

Educational Leadership and Management

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IIUM PRESS
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA



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IIUM Press

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

ISBN: 978-967-418-013-3

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by :
IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves
Batu Caves Centre Point
68100 Batu Caves
Selangor Darul Ehsan

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CHAPTER 3

Instructional Leadership from the Islamic Point of View

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Introduction

Previous studies on instructional leadership have emphasized some dimensions and characteristics that should be possessed by each principal to show that they act as instructional leaders within their schools. All of these characteristics are more concerned with academic improvement. Therefore, some characteristics of instructional leadership from the Islamic perspective need to be addressed as an alternative to or in support of the previous characteristics of instructional leadership.

Education in Islam (*ta'dib*, disciplining; some still prefer *tarbiyah*, upbringing) is *adab* (proper way or virtue), progressively instilled in man. *Adab* refers to the discipline of body, mind, and spirit. It endows the possessor with the knowledge of the proper places of things or objects (*hikmah*) in the scheme of Creation and subsequently to act in a just manner (*'adl*) (Rosnani, 2004).

Al Attas (1990) defines education as the progressive instilling of the recognition and acknowledgment of the proper place of things in the order of creation, such that it leads to the recognition and acknowledgment of the proper place of God in the order of being and existence of mankind. Therefore, the primary goal of education is to lead man to recognize and acknowledge his Creator. This acknowledgment is manifested in obedience and adherence to His commandments. In other words, the primary goal of Islamic education is to produce the good being, who, by developing all his/her potentials accordingly, ensures himself or herself to be the servant (*'abd*) and the vicegerent (*khalifah*) of Allah who has undertaken the *amanah* (trust) of maintaining prosperity on earth. To this effect, education is designed to produce the God-fearing (*taqwa*) servant of Allah who is aware of his individual vertical relations with Allah (*hablun min Allah*) and his social horizontal relations with his fellow man (*hablun min al-nas*). Thus, in effect the primary goals of education include spiritual, moral, social, intellectual, and physical development with specific goals. There is no conflict between societal and individual aims because there is unity of purpose (Rosnani, 2004).

In enforcing the importance of education, Allah Almighty has emphasized in the Holy Quran in the first revelation (*wahy*) revealed to the Prophet Muhammad SAW in Surah al-Alaq: 1-5:

Read! In the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, Who created. Created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood. Read! And thy Lord is most bountiful. He Who taught (The use of) the Pen. Taught man that which he knew not. (96:1-5)