2024; Nguyen et al., 2023; Van Slooten et al., 2024; Yin et al., 2023).

5. Resource Allocation:

Principals who demonstrated managerial skills in resource allocation ensured that teachers had the necessary materials, time, and support to deliver high-quality education. Proper allocation of resources, such as teaching aids, classroom space, and administrative support, was directly linked to better teaching outcomes (Dwangu & Mahlangu, 2021; Klein, 2023).

Discussion

The results of this study align with various theories of leadership and organizational management, particularly in the context of educational leadership. One relevant theory is transformational leadership, which emphasizes the role of leaders in inspiring and motivating followers to achieve higher levels of performance and development (Nasri, 2024a, 2024b). Bass

and Avolio assert that transformational leaders are able to motivate their followers by providing a clear vision, fostering innovation, and supporting their followers' professional growth (Hasibuan, 2007, p. 77). In this study, principals who exhibited transformational leadership skills were able to motivate teachers and improve their performance, thus confirming the relevance of this theory.

Another applicable theory is situational leadership theory, which suggests that effective leadership depends on the specific circumstances and the readiness of followers. According to Hersey and Blanchard, leaders must adapt their leadership style based on the needs of their followers. In the context of this study, principals who demonstrated flexibility in their approach—adapting their leadership styles to meet the diverse needs of their teachers—were more successful in improving teacher performance.

Additionally, the concept of distributed leadership is relevant to the findings of this study. Distributed leadership emphasizes the importance of shared leadership responsibilities within the school environment. Harris (2004) argues that leadership should not solely reside with the principal but should be distributed among various members of the school community. In this research, principals who encouraged collaboration and shared decision-making with teachers led to better performance, as teachers felt more empowered and involved in the decision-making process.

The study also supports the human capital theory, which highlights the role of professional development in improving organizational outcomes. According to this theory, investing in the development of individuals' skills and competencies leads to better performance at the organizational level (Alstete et al., 2024; Bijani et al., 2018). In this case, principals who prioritized professional development opportunities for teachers, such as workshops and mentorship programs, directly contributed to the improvement of teacher performance.

The findings also underscore the importance of school climate in teacher performance. Research by Hoy and Miskel indicates that a positive school climate, characterized by trust, collaboration, and mutual respect, is essential for high teacher performance (Machali & Hidayat, 2018, p. 123). This study found that principals who fostered a positive school climate through effective communication,

support, and conflict resolution were able to enhance teacher performance.

In conclusion, the results of this study emphasize the importance of school principals' managerial skills in enhancing the quality of teacher performance. Principals who demonstrate transformational leadership, adaptability, and a commitment to professional development can create a positive environment that supports teacher growth. The study's findings contribute to the body of knowledge on educational leadership by providing practical insights into how principals' managerial skills directly impact teacher effectiveness in the classroom.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the significant role that school principals' managerial skills play in enhancing the quality of teacher performance. The findings reveal that principals who exhibit strong leadership, effective communication, and a commitment to professional development create a conducive work environment that motivates and supports teachers. Key aspects such as leadership, resource allocation, conflict management, and fostering collaboration were found to directly influence teachers' effectiveness in the classroom.

The research underscores the importance of principals adopting a transformational leadership style and implementing strategies that promote teacher growth, such as continuous professional development programs and shared decision-making. Moreover, the ability of principals to manage resources and resolve conflicts in a constructive manner has a notable impact on the overall teaching environment. Based on these findings, it is recommended that schools invest in the development of principals' managerial competencies, especially in leadership, communication, and conflict resolution, to improve teacher performance. Additionally, policies should support principals in providing professional development opportunities for teachers, creating a positive school climate, and allocating resources effectively. In summary, this study contributes valuable insights to the field of educational leadership by demonstrating the direct relationship between the managerial skills of school principals and the quality of teacher performance. This research suggests that enhancing principals' managerial skills is a

strategic approach to improving educational outcomes and fostering an environment of continuous growth for both teachers and students.

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