

**THE PRINCIPAL'S INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP  
ROLE AS A FACTOR INFLUENCING ACADEMIC  
PERFORMANCE:  
A CASE STUDY**

by

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**DECLARATION**

I declare that **THE PRINCIPAL'S INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLE AS A FACTOR INFLUENCING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE: A CASE STUDY** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

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SIGNATURE

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DATE

## **SUMMARY**

This research investigates the instructional leadership role of the principal and its impact on learners' academic performance. A literature study investigated models of instructional leadership, characteristics of instructional leadership and instructional leadership as a managerial function. An empirical investigation used a quantitative research design to collect data from a purposefully selected sample of secondary school principals in the Vryheid region, South Africa. A questionnaire was used to gather data and statistical data analysis was conducted to calculate frequencies and test hypotheses. Findings indicated an indirect relationship between learners' academic achievement and the principals' practice of instructional leadership. Clearly formulated school goals, academic networks formed between low and high achieving schools and regular discussions between learners and teachers on their progress also contribute to improved academic performance. Finally, in-service training for principals and teachers, annual targets for academic achievement and the formation of school networks are recommended to improve practice.

## **KEY CONCEPTS**

Instructional leadership; principal; learner; academic performance; academic monitoring; academic mission; academic expectations; instructional resources; instructional time; school ambience.