

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The new paradigm of management education gives broad authority to the principals in the planning, supervision and control of education in schools, therefore, those principals need to have the competencies required in order to realize the vision and mission of the schools. Within this framework, the function and role of principals as EMASLIM in the form of good school governance to complete the government programs such as the decentralization of education, MBS, SBC, benchmarking, broad basic education, life skill, contextual learning, the National Education System Law and so on (Regulation of the Minister of National Education Republic of Indonesia Number 13 of 2007).

In the perspective of national education policy, there are seven principal roles i.e. (1) educator, (2) manager, (3) administrator, (4) Supervisor, (5) leader, (6) the creator of the work climate, (7) entrepreneur.

To support the success of the changes need to be prepared the professional principals who are willing and capable of planning, implementing, and evaluating policies and changes that are done effectively and efficiently (Mulyasa, 2007:98)

Principal's leadership ability is a major determinant of empowerment of teachers and to improve the quality of learning processes and products. The principal is the person in charge of teachers and school staff, whether they can work optimally or not. The school and learning cultures are also built by the principal leadership style in interacting with the community (principals, teachers and staff).

Today, there are many school leaders that are only able to direct changes in school according to the demands of society. But the changes are necessary to be responded by each school based on a change in education policy, whether the curriculum, fostering professionalism of teachers, staff personnel, facilities, coaching students. However, the public needs as a customer, as well as external factors of economic development, science and technology have really to be responded to the school. As the manager, the principal required to be able to manage the school so that all programs can be implemented effectively and efficiently (Arifin and Permadi, 2007:54). The visionary and credible principal is necessary for the organization's goals can be achieved by satisfying the relevant parties (stakeholders).

The principal leadership structure in *Vocational School 2 Sragen*, the principal is the highest leadership in school and organization that in charge of all forms of school organization activities. The principal is responsible for all administrative activities performed by teachers and employees. Assessment of the performance of teachers and staff are rarely

done because it is done if there is a demand from the Ministry of Education. There are still a lot of opinion that the principal is the leader and the responsible person of the school, but more than that the principal has to serve as the supervisor who in charge of supervising his school in which it is the assessment activity to meet the essential requirements that will ensure the achievement of educational goals (Daryanto, 2001:80).

Vocational School 2 Sragen is an institution that has a very good quality, with some indication- the educational curriculum, output, quality of teachers, parents' interest, buildings and facilities at the school. On the other hand student achievement can be proud of. It can be seen that this school often becomes the first winner in Sragen district. Then from the teaching staff, *Vocational School 2 Sragen* has enough qualified teachers, who average qualified bachelor degree and master degree. From the physical buildings and facilities, it can be said that there was very good and adequate. For example, the availability of laboratories, libraries, school health center and are based Information Technology (IT).

Based on the previous descriptions, it is necessary to study on school leadership based on the quality of *Vocational School 2 Sragen*. How are the characteristics of principal leadership at *Vocational School 2 Sragen*?, What efforts need to be done by the principal so that the quality of leadership at *Vocational School 2 Sragen* increase?, Various findings of the study

become a reference as a casuistic data in the principal's leadership of management at *Vocational School 2 Sragen*.

B. Research Focus

Focus of the study is "*How are the characteristics of principal leadership based on the quality of Vocational School 2 Sragen?*" The focus of research is elaborated into two subfocuses as follows.

1. How are the characteristics of a working relationship of the principal with school's community of *Vocational School 2 Sragen*?
2. How are the characteristics of social relation of the principal with the community surrounding *Vocational School 2 Sragen*?

C. Objectives

There are two objectives of this study.

1. To describe the characteristics of a working relationship of the principal with citizens of *Vocational School 2 Sragen*.
2. To describe the characteristics of social relation of the principal with the community surrounding *Vocational School 2 Sragen*.

D. Benefits of Research

The results of this study provide benefits for several parties as follows.

1. For Schools
 - a. The principal

It is as input in leading the school, so as to carry out his tasks effectively and qualified.
 - b. Teachers

It is as a means to develop science, particularly relating to leadership and the quality of the principal.
2. For the School Board, as an input for the education organizer of *Vocational School 2 Sragen* in implementing the qualified management.
3. For the researchers, adding insight and provide a deeper understanding of leadership and a qualified principal.
4. For the other parties, this study gives a positive contribution to other parties who are interested to carry out a similar study for the future.

E. Glossary

There is a miraculous term in the title of this study need to be understood in order to avoid misinterpretation.

1. Leadership

Leadership is something that is done by the leader of something that is not theirs. In this context, leadership involves trying to influence a variety of group activities that are directed to achieve specific goals and

objectives. Leadership is the process of directing and influencing the activities of the task of the people in the group.

2. Principal

The principal is a functional staff of teachers who is in charge of leading the school where teaching and learning process conducted, or a place where there is interaction between teachers and students teach their lessons.

3. Quality

The quality is conformance to requirements that is in accordance with the requirements or standardized or as a zero defect quality, perfection and conformity to requirements. It is a dynamic state associated with products, people / workforce, processes and tasks, and environments that meet or exceed the expectations of customers or consumers.