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Faizuddin, A.^a, Azizan, N.A.^b, Othman, A.^c, Ismail, S.N.^a

Continuous professional development programmes for school principals in the 21st century: Lessons learned from educational leadership practices

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Abstract

Continuous professional development (CPD) is important for educational leaders to improve institutional performance and students' learning outcomes. Yet, organizing effective professional development programmes are often more complex than we might assume. The current study aims to explore the challenges of managing CPD for high school principals in Indonesia. Six high school principals and three officers of the Ministry of Education and Cultures (MoEC) were interviewed. Qualitative data from the interviews were analyzed and coded thematically using ATLAS.ti. Several themes and main points emerged from the transcripts of interviews. The findings revealed some challenges in managing CPD programmes at schools. They include resistance to change, technicality and workload, almost zero follow-ups, unprofessional recruitment, and unclear training syllabus. Among the suggestions to improve the CPD programmes are building personal approaches, developing professional skills, establishing a professional recruitment system, making continuous training programmes, and optimizing school organizations. This study can be used as an additional guide to implement effective CPD and can be a platform to improve the professional development of educational leaders. Copyright © 2022 Faizuddin, Azizan, Othman and Ismail.

Author Keywords

continuous professional development (CPD); educational leader; leadership practice; school principal; students' learning outcomes

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Expectancy-value theory as an explanatory theory for the effect of professional

^a School of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Changlun, Malaysia

^b College of Business Administration, Prince Sultan University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

^c Department of Social Foundation and Educational Leadership, Kulliyyah of Education, International Islamic University Malaysia, Selayang, Malaysia

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Correspondence Address

Faizuddin A.; School of Education, Malaysia; email: ahmad.faizuddin@uum.edu.my

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