# Principal Leadership Style in The Digital Age

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*Abstract*—**Education leadership is the key to effective education implementation. In the digital era, principals who are leaders in schools must be able to create schools that can produce quality graduates according to existing developments. The purpose of this article is to find out the appropriate leadership style of the principal to be used in the digital era and the method used is to conduct a literature study where the study material uses data collected from scientific papers or library materials as the object of this research. Based on the research results, principals have a big challenge in creating schools that can produce quality graduates in the digital era. The principal must also be able to develop innovative creative ideas in carrying out their duties and abilities as a leader. The conclusion that can be drawn from this research is from the various challenges of the digital era that the principal must face as a leader. The leadership style used in the digital era can provide a sense of comfort, but in general the more dominant is a democratic and transformational leadership style.**

Keywords— *digital age, leadership style*

## INTRODUCTION

The principal is school personnel who is responsible for all school activities and the principal is also one of the movers, determines school policy, and determines how school goals and educational goals, in general, can be realized, which in the end the quality of education will be realized [10] [1]. The experience of a school principal is an asset for carrying out his main duties, the more experience a school principal has, the more he learns so that he can provide the best service in his performance as a leader [6].

In this era, the shape of the world is increasingly visible, which is very fast changing in human lifestyles that are affected by the use of technology. From there, of course, the world of education in the field, which is an educational policy or school principal, is able and open to the current era [7]. According to [5]. Life in the digital era is a big challenge in the world of education. Education is not only acquiring knowledge and utilizing science and technology but must be able to produce graduates who can compete locally, nationally, and internationally. With a technologist [11] [12].

At present all school principals are required to be professional in having various competencies, as stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of National Education Number 13 of 2007 concerning School Principal Standards, those school principals have competencies namely: personality, supervision, managerial, and social competence. According to [2] autocratic, laisser- faire, and democratic leadership. Meanwhile, according to [4], the principal's leadership style is divided into democratic, authoritarian, charismatic leadership, paternalistic leadership, expert leadership, and free leadership ( laissez-faire leadership). Various leadership styles of school principals These multiple types have their respective advantages and disadvantages, but what must be considered is that the principal's leadership style must be adapted to the conditions that occur in educational institutions at this time. Each school principal is expected to have an ideal leadership style adapted to the conditions and demands of the times. Based on the background above, researchers are interested in examining more deeply the leadership style applied in the digital era

## METHODOLOGY

This research uses a literature study method on books, scientific articles, and other literature sources. A literature study is a data collection method that uses library sources without the need to go into the field (field studies) [9] his literature study method has several characteristics, namely: (a) researchers who use this method will only find data in the form of texts and

figures, not including events and eyewitnesses; (b) the data used in this method is ready-to-use data; (c) the data obtained from this method are in the form of secondary data; and (d) the data obtained from this method are not limited by space or time [9] [10].

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The The results of the study in writing scientific articles are reviewing journals, textbooks, and other relevant references, then analyzing and drawing conclusions. The results of the research related to the leadership style of the principal in the digital era can be explained as follows.

The results of [5] show that the principal's leadership style has transformed and changed, the principal's leadership style is more suitable today, namely, democratic leadership that can embrace teachers, students, school committees, parents, and the community. Skills in dealing with the era of the industrial revolution 4.0 can be seen in the ability of school principals the use technology and entrepreneurial abilities. Efforts made by school principals to improve their abilities are by continuing education and participating in various pieces of training, seminars, workshops, and various supporting activities. There needs to be collaboration from various parties, especially policymakers so that school principals can become professional and quality leaders.

Furthermore, the results of [12] he ideal leadership is leadership that follows the demands of the industrial revolution 4.0. leaders who follow technological developments leaders must have skills in influencing, encouraging, guiding, directing, and mobilizing others that have to do with the implementation and development of education and teaching in the digital era.

The results of the study according to [3] The principal's leadership style is good in controlling the teachers and students, related to the leadership style used by the principal in the form of a democratic leadership type, where this leadership style is an open management system which makes this trait appropriate for modern institutions. This happens because the type of democratic leadership in the process of moving subordinates always asks for opinions from subordinates on every idea, always prioritizes cooperation, sincerely gives freedom to subordinates in the sense that they are still with good goals, and doesn't forget any problems that exist at MTs Bustanul Ulum. Sridadi always consulted together.

[9] shows the different effects of various leadership styles applied in various schools. It is adapted to the conditions of the school environment. Various leadership styles such as democratic, authoritarian, free, transactional, transformational, and authoritarian can be combined by the principal. However, in the digital era, democratic leadership styles are used more so that there is a comfort between leaders and subordinates in improving the quality of education. Because in the digital era the flow of information is faster, anyone can be faster and know various sciences as long as they want to learn. The principal as a leader does not mean a person who is more than everything so he needs good cooperation with all subordinates for mutual progress.

Next, the results of [8] concluded that the principal's leadership style has transformed changes, the principal's leadership style is more suitable today, namely, democratic leadership that can embrace teachers, students, school committees, parents, and the community. Professional schools are required to have personality, managerial, entrepreneurial, supervisory, and social competencies. Skills in dealing with the era of the industrial revolution 4.0 can be seen in the ability of school principals the use technology and entrepreneurial abilities. Efforts made by school principals to improve their abilities are by continuing education, and participating in various pieces of training, seminars, workshops, and various supporting activities. There needs to be collaboration from various parties, especially policymakers so that school principals can become professional and quality leaders.

Through research using the literature study method from 5 journals related to the leadership style of principals in the digital era above, it can be concluded that good leadership is leadership that continues to transform following existing developments so that later it can create ideal school conditions in its time. and also the leadership style of the principal in this digital era that is most appropriate to use is the democratic leadership style where this leadership style will create comfort between subordinates and superiors so that the principal will very easy to influence, encourage, guide, direct, and move his subordinates in an effort developing education in the digital era.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The conclusion that can be drawn from the research is that an ideal leadership is a leadership that can adapt to the development of the existing era and from various types of existing leadership styles, the appropriate leadership style used in the digital era is democratic leadership style by using a democratic leadership style can create a sense of comfortable between subordinates and superiors so that it will be very easy for the principal to influence, encourage, guide, direct, and move his subordinates in efforts to develop education in the digital era.

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