



A Missing Link? Role and Function of Middle School Leaders in Indonesian Schools *Bambang Sumintono*

Practice of leading and managing schools at international level, provide institutional support is evident in the context of middle school leaders, which can help school organization performance. This is something that not part of historical development of school organization in Indonesia since the colonial era. This study propose to reveal the role and functions of middle school leaders at the general public secondary schools in Indonesia using qualitative approach. Case study design were applied to six schools in two different provinces, where structured interview to research participants which are principals, vice principals, head of unit and teachers are conducted as main data collection method. The data analysis using data reduction techniques with coding electronically using software, where thematic analysis apply to find emerging theme from the data. The study found that situation in public Indonesian schools, the term itself not familiar, even the official organizational structure from the government only showing the available leader is a principal. This situation shows monolithic type of organizational structure, where all responsibilities and power centered in one person, which is the principal. Though in reality of Indonesian schools, there are organizational structure below the principal, which are few vice-principals, where in fact its legitimacy and function based on permission by the principal. Reforming the school structure in Indonesia possibly is the next agenda to be implemented.

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