

# THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL PRINCIPLE IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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**ABSTRACT:** This study aims to explore the role of school principals in improving the quality of education at the 16 Juli Public Elementary School, Bireuen District. This type of research is descriptive using a qualitative approach. The research informants were school principals and teachers at the Juli 16 Public Elementary School. The informant collection technique used the snowball sampling technique. The data collection tool uses field notes. Data collection techniques consist of observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis using data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions. The results showed that the role of the principal in improving the quality of education at the Juli 16 Public Elementary School consisted of; a) the role of the principal as an educator, namely providing training and guidance to teachers in improving teacher performance, b) the role of the principal as a manager, namely establishing planning, implementing, organizing, and implementing school program activities, c) the role of the principal as an administrator, namely the ability to manage school administration, finance, student affairs, school facilities and infrastructure, d) the role of the principal as supervisor, namely, the ability to compile and implement supervision programs involving deputy principals and teachers.

*Keywords: Reproduction, Social Inequality, Education*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Technological advances and developments in the era of globalization and information have encouraged the Indonesian nation to create a quality workforce. Experts have a very important role in realizing development in all fields, so it is hoped that the Indonesian people can excel in producing quality real work and be able to compete with other countries. Article 1 of Government Regulation Number 57 of 2021 concerning National Education Standards states: "Education is a conscious and planned effort to create an atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential in terms of religion, spiritual strength, self-confidence, and education. Control, personality, intelligence, noble character and self-character, society, skills needed by the nation and state. Thus it can be said that education is an important factor in shaping the character of the nation's generation. Seeing the important role of education in dealing with change, schools must make programs that are in accordance with the demands of society.

According to [1] due to changes that occur in society, schools need to make changes in setting school goals. One form of the quality of an

educational institution can be seen from school accreditation [2]. School accreditation is a government effort to guarantee the quality of education and improve school performance. Each school has different qualities and qualities caused by different school management. According to [3]. said that improving the quality of schools needs to be done on an ongoing basis in order to improve the quality of learning. Furthermore [4] explained that seen from the context of quality education refers to the achievements achieved by schools in each certain period of time every quarter, semester, one year, five years and so on. Meanwhile, the results of research [5] revealed that quality schools can be seen from the level of satisfaction of parents of students.

Judging from the phenomena or problems of the quality of education in Indonesia at this time, a solution needs to be found. Based on the data obtained, the quality of education in Indonesia is still low, this can be seen from the scores of Indonesian children's reading abilities released by the Program International Student Assessment in 2018 where Indonesian children's reading scores are ranked 72 out of 77 countries, mathematics is ranked 72 out of 78 country and the sais score is

ranked 70 out of 78 countries. Problems in the education sector are caused by several factors such as lack of knowledge about curriculum development, low teacher quality, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, and low student achievement [6]. Changing the curriculum is an effort to make changes in the education system. The birth of an independent learning policy is a strategy for improving the quality of education. Independent learning is a policy of giving independence to students, teachers and schools in creating innovative education. The independent curriculum was developed as a more flexible curriculum, while also focusing on essential material and developing the character and competence of students.

In addition, efforts that can be made to overcome educational problems in schools are to improve education management. In this case the principal is responsible for achieving the school's vision and mission so that quality education is realized. The role of the school principal is; a) as a manager in improving the quality of education managing by planning, organizing, activating and evaluating, b) as a leader in improving the quality of education is monitoring, intermediary between teachers and students, disciplining, motivating, making innovations, liaising with outsiders, guiding students on an ongoing basis, fostering and improving teacher abilities, and making decisions. Furthermore [7] says that the role of the school principal determines the success of a school. A professional school principal is a school principal who understands his duties and functions as a leader. In the era of the digital revolution 4.0, school principals must be able to improve and explore potential in mastering technology [8]. The principal's role is to carry out school life to achieve school goals such as; a) the principal is the main strength of the school in carrying out school life, b) the principal must understand his duties and functions as a school principal for the success of the school and have concern for staff and students. In education policy Ministry of National Education, there is also the role of school principals in improving the quality of education, namely; a) educators, b) managers, c) administrators, d) supervisors. Based on the background above, the purpose of this study was to explore the role of the principal in improving the quality of education at the Juli 16 Public Elementary School, Bireuen Regency.

## 2. METHOD

This type of research is descriptive using a qualitative approach. The research informants were school principals and teachers at the Juli 16 public elementary school. The informant collection technique used the snowball sampling

technique. The data collection tool uses field notes. Data collection techniques consist of observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis using data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A school principal must have competence so that in carrying out their duties and responsibilities they can run as expected. According to [9] the role of the school principal includes: a) the principal as an educator, namely the principal has a high commitment in developing curriculum and learning activities and encourages teachers to improve their professionalism, b) the principal as a manager, is the school's role in management of school management, c) the principal as an administrator, who is responsible for the smooth implementation of education and teaching, d) the principal as a supervisor, who is responsible for monitoring, fostering, and improving the learning process in the classroom. Furthermore [10] explains that the role of the school principal is; a) as a communicator in an effort to carry out quality assurance to influence his subordinates (parents of students, teachers, students and administration staff to achieve the desired goals, b) the role of the principal as a counselor in an effort to improve teacher professionalism with users of educational services, c) the role of the principal as a consultant to the principal in improving the professional quality of teachers is to be able to create change in the school environment.

In facing the 4.0 era, school principals are required to be able to master technology so that school principals are able to access developments that occur in aspects of life, especially in the field of education. Said school principal leadership must be able to master the required technology fields such as the era of the digital revolution 4.0 to increase and explore the potential that exists in itself and the need for readiness of school principals to face challenges in this era. digital revolution 4.0 [11]. Thus a school principal must have a strategy in carrying out his duties as a school principal. The role of the school principal in improving the quality of education at the Juli 16 Public Elementary School in Bireuen Regency is as follows;

### The principal as an educator.

Providing guidance to subordinates is the responsibility of a school principal in improving the quality and quality of the school. The success of a school cannot be separated from the role of the teacher as an educator, because the teacher is the driving force in implementing the learning

process. The study it appears that the head provides guidance to teachers in order to improve performance in carrying out tasks. Explain the efforts that can be made by school principals in improving teacher performance in schools, namely: a) maximizing focus on increasing teacher competence, b) allocating sufficient budget to increase teacher professionalism, c) providing advice and professional guidance to teachers, d) creating a conducive school organizational culture, e) creating renewal and excellence, and f) providing rewards for teachers who are successful or performing well [12]. Meanwhile the results of the study [13] explain that there are several ways for school principals to improve teacher performance, namely a) motivating teachers, b) increasing teacher discipline, c) creating a conducive working atmosphere, d) increasing teacher competence, and e) improve academic competence. From some of the research results above, it can be seen that the role of the school principal is very important in improving teacher performance. The activities that can be carried out are increasing teacher competence, creating reforms in the school environment, providing motivation to teachers, and creating a comfortable work atmosphere.

In the school environment, education personnel also have an important role in providing services to all components of the school. Without educational staff, school administrative services will not run well. therefore the principal needs to provide direction and guidance to educational staff. Based on the results of the study, it can be seen that the role of the school principal in providing guidance and direction to educational staff in terms of providing services. The success of learning in a school organization is highly dependent on the success of the principal in managing the educational staff in the school. Optimizing teachers, staff, employees at work greatly influences school productivity and achievement. From the results of this study it is clear that the role of the school principal greatly determines the productivity and success of the school [14]

As a leader, the principal also needs to provide guidance to students in order to increase student achievement. it can be seen that the form of guidance provided by the head of the student is in the form of giving motivation and support to students. Concluded that the role of the school principal in increasing student learning motivation is that the principal collaborates with parents of students, collaborates with teachers, gives awards and holds interesting programs, so that students have the enthusiasm to succeed. Reveal that there is an influence of motivation on student learning outcomes. Thus it can be said

that with motivation it can improve student learning outcomes. This can be done by the principal by collaborating with various parties such as parents, teachers and creating interesting programs so that students are motivated to succeed [15].

The current of globalization has changed all aspects of life, including the world of education. For this reason, school principals must be able to master science and technology in order to improve school quality. From the results of the study it can be seen that the role of school principals in the use of science and technology can be seen from guiding teachers in carrying out learning in the digital era. According to [16] the learning styles of students in the digital era not only research and observe objects that only exist in the classroom, but they are also used to storing and collecting various information obtained from spaces other than the classroom. The role of the principal as an educator at the 16 Juli Public Elementary School is to conduct training and guidance to teachers in improving performance such as determining passing grade standards, providing books and assessment guidelines for teachers, providing guidance on deficiencies in evaluation instruments.

#### **The principal as a manager**

The principal as a manager must be able to make plans to support the development of the school. The role of the school principal can be seen from preparing the School Budget Activity Plan, supervising, coordinating and evaluating. According to [17] Managers hold control which is very important for achieving organizational efficiency. The extent to which the organization achieves its goals and meets the needs of society depends heavily on whether the organizational leader is a leader or not involved in the realization of work, when the leader is not good at it, the organization must will fail. Explain that the Managerial Ability of school principals has a significant positive effect on school quality, school climate has a significant positive effect on school quality, and together the Managerial Ability of school principals and school climate has a significant positive effect on school quality.

From some of the research results that have been presented, it appears that managerial ability greatly determines the increase in school effectiveness. The results of the study [18] explain that good school principal management will also produce good quality education which will certainly affect learning outcomes and school achievement. In addition, the competence of school principals affects teacher performance which will have an impact on the quality of learning in schools. So it can be said that the

managerial competence possessed by school principals does not only have an impact on improving school quality but also on teacher performance.

In improving the managerial capabilities of school principals, assistance is needed. The results of the study [19] explain that managerial assistance can improve the ability of the Principal in preparing school work plans according to the criteria determined based on the analysis in each cycle showing an increase in the ability of the Principal in preparing school activity plans, namely: an increase in performance the school principal so that he is able to develop a school work plan. The principal of Public Elementary School 16 Juli has a strategy in making program plans, both long, medium and short term, always involving teachers, community members, committee members and elements from the sub-district level Education Office. The principal carries out the preparation of school activity programs by taking into account the analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that are owned and faced by the school. The school programs made are as follows: a) long-term programs, b) medium-term programs, c) short-term programs

#### **The Role of the Principal as Administrator**

The principal acts as an administrator and must be able to set an example for his subordinates. Principals as administrators must be able to provide guidance and direction to teachers regarding curriculum, student issues, equipment issues, staffing, and school relations with the community. Explains that the principal is the administrator of education in schools and is required to supervise the implementation of educational programs in schools according to what has been planned or not. He further explained that the principal's supervision of teachers' activities is an important activity for the professional development of teachers [20]. The July 16 Public Elementary School, the role of the principal as an administrator is the ability to manage school administration, finance, student affairs, school facilities and infrastructure.

#### **The role of the principal as a supervisor**

Realizing a quality school is certainly not easy and requires a strategy to achieve the expected results. Therefore the principal needs to supervise. According to [21] explains The benefits of supervision activities aim to increase teacher creativity in learning, to be able to guide students in creating an atmosphere of learning and good communication. Based on the results of the research, it can be seen that the supervision carried out by the school principal can be seen

starting from compiling and evaluating school programs. That school principals carry out supervision well so that their performance has a positive impact on teachers. The supervision strategies carried out by school principals include: a) planning supervision schedules, b) carrying out supervision by visiting classes, c) observing the teacher's way of teaching, d) holding meetings and discussions, and e) assessing the teacher's work.

Elementary school teacher leadership by the principal plays a very strategic role in establishing policies and improving the quality of the learning process in order to achieve the expected goals. The principal is the principal who regulates and determines the activities that are included in the supervisory function of individual or group implementation, besides that the principal and teachers also play a decisive role in achieving educational goals. Based on research, the role of the principal as a supervisor is to carry out supervisory activities which include: control of learning performance, control of teaching performance, management control, class management control [22].

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The role of the principal in improving the quality of education at the July 16 Public Elementary School consists of; a) educator, namely providing training and guidance to teachers in improving teacher performance, b) manager, namely determining the planning, implementation, organization, and implementation of school program activities, c) administrator, namely the ability to manage school administration, finance, student affairs, school facilities and infrastructure, d) supervisor, namely, the ability to compile and implement a supervision program by involving the vice principal and teachers.

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