A Distributed Perspective

The Leadership Daily Practice Log (LDP) was designed to support school leaders in their daily practice of leading and managing. To evaluate the LDP, we conducted three studies. The first study involved administrative leaders, while the second study involved teachers. The third study involved administrators and teachers. The results of these studies showed that the LDP is a valid and reliable tool for assessing school leaders’ daily practice of leading and managing.

Social Network Instrument Pilot

The Social Network Instrument (SNI) is designed to capture the social network of school leaders. The SNI consists of three sections: the administrative network, the teacher network, and the parent network. The SNI is used to assess the social network of school leaders and to identify potential leaders in the school.

Table 1: Sample states and response rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Average outcome measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Measure</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Network Density</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Centrality</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: Randomized design of name generators, based on self-assessment of role and subject area(s)

Social Network Instrument Findings

Our findings from Study One indicate that asking people who go to for advice or knowledge about mathematics instruction enabled us to identify instances of leadership—especially informal leadership. For mathematics instruction. An analysis of data from Study Two suggests that the questions were interpreted as intended, and that they led to perceived versions of the same social network.

Leadership Daily Practice Log Pilot

In the Leadership Daily Practice Log (LDP), we asked school leaders to report one interaction for each hour of the school day. The LDP was piloted in three school districts. A tailored and updated version of the LDP has been piloted and will be administered starting in spring 2010.

Leadership Daily Practice Log Findings

As a research methodology, logs are general and the LDP in particular enable us to chart data on leadership and practice across large samples of schools and leaders than is possible with ethnographic and structural observation methodologies. Although the LDP is more costly to administer than school leader questionnaires, it generates more accurate measures of practice because of its capacity in the behavioral being reported.

Collaboration

The work of the Distributed Leadership Studies is made possible and catalyzed through collaborative efforts with colleagues and students. We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who have supported our research.

Further Information and Contact

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