

Abstract

This study examined the relationship between principals' leadership behaviours and school climate. The subjects were selected from the population of 30 primary schools' principals and 353 teachers in the parish of St. Thomas. Ten primary schools were chosen. From these, a stratified random sample of principals and teachers was selected. Ten principals and 50 teachers participated in the study.

The questionnaires utilized by the researcher to collect relevant data, were designed to determine principals' and teachers' perceptions of the relationship between principals' leadership behaviours and the climate in selected primary schools. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected.

Major findings were:

- Most subjects were cognizant of the fact that leadership is a requirement of every organization.
- Not all principals in the sample were equipped to carry out their roles effectively.
- The role of the principal is not successfully fulfilled in some schools.
- The principals' leadership behaviours can affect the attitude and productivity of teachers and students and influence the overall effectiveness of the school.
- There is a distinct relationship between the principals' leadership behaviours and the climate in schools.
- The climate in some schools limits the effectiveness of teachers.
- The culture in which the school exists influences its leadership.
- Environmental factors and situations can determine the behaviours of principals.
- The climate of a school reflects the type of leadership given by the principal.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that primary schools be more closely monitored by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture. Frequent professional development seminars and workshops for principals should be held to ensure greater preparedness of principals to carry out their roles in schools. Principals and teachers need to work together as a team to create climates that are conducive to school success. Most importantly, principals should ensure that the leadership behaviours displayed by them enhance the attitude and productivity of participants in the schools. This will subsequently lead to the overall effectiveness of schools.