

A SURVEY OF TEACHERS' PERCEPTION OF THEIR
PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES
IN A MALAYSIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Abstract

This small scale study surveyed the perception of teachers about their opportunity and their desire to participate in the decision making processes in a primary school in order to see whether there were variations amongst teachers in their desire to participate and their opportunity to participate in the decision making processes in the school. Three main issues were addressed: (1) current participation in decision making; (2) desire for more or less participation; (3) attitudes towards participatory decision making.

The survey methods, using structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were used as its source of data collection. The questionnaires were distributed to all teachers in the school. A 90% response rate was obtained. **Four** groups of teachers were interviewed. They consisted of 2 teachers with less than 5 years teaching experience, 2 teachers with between 5 - 10 years of teaching experience, 2 teachers with more than 10 years of teaching experience and 2 Heads of Panels.

The results of this study revealed that most teachers experience decisional deprivation, where their opportunity to participate in decision making was very minimal. In addition, the majority of the teachers indicated their desire for more participation than the current level.

The study suggested that as teachers are directly responsible in carrying out duties and innovations, they should be given more opportunity to have their say in the decision making process in their school.