



The pivotal role of the school leader has been corroborated by findings of different strands of educational research over the last decades. Research on school effectiveness and school improvement shows that school leadership plays an important part in developing effective schools as well as improving the quality of teaching and learning processes. The school leader is most often cited as the key actor in the individual school's development.

Reflecting the importance school leadership is given in the today's education landscape, this book explores its latest trends from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Each chapter provides insight into aspects of current research and analyzes the consequences for school leadership, with many offering internationally comparative perspectives. Detailed case studies from countries all over the world are presented. Among other things, chapter authors look at the growing importance placed on activities to "professionalize" school leaders, such as training and development programs and selection procedures. They also examine the professional authority and the level of decision-making power that school leaders have in various countries.

Most countries are undertaking fundamental education reforms that will have a major influence on the nature of school leadership. In view of the ever-increasing responsibility placed on school leaders to safeguard and enhance the quality of education, school leadership issues are now a core concern in policy making.

Offering the most up-to-date research on this central issue, this book aims to inform and shape the debate.

ISBN 978-90-481-3500-4

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Target groups: school leadership and management personnel, administrators and policy makers of educational authorities and ministries, trainers, academics working in the fields of school effectiveness, school improvement, school management, students of school leadership development programmes, etc.

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