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**PRINCIPALS' AWARENESS OF LEGAL ISSUES IN
SCHOOL MANAGEMENT.**

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**A PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
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PRINCIPALS' AWARENESS OF LEGAL ISSUES IN SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

ABSTRACT

Today, the nature of a principal's job is fundamentally different as a result of the tide of litigation. In addition the traditional function as a mentor, instructional leader, chief disciplinarian, site manager, the principals' function has taken on new overtones. Principals of the 21st century now must have a working knowledge of educational related law. The knowledge of educational law is more effective as a protector than a healer and it is better to have a solid understanding of educational law. The aim of this study is to determine the level of legal awareness among principals in secondary schools and the application of this knowledge in the daily running of the school in which these principals manage. This study was conducted using a qualitative approach to obtain the necessary information. The data was collected through structured interviews. It involved six principals of secondary schools located in Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur. Interviews were set up with the principals with a focus on legal awareness in daily management of schools especially in areas of negligence, teachers' rights, students legal rights, school discipline and prevention programs in schools. It is heartening to know that principals in these schools have been exposed to legal knowledge and with the help of this knowledge they may make better decisions, which will be more proactive rather than reactive decision makers. As a consequence the schools will be physically and legally, a safer environment to work and to learn.

KESEDARAN PENGETUA TENTANG ISU-ISU PERUNDANGAN DALAM PENGURUSAN SEKOLAH

ABSTRAK

Pada hari ini tugas dan tanggungjawab seorang pengetua telah berubah akibat daripada satu arus perkembangan dalam bidang perundangan yang melibatkan sekolah-sekolah. Tugas dan tanggungjawab pengetua telah berubah dari tugas-tugas tradisinya iaitu sebagai mentor, pemimpin dalam bidang pengajaran dan pembelajaran, dan sebagai pengurus utama sekolah. Sebagai seorang pengetua abad ke 21, beliau harus juga berpengetahuan dalam bidang perundangan yang melibatkan undang-undang pendidikan. Dengan berbekalkan pengetahuan berkaitan dengan undang-undang pendidikan ini membolehkan seorang pengetua bertindak lebih efektif. Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti sejauhmanakah tahap pengetahuan yang dimiliki oleh pengetua-pengetua sekolah dalam bidang undang-undang pendidikan dan menilai tahap aplikasi undang-undang ini dalam bidang pengurusan sekolah secara harian. Kajian ini dijalankan secara kualitatif and data dikumpul melalui cara temubual berstruktur dengan enam orang pengetua yang berkhidmat di Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur. Soalan-soalan temubual berdasarkan kepada bidang kecuaiian, hak assasi guru and murid-murid sekolah, disiplin sekolah and program-program pencegahan yang diambil oleh sekolah-sekolah berkenaan. Kajian ini mendapati bahawa pengetua-pengetua telah mendapat pendedahan dalm bidang perundangan dan akibatnya membolehkan mereka mengambil tindakan proaktif daripada tindakan reaktif. Ini membolehkan sekolah menuju ke arah menyediakan satu environmen yang lebih selamat untuk pengajaran dan pembelajaran.

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