Development of the Technical Leadership Skills Scale in Vocational and Technical High School Administrators: Reliability and Validity Studies

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to develop a scale for the determination technical leadership skills of vocational and technical high school administrators. For the study, the sample was comprised of a total of 236 vocational education teachers working at nine out of 22 technical and vocational high schools located in the Şahinbey and Şehitkamil districts of Gaziantep Province. The criteria for sample selection were twofold: (1) The selected schools are the longest established in the districts, and (2) the participant teachers had been working with the same school administrators at these schools for at least one year. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) were performed by the researcher in order to determine the construct validity of the scale. EFA results indicated that the scale had three sub-dimensions. The sub-dimensions were "Pedagogical and Social Skills", "Managerial Skills", and "Professional Skills". The final form of the scale consisted of 40 items. Internal consistency coefficients of the scores taken from the sub-dimensions varied between .94 and .95. Research results concluded that the Technical Leadership Skills Scale (TLSS) is a valid and reliable measurement instrument to determine technical leadership skills of vocational and technical high school administrators.

Key Words: Vocational and technical, School administrators, Scale

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INTRODUCTION

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER, 2003a) emphasizes that there is a strong connection between the quality of vocational and technical education and the quality of school administrators and teachers. This is because vocational and technical education institutions are of critical importance in terms of providing the manpower required for a country's development. In recent years, stress on quality assurance and learning outcomes in vocational and technical high schools, increasing accountability, new public management approaches and varying expectations have required administrators working at these schools to have special skills apart from general skills other administrators have. This is because education given at vocational and technical secondary schools has connections with the business organizations and various programs at these schools have their own structures, and that the administrators at these institutions are supposed to undertake different roles and responsibilities.

It is attempted to determine the standard skills that vocational and technical school administrators are deemed to have in the international arena. These skills and leadership roles have been involved in educational policies in order to assure quality in vocational and technical education and effectively manage change in this field. Specifically, leadership standards which differentiate the vocational and technical high school administrators from the administrators of other school types (e.g. general high schools) are tried to be determined by the National Center for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) and in Improving the Quality of Vocational Education and Training (METEK) project, co-managed by Turkey and the European Union. When research on vocational and technical education is considered, it can be seen that the strategies, policies and studies conducted on the administrators of these schools remain few in number.

Today in education, curricula are designed which meet the expectations of the labor market in social and economic terms. In addition, vocational and technical education has a different target population, and therefore a different school culture needs to be created which enables constant information flow with all stakeholders. When compared to education given at general secondary schools, vocational and technical education has a more complex structure. All these issues require administrators to be equipped with special work skills. Vocational and technical high school administrators should use information and tools regarding vocational education systems, and thus manage the quality of vocational education and contribute to the development of effective support programs for achievement. According to Gu, Gomes, and Brizuela (2011), sustainable development in vocational and technical education depends on provision of the following:

- Embedding with sustainability knowledge, skills and attitudes;
- Adopting relevant Pedagogical Approaches;
- Partnering with key stakeholders;
- Leading by example.

Vocational and technical high school administrators must not only strive to enhance student achievement, but also provide resources to create an effective teaching and learning environment. They must support teachers in the lesson planning process, make strong communication ties between top, middle and lower-level units and employers, and undertake some significant roles such as creating a culture of learning among students.

The quality of competencies of technical educators from both inside and outside the institution (e.g., teachers, managers, technicians and foremen who influence education) directly impact on the education given in terms of vocational and technical education, institutional development, improvement of education and instruction and students' development including their professional knowledge, skills and personality. In the Maastricht Communiqué (European Council, 2004), the changing roles and responsibilities of educators working at vocational and technical schools were emphasized. Furthermore, it was proposed that special learning needs of the teachers and school administrators working at vocational and technical education schools must be recognized, and that teachers and administrators must be supported to facilitate and rebuild the learning environment. In order to make education and instruction more attractive, opportunities must be determined, and teachers and administrators must be supported to maximize sustainable professional skills.

It largely depends on the school administrators' competencies to initiate and sustain this change process effectively. However, there are no standards developed when the theoretical background of the administrators' competencies is examined. According to classical management theories, the administrators are expected to have technical and organizational competencies, while managerial competencies in social and psychological dimensions are brought to the fore to attain organizational goals in neo-classical theories which value human relations. A European Commission report (2008), suggests that lifelong learning policies such as the Lisbon strategy have launched a new process in vocational and technical education in Europe, and identifies three competency areas for vocational and technical education teachers and administrators. These are: 1) vocational and technical, as related to work practices; 2) pedagogical and social, as related to instructional processes of their colleagues and young people; and 3) managerial, as related to the monitoring of quality assurance, project management, and collaboration with different workplaces and institutions.

In the study conducted by Sacır (1978), business administration, program-instruction, student personality services and school-environment relations were examined within the competencies of the administrators of vocational schools for girls. In NCVER's (2001, 2003a, 2007) publications, six tasks defining leadership roles are suggested for vocational education administrators, which are: a) developing standards which enable organizational success and an inspiring vision; b) raising awareness about individual and team contributions in unity, cooperation, and ownership; c) using power effectively; d) encouraging others to act; e) reflecting external effects on the organization to form an appropriate organizational structure; and f) developing an environment which promotes learning.

Gürsel (2005) identified the competencies of the industrial vocational high school administrators as organizing, communication activities, coordination, evaluation, leadership behaviors, training of the school staff, school-environment relations and business administration. In the publications by CEDEFOP (2008, 2009, 2011a, 2011b, 2012a, 2012b 2013), the importance of leadership in vocational and technical education is highlighted, and accordingly some special leadership skills that administrators must have are suggested.

Hashim, Baharom, Kamarolzaman, Ramlan, and Hussein (2010) argue that being a good leader in vocational and technical education requires lifelong learning, and that the administrators of these institutions must display transformational leadership behaviors.

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Gu et al. (2011) emphasize the importance of leading by example in sustainable development of vocational and technical education and training. Similarly, Khatajabor, Asnuldahar, Sadaadamu, and Buntat (2012) speculate that sustainable development of vocational and technical education and training requires sustainable leadership, and that the administrators must have managerial leadership, transformational leadership, participative leadership and instructional leadership traits.

In METEK's (2012) working paper, it is suggested that curriculum, teachers, learning environments and school administrators play a significant role in improving the quality of vocational and technical education and training. Furthermore, what administrators need to do to manage change process effectively is elaborated in that working paper, and it is argued that the qualifications of vocational and technical high school administrators are distinctive when compared to those of general high school administrators.

Taken together, the basic competencies which must be owned by vocational and technical high school administrators can be categorized as follows:

1. Professional Skills

- Workplace practices
- Collaboration between school and environment
- Organizational development

2. Pedagogical and Social Skills

- Support for professional growth of the staff
- Support for students' professional growth
- Integrating theoretical and practical knowledge
- Supervision of education inside and outside of school
- To increase the efficiency of educational and instructional settings

3. Managerial Skills

- School management (school budget)
- Management of human and material resources and time
- Quality assurance
- Planning education-instruction studies
- Supervision
- Counseling
- Facilitating instructional processes for staff and students

As seen above, there are technical leadership skills which, special to vocational and technical high school contexts, separate them from other school administrators, and are suitable to the philosophy and existence mission of vocational/technical education.

Purpose and Importance of the Study

Vocational and technical high schools whose mission it is to train a labor force supporting a competitive economy must manage accountability and a competitive environment in the globalization process. At this point, the importance of technical leadership skills of VET administrators have gained importance. In other words, VET administrators' have a clear need for technical leadership skills for both co-working effectively with stakeholders inside and outside of the school and industry. Research by Ağaoğlu, Altınkurt,

Yılmaz, and Karaköse (2012), Sadıkoğlu (2007), Altınkurt (2007), CEDEFOP (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011a, 2011b 2012a, 2012b, 2013), and NCVER (2001, 2003a, 2003b, 2007) have found that technical leadership skills of VET administrators were found to be of a low level. In this framework, it is crucially important to determine the technical leadership skills of VET administrators in order to meet the expectations of staff, faculty students, and other school stakeholders. From this point, the aim of this study is to develop a scale to determine the level of technical leadership skills of VET administrators.

Limitation of the Study

The study group consists of the 236 teachers working in vocational and technical high schools in the Gaziantep province of Turkey.

METHOD

This research is a descriptive study designed to the general survey model. Survey studies try to find answers to questions such as: "what, where, how, how often, at what level" regarding an event or a phenomenon. The issue of the study is described in its natural environment. No effort is made to change the issue (Karasar, 2009).

Participants

In the selection of the sample, criterion sampling technique was applied; one the purposive sampling methods. The sample comprised of a total of 236 vocational education teachers working at nine out of 22 technical and vocational high schools (three technical and industrial vocational high schools, three technical and vocational high schools for girls, and three trade vocational high schools) located in the Şahinbey and Şehitkamil districts of Gaziantep Province. The criteria for the sample selection were twofold: (1) the longest established schools; and (2) participants had worked with the same school administrator for at least one year.

Development of the Scale

The items of the scale were developed based on METEK's (2012) working report of the strategy workgroup, Boateng (2012), Khatajabor et al. (2012), Ağaoğlu et al. (2012), Öztürk's (2012) managerial skills scale, Hashim et al. (2010), Kaya (2010), NASSP's (2010) managerial skills scale, CEDEFOP'S (2008, 2009, 2011a, 2011b, 2012a, 2012b, 2013) publications, European Commission (2008), Dündar (2007), Sadıkoğlu (2007), Altınkurt (2007), Gürsel (2005), NCVER's (2001, 2003a, 2003b, 2007) publications, Leithwood and Riehl (2003), Mitchell and Young (2002) and Gümüşeli (2001). In addition, the researcher interviewed five experienced school administrators and five teachers working at these schools in order to find out the inapplication of VET administrators as related to technical leadership skills. From here, 101-item technical leadership behaviors were determined.

In order to determine the items to be used in the scale, a draft form of the scale was examined by two measurement and evaluation experts, two educational administration experts, one Turkish language expert, and one linguistics expert. Items agreed on by all experts were then reexamined by the researchers, and 47-items selected for the final draft scale. The final draft was then administered to 30 participants in order to collect data for comprehensibility and answerability of the items. After the pilot implementation, exploratory factor analysis was applied for construct validity. The first results of the exploratory factor analysis revealed that factor loadings of some items were under 0.40 which is considered

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acceptable by Çokluk, Şekercioğlu, and Büyüköztürk (2012). Some items having high factor loadings in more than one factor, and as a result were excluded from the scale. After the second expert review, the scale included 40 valid items.

Exploratory factor analysis was performed for the items in the scale via Varimax rotation technique. The analysis indicated that the scale had three factors. Confirmatory factor analysis confirmed the three-factor construct. In addition, Cronbach's Alpha (α) internal consistency coefficient, split-half reliability and test-retest reliability coefficients were calculated in order to determine the reliability of the scale. The scale was twice administered to 110 participants, with an interval of 25 days for test-retest reliability.

In the first part of the scale, there are 10 questions asking about demographic characteristics of the participants. The second part of the scale consists of 40-items, a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1(never) through to 5 (always). Teachers are asked to evaluate the skills of their administrators.

Data Analysis

SPSS v20.0 software package and Varimax rotation technique were used for exploratory factor analysis in terms of the participants' descriptive statistics and construct validity. LISREL v8.7 program was used for confirmatory factor analysis. For reliability, Cronbach's Alpha (α) internal consistency coefficient, split-half reliability and test-retest reliability coefficients were calculated using SPSS. Significance level was accepted as p< .01 in data analysis.

FINDINGS

Construct Validity

In order to test the appropriateness factor analysis and the sampling, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett significance values were calculated. In this study, KMO 0.96, Bartlett's χ 2=7845.15; df=780; p<0.00 were found respectively. According to Tavşancıl (2005), if the KMO value is close to 1, it is accepted as perfect, whereas if it is under 0.50, it is deemed unacceptable (in the 0.90's as remarkable, in the 0.80's as meritorious, in the 0.70's as middling, in the 0.60's as mediocre, in the 0.50's as miserable, and below 0.50 as unacceptable). The value found in this current study equals to a remarkable value. Therefore, it may be suggested that factor analysis done on the data revealed reliable results. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was used to test whether or not there is correlation between the variables. As a result of this test, chisquare test result was found to be significant, which indicates that the data were derived from multivariate normal distribution (Tavṣancıl, 2005).

Exploratory Factor Analysis Findings

In exploratory factor analysis, Varimax rotation technique which is the most frequently used orthogonal rotation was used to uncover the main factors (dimensions) of the scale, assuming that the factors constructing the scale were unrelated. A total of 67 items were exposed to exploratory factor analysis. However, the first results of the factor analysis demonstrated that some items had factor loadings below 0.40, and some items had high factor loadings in more than one factor. For these reasons, 17 items included in the draft version of the scale were subsequently removed. In the literature, it is suggested that factor loadings ranging between 0.30 and 0.40 can be taken as an undercut point in constructing a factor pattern (Tavṣancıl, 2005).

Table 1. Varimax factor loads, item total correlation and item discrimination power related to the items of the technical leadership skills scale

Item no	1st Factor: Pedagogical and social skills	Factor loading	Item-total corr.	t
1	Our administrators benefit from people like academicians and businessmen who are successful in their professions through activities such as lectures, seminars and conferences to contribute education.	.53	.65	13.38*
2	Our administrators form professional workgroups to ensure effectiveness of education, instruction and teamwork.	.45	.69	14.38*
3	Our administrators ensure use of ateliers and facilities in collaboration with private sector according to the regulations of working capital.	.56	.60	10.99*
4	Our administrators collect multi-source data to open programs related to the new vocational areas in the sector.	.58	.71	14.06*
5	Our administrators form an advisory committee consisting of academicians, private sector representatives and local administration for the tasks to determine professional competencies and integrate theoretical and practical information.	.69	.56	10.92*
6	Our administrators organize professional development training seminars for teachers about topics like general culture and pedagogical formation.	.78	.67	12.33*
7	Our administrators get help from experts and outsourcing for teachers' professional development.	.88	.66	13.75*
8	Our administrators get help from experts and outsourcing for students' professional development.	.81	.67	13.12*
9	Our administrators provide the required support for in-service training of educational personnel working in business organizations.	.67	.71	14.85*
10	Our administrators make professional development plans in line with teachers' needs.	.72	.80	21.04*
11	Our administrators develop monitoring and evaluation systems for the effectiveness of education at the school.	.64	.71	13.42*
12	Our administrators develop monitoring and evaluation systems for the effectiveness of workplace training.	.58	.75	15.85*
13	Our administrators offer suggestions to top management units for designing curriculum based on employers' feedback on learning outcomes in order to improve the learning and teaching environment.	.67	.69	15.42*
	Factor Eigen Value	21.04		
	Factor Variation Frequency	52.62		
	Item-Total Correlation	.81		
	N= 236	*p=0.00		
Item no	2nd Factor: Managerial skills	Factor loading	Item-total corr.	t
14	Our administrators follow the requirements of the regulations as well as developments in vocational and technical education.	.54	.72	13.97*
15	Our administrators know how to supervise teachers who are coordinators of workplace training.	.71	.57	9.77*
16	Our administrators follow sustainability of the tasks and procedures related to production at the school.	.75	.58	9.76*
17	Our administrators make appropriate plans for the structure of vocational and technical education (physical structure, hardware, personnel, instructional programs, infrastructure etc.)	.70	.72	14.38*
18	Our administrators make plans for the development of programs' curricula in line with aspirations and expectations of working life by following sectoral development and change.	.60	.81	19.73*
19	Our administrators make plans to incorporate the needs of the workplaces and students' expectations about individual learning.	.54	.79	17.02*

Studies				
20	Our administrators prepare timetables about the duration of education given in the workplaces and schools.	.59	.71	12.33*
21	Our administrators enhance their experiences by taking good practices from similar school types as an example for themselves.	.55	.81	16.36*
22	Our administrators use time effectively to eliminate problems emerging as a result of a lack of planning and determine priorities of instructional programs.	.66	.75	15.16*
23	Our administrators use the school budget in accordance with the needs of instructional programs.	.51	.68	12.92*
24	Our administrators coordinate department coordinators and clients of the ateliers to render classrooms, ateliers and laboratories into a place for production.	.69	.68	13.20*
25	Our administrators guide the teachers who are coordinators of workplace training for their tasks.	.58	.78	15.60*
26	Our administrators make efforts to bring technological materials which facilitate education and instruction into the school.	.50	.69	12.17*
27	Our administrators assure the school staff's participation while making educational and instructional plans for institutional development.	.48	.79	20.00*
28	Our administrators supervise classes based on learning outcomes of the instructional program for development of instructional programs.	.49	.65	11.65*
	Factor Eigen Value	2.38		
	Factor Variation Frequency	5.95		
	Item-Total Correlation	.88		
	N= 236	*p=0.00		
Item	3rd Factor: Professional skills	Factor	Item-total	t
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29	Our administrators follow the procedures regarding payment to the students according to Professional Education Law No: 3308 by preparing an education contract between students and the workplace.	.67	.55	9.24*
30	Our administrators analyze the results of our educational tasks performed in the workplace (workplace planning, experienced educator/educator guidance etc.)	.77	.68	13.24*
31	Our administrators share the results of their analyses regarding our educational tasks.	.76	.70	14.45*
32	Our administrators make efforts to solve the transportation problems of the students who are supposed to attend workplace training.	.69	.62	11.96*
33	Our administrators collaborate with stakeholders of the school (teachers, personnel, parents and employers) in order to raise the qualified workforce which society needs.	.58	.76	18.56*
34	Our administrators work in cooperation with the administrators of other schools to solve the problems faced.	.56	.73	14.37*
35	Our administrators collaborate with the institutions in the related fields for ateliers, laboratories, applied courses, internship and summer applications.	.48	.72	14.60*
36	Our administrators ensure collaboration of students, teachers and employers in the workplace.	.71	.74	15.78*
37	Our administrators attend the scientific activities in the fields of vocational and technical education.	.44	.68	12.20*
38	Our administrators follow the skills needed for the workforce marketplace.	.45	.72	14.23*
	•	.70	77	16.13*
39	Our administrators get feedback from employers about learning outcomes in the workplaces (skills to be gained)	.70	.77	10.15

Factor Eigen Value	1.40
Factor Variation Frequency	3.51
Total Variation Frequency of Factors Explaining Total Scale	62.08
Item-Total Correlation	.85
N= 236	*p=0.00

As can be seen in Table 1, items labeled as i1-i13 are placed in the first factor on the basis of their factor loadings as a result of the Varimax orthogonal rotation. Factor loadings of these items ranged between .45 and .88, and item-total correlation values ranged between .56 and .80. Item total correlation for the first factor was .81 and accounted for 52.6% of the total variance in the scale. In the second factor are the items labeled as i14-i28. Factor loadings of these items ranged between .48 and .75, and item-total correlation values ranged between .57 and .81. Item total correlation for the second factor was .88 and accounted for 5.3% of the total variance in the scale. The third factor covers the items labeled as i29-i40. Factor loadings of these items ranged between .44 and .76, and item-total correlation values ranged between .62 and .77. Item total correlation for third factor was .85 and accounted for 3.5% of the total variance in the scale. The fact that item-total correlation is positive and high demonstrates that the items illustrate similar behaviors and internal consistency is high (Büyüköztürk, Çakmak, Akgün, Karadeniz, & Demirel, 2009, 165). Item discrimination power of all the items in the TLS scale was calculated. In this process, by analyzing total points of each participant, they are ordered and groups were formed, from the lowest 27% (n=99) of the upper group, to the highest 27% (n=99) of the lower group. The significant difference between groups was tested using independent group t-test, and all items were found significant at .01 (p=0.00). This result indicates that the internal consistency is high. Based on these values, it may be suggested that the scale has construct validity, and discriminating power of the items is adequate. The factors were named on the basis of content of the items. Three factors were named as pedagogical and social skills, managerial skills and professional skills.

To understand the relationships between technical leadership skills scale factors, the index correlation number is also calculated among factors. Results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. TLS scale factors related to correlation coefficient

	Pedagogical / Social Skills	Managerial Skills	Professional Skills
Pedagogical and Social Skills	1.00		
Managerial Skills	.80	1.00	.86
Professional Skills	.76	.86	1.00

As seen in Table 2, there are high relationships between the sub-dimensions. While the highest relationship is between managerial skills and professional skills (.86), the lowest is between pedagogical/social skills and professional skills (.76).

Confirmatory Factor Analysis Findings

Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) is a kind of analysis used to test whether a predefined and definite construct confirmed as a model (Çokluk et al., 2012). In this research, Chi-Square Goodness, Goodness of Fit Index (GFI), Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI), Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Normed Fit Index (NFI), Non-Normed Fit Index (NNFI), Relative Fit Index (RFI), Incremental Fit Index (IFI) and Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) were examined for CFA.

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According to Çokluk et al. (2012), 0.90 is an acceptable fit value, and 0.95 is a perfect fit value for NFI, NNFI, CFI, RFI, IFI, GFI, and AGFI indices.

Table 3. Standard fit indices for the Technical Leadership Skills scale

X ²	df	X²/df	RMSEA	NFI	NNFI	CFI	IFI	RFI	GFI	AGFI
1789.77	737	2.42	0.7	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.85	0.81

Table 3 indicates that the values for the Technical Leadership Skills scale were determined as; chi-square (x^2)=1779.68, df=737, x^2 /df=2.41; RMSEA=0,7; NFI=0.96; NNFI=0.98 CFI=0.98; IFI=0.98; RFI=0.96; GFI=0.85; AGFI=0.81.

Schermelleh-Engel and Moosbrugger (2003) suggest that RMSEA values <.05 are considered to indicate very good fit, RMSEA values <0.10 acceptable fit, x^2/df <2 very good fit and x^2/df <5 acceptable fit. Drawing on these values, x^2/df value and Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) values can be considered to indicate acceptable fit.

It may be stated that NFI, NNFI, CFI, IFI, and RFI fit indices indicate perfect fit, and GFI and AGFI fit indices which are sensitive to sample size indicate acceptable fit. Factor loadings regarding the model are presented in Figure 1.

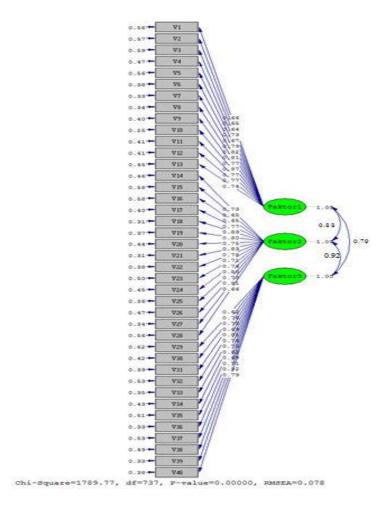


Figure 1. Factor loadings regarding the model are presented

Content Validity

Expert judges' opinion were sought to determine whether or not the items included in the scale were suitable for the instrument, with items representing the related domain and related to the feature to be measured (Karasar, 2009, p. 151). In this research, therefore, expert judges were sought for the content validity of the scale, and as a result, 47 items were included in the scale. However, after exploratory factor analysis, it was seen that factor loadings of some items were lower than 0.40, and some items had high factor loadings in more than one factor. After removal of these items, the final scale included 40 items based on second expert judges.

Reliability study

Reliability refers to consistency between the answers given to the questions in a scale. Two criteria considered for reliability of a scale are "consistency between the answers obtained at different times" and "consistency between the answers obtained at the same time" (Büyüköztürk, 2011, p 170). To determine reliability of the scale, Cronbach's Alpha (α) internal consistency coefficient, split-half reliability and test-retest reliability coefficients were calculated. The scale was administered to 110 participants twice with an interval of 25 days for test-retest reliability.

Table 4. Reliability coefficients of the technical leadership skills scale

Factors	Number of items	Cronbach's	Test-retest	Split-half
		Alpha	reliability	reliability
1. Pedagogical & Social skills	13	.94	.82	.91
2. Managerial skills	15	.95	.89	.94
3. Professional skills	12	.94	.80	.93

Table 4 demonstrates that internal consistency coefficient (Cronbach's Alpha) ranged between .94 and .95, test-retest reliability coefficients .80 and .89 and split-half reliability coefficients .94 and .91 respectively.

CONCLUSION, DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The literature review demonstrates that there are no standards regarding the skills which vocational and technical leadership need to have in terms of their technical competencies. This is the reason why there is a need for a scale measuring technical leadership skills of school administrators. In this sense, the technical leadership skills scale was developed in the light of CEDEFOP's publications, NCVER's publications, regulation on secondary education institutions, research conducted in the field and views of the administrators working at vocational and technical high schools.

It was concluded in this research that the technical leadership skills scale had satisfactory validity and reliability to measure technical leadership skills of the school administrators. As a result of Varimax rotation technique, a three-factor construct emerged, and factor loadings of the items were higher than 0.40. Confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the scale had acceptable fit indices values.

Given that .70 is the reliability level accepted for measurement instruments (Tezbaşaran, 1996), this scale was shown to have reliable values in terms of internal consistency (Cronbach's Alpha), test-retest reliability, and split-half reliability. The items whose factor loadings equal .40 and over are considered to discriminate the features to be

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measured at a good level (Büyüköztürk, 2011). This indicates that item-total correlations of this scale were satisfactory. In addition, a positive and high correlation was detected between the sub dimensions of the scale.

The arguments at the national and international level imply that school administrators working at vocational and technical schools are supposed to undertake significant tasks to improve the quality of these institutions. At this point, the skills of the school administrators have come to the fore. In Turkey, the project for improving the quality of vocational and technical education makes this study significant.

Consequently, it may be suggested that this scale, which has acceptable reliability and validity values, can be used in future research in order to determine technical leadership skills of the vocational and technical high school administrators. This scale may fill the gap emerged due to the lack of a scale measuring technical leadership skills in the field.

The findings obtained in this current research study are limited to the schools included in the sample. Therefore, it may be helpful to conduct further research on larger and broader-based samples in order to support the scientific results of this research.

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Mesleki ve Teknik Ortaöğretim Okul Yöneticilerine Yönelik Teknik Liderlik Becerileri Ölçeğinin Geliştirilmesi: Geçerlik ve Güvenirlik Çalışması

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Giriş

Ulusal mesleki ve teknik eğitim araştırmaları merkezi (NCVER), mesleki ve teknik eğitimdeki eğitimin kalitesi ile yönetici ve öğretmen kalitesi arasında güçlü bir bağın varlığını sürekli olarak vurgulamaktadır. Çünkü bir ülkenin mesleki ve teknik eğitim kurumları o ülkenin kalkınması için gerekli olan işgücünü sağlamak için kritik öneme sahiptir. Son yıllarda, mesleki ve teknik eğitim kurumlarındaki kalite güvence ve öğrenme çıktıları üzerine daha fazla odaklanma, artan hesap verebilirlik, yeni kamu yönetimi yaklaşımları ve farklılaşan beklentiler bu kurumlarda yöneticilik yapacak bireylerin diğer eğitim kurum yöneticilerinin sahip olduğu genel becerilerinin yanı sıra özel becerilere de sahip olması gerektiğini göstermektedir. Özellikle mesleki ve teknik ortaöğretim kurumlarında yapılan eğitimin bir ayağının da işletmelerde olması ve birçok farklı programın kendine özgü yapısı nedeniyle bu kurum yöneticileri genel ortaöğretim yöneticilerinden farklı rol ve sorumlulukları yerine getirmek durumundadırlar.

Uluslararası arenada da mesleki ve teknik eğitimde kalite güvencenin sağlanması ve bu alanda yaşanan değişimin iyi yönetilebilmesi için yöneticilerde ihtiyaç duyulan beceriler ve liderlik rolü eğitim politikaları içerisinde yeni yer almaya başlayarak mesleki ve teknik eğitim yöneticilerinin sahip olması gereken beceriler standart olarak belirlenmeye çalışılmaktadır. Özelikle Ulusal Mesleki Eğitim Araştırmaları Merkezi (NCVER), Avrupa Mesleki Eğitim Geliştirme Merkezi (CEDEFOP) ve Türkiye Avrupa İşbirliği ile yürütülen Türkiye'de Mesleki ve Teknik Eğitimin Kalitesinin Geliştirilmesi (METEK) projesinde mesleki ve teknik eğitim kurum yöneticilerini genel eğitim kurumları yöneticilerinden ayıran liderlik standartları oluşturulmaya çalışılmaktadır. Mesleki ve teknik eğitimle ilgili çalışmalara baktığımızda bu kurum yöneticileri ile ilgili araştırmaların, stratejilerin ve politikaların eksikliği göze çarpmaktadır. Sosyal ve ekonomik dönüşümlerde iş gücü piyasasının beklentilerine cevap verebilecek müfredatların tasarlanması, mesleki ve teknik eğitimin hedef kitlesinin genel orta öğretimin hedef kitlesinden farklı olması, okulun tüm paydaşları ile sürekli bir bilgi akışının olduğu bir okul kültürünün oluşturulması ve mesleki/teknik eğitimin karmaşık yapısı bu kurum yöneticilerinin özel iş becerilerine sahip olmasını gerekli kılmaktadır. Gu, Gomes ve Brizuela (2011), mesleki ve teknik eğitimde sürdürülebilir gelişimin sağlanmasının; bilgi, beceri ve tutumların iç içe olmasına, pedagojik yaklaşımların uygunluğuna, paydaşların katılımına ve örnek liderlik davranışına bağlı olduğunu ifade etmişlerdir.

Mesleki ve teknik ortaöğretim okul yöneticilerinin başarılı olabilmesi için yöneticilerin sadece öğrenci başarısını arttırmaya çalışmakla kalmamaları, etkili bir eğitim-öğretim ortamının sağlanması için kaynak sağlamaları, dersi planlama sürecinde öğretmene destek olmaları, okullarında üst birimlerle, alt birimler ve işverenler arasında bir bağ kurmaları, öğrencilerde öğrenme kültürünün gelişmesi yönünde çaba sarf etmeleri gibi önemli görevleri

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üstlenmesi gerekmektedir. Mesleki ve Teknik eğitimde de kurumsal gelişim, eğitim- öğretim kalitesinin yükseltilmesi ve öğrencilerin mesleki bilgi, beceri ve kişilik gelişimleri, açısından kurum içinde ve dışındaki teknik eğitimciler, öğretmenler, yöneticiler, teknisyenler, ustalar, vb. tüm eğitimi etkileyen personelin sahip oldukları yeterliklerin kalitesi, yapılan eğitimi de doğrudan etkilemektedir. 2004 Maastricht Tebliğinde de mesleki ve teknik eğitimde görev yapan eğitimcilerin değişen rollerine ve sorumluluklarına değinilerek bu değişim karşısında; mesleki ve teknik eğitim öğretmen ve yöneticilerinin özel öğrenme ihtiyaçlarının tanımlanması, öğrenme çevresinin kolaylaştırılması ve yenileştirilmesi için öğretmen ve yöneticilerin desteklenmesi, eğitim ve öğretimin daha cazip hale getirilmesi için olasılıkların tespit edilmesi, sürdürülebilir profesyonel becerilerin en üstte çıkarılabilmesi için öğretmen ve eğitimcilerin desteklenmesi gerektiği belirtilmiştir. Avrupa Toplulukları Komisyonu (2008) Avrupa'da, Lizbon stratejisi olan hayat boyu öğrenme politikaları ile mesleki ve teknik eğitimde yeni bir sürecin başladığını ifade ederek, bu kurum eğitimcilerinin ve yöneticilerinin değişen rollerine değinmiştir. Mesleki ve teknik eğitim eğitimcileri için (1) mesleki ve teknik; iş uygulamaları ile ilgili, (2) pedagojik ve sosyal; meslektaşların ve genç insanların öğretimsel süreçleri ile ilgili , (3) yönetim; kalite güvencenin izlenmesi, proje yönetimi, farklı iş yerleri ve kurumlar ile iş birliği yeterlikleri olarak üç yeterlik alanı belirlemiştir.

Sacır (1978) yaptığı çalışmada, Kız Meslek Lisesi yöneticilerinin yeterlilikleri içerisinde işletmecilik, program-öğretim, öğrenci kişilik hizmetleri, okul-çevre ilişkileri gibi başlıklar üzerinde durmuştur. NCVER (2001-2003-2007), yayınlarında, mesleki teknik eğitim liderleri için liderlik rollerini tanımlayan; örgütün başarısına yardımcı standartlar ve ilham veren vizyon oluşturmak, birlik, iş birliği ve sahiplikte bireysel ve takım katkılarını fark edebilmeyi teşvik etmek, gücü etkili bir şekilde kullanmak ve diğerlerini harekete geçirmek için teşvik etmek, örgüte uygun yapıyı oluşturabilmek için dışarıdaki etkileri örgüte yansıtmak, öğrenmeyi artırıcı bir çevre oluşturmak, bireysel olarak örgüt üyelerinin iş ile ilgili ihtiyaçlarını karşılamak gibi 6 görev öngörmüştür. Gürsel (2005), endüstri meslek lisesi yöneticilerinin yeterlik alanlarını; örgütleme, haberleşme etkinlikleri, koordinasyon, değerlendirme, liderlik davranışları, okul personeli eğitimi, okul-çevre ilişkileri, işletmecilik yönetimi gibi alanlar olarak belirlemiştir. Avrupa Toplulukları Komisyonu (2008) Lizbon stratejisi olan hayat boyu öğrenme politikaları ile mesleki ve teknik eğitimde yeni bir sürecin başladığını ifade ederek, bu kurum eğitimcilerinin ve yöneticilerinin değişen rollerine değinmiştir. Mesleki ve teknik eğitim eğitimcileri için (1) mesleki ve teknik; iş uygulamaları ile ilgili, (2) pedagojik ve sosyal; meslektaşların ve genç insanların öğretimsel süreçleri ile ilgili, (3) yönetim; kalite güvencenin izlenmesi, proje yönetimi, farklı iş yerleri ve kurumlar ile iş birliği yeterlikleri olarak üç yeterlik alanı belirlemiştir. CEDEFOP (2008-2009-2011-2012-2013) yayınlarında mesleki ve teknik eğitimde liderliğin önemine ve bu kurum yöneticilerinin sahip olması gereken özel liderlik becerilerine vurgu yapılmıştır. Hashim vd. (2010) çalışmalarında, mesleki ve teknik eğitimde iyi bir lider olmanın hayat boyu öğrenmeyi gerektirdiği ve bu kurum yöneticilerinin dönüşümcü liderlik özellikleri taşıması gerektiğini belirtmişlerdir.

Gu, Gomes ve Brizuela (2011), mesleki ve teknik eğitimde sürdürülebilir gelişim de örnek liderlik davranışlarının önemine vurgu yapmışlardır. Khatajabor vd. (2012) mesleki ve teknik eğitimde sürdürülebilir bir gelişimin sürdürülebilir liderlik gerektirdiğini ifade ederek, bu kurum yöneticilerinin yönetimsel liderlik, transformasyonel liderlik, katılımcı liderlik ve öğretimsel liderlik özelliklerini taşıması gerektiğini belirtmişlerdir. METEK (2012) çalıştay raporunda, mesleki teknik eğitim ve öğretimin kalitesinin arttırmasında müfredat, öğretmenler, öğrenme ortamları ve okul yöneticileri gibi konuların ele alınmasının önemine

değinilerek, değişim sürecinin yönetilmesinde kurum yöneticilerinin neler yapması gerektiği ve mesleki/teknik ortaöğretim kurum yöneticilerini genel eğitim yöneticilerinden ayıran özellikler üzerine vurgu yapılmıştır. Bu bağlamda araştırmanın amacı, mesleki ve teknik eğitim yöneticilerine yönelik bir teknik liderlik becerileri ölçeği geliştirilmesidir.

Yöntem

Araştırma genel tarama modelinde betimsel bir çalışmadır. Tarama modelleri, geçmişte ve halen var olan bir durumu var olduğu şekliyle betimlemeyi amaçlayan yaklaşımlardır. Araştırmanın çalışma grubu seçiminde, amaçsal (amaçlı) örnekleme yöntemlerinden ölçüt örneklem yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Örneklem seçimine bağlı olarak araştırmaya Gaziantep ili Şahinbey ve Şehitkamil merkez ilçelerinde yer alan, kuruluş yılı bakımından bulunduğu ilçede en eski olan ve okul müdürlerinin görev yaptıkları okullarında en az 1 yıl çalışmış olması şartını karşılayan 22 mesleki ve teknik ortaöğretim okulu içerisinden 9 mesleki ve teknik ortaöğretim okulundan (3 teknik ve endüstri meslek lisesi, 3 kız teknik ve meslek lisesi, 3 ticaret meslek lisesi) 236 meslek dersi öğretmeni örnekleme dâhil edilmiştir. Geliştirilen ölçek için METEK (2012) strateji çalışma grubu çalıştay raporu, Avrupa Birliği Komisyon Raporu (2013), Boateng (2012), Khatajabor vd. (2012), Ağaoğlu vd. (2012), CEDEFOP (2008, 2009-2011-2012-2013) yayınları, Hashim vd. (2010), Kaya (2010), NASSP (2010) yöneticilik becerileri ölçeği, Öztürk (2012), Dündar (2007), Sadıkoğlu (2007), Altınkurt (2007), Gürsel (2005), NCVER (2001-2003-2007) yayınları, Leithwood ve Riehl (2003), Aydın (2002), Mitchell ve Young (2002), Gümüşeli'nin (1996), çalışmalarından yararlanılarak ve alanda bu konuyu yansıtan uygulamaların neler olduğunu ortaya çıkarmak amaçlı, alanda çalışan deneyimli 5 yönetici ve 5 öğretmen ile yüz yüze görüşmelerde teknik liderlik bağlamında okullarında neler yaptıkları sorularak 101 maddelik madde havuzu oluşturulmuştur. Hazırlanan soru havuzu taslak olarak hazırlanmış, uygulanabilirliği için iki Ölçme Değerlendirme uzmanı, iki Eğitim Yönetimi uzmanı, bir Türkçe eğitmeni, bir Dil Bilim eğitmeni tarafından incelenmiştir. Uzmanlardan 101 maddeyi değerlendirerek ölçekte yer alması gereken maddelere uygunluk verilmesi istenmiştir. Uzmanların hepsinin uzlaştığı maddeler araştırmacılar tarafından da incelenerek, ölçek 47 madde olarak kabul edilmiştir. Daha sonra ölçek maddelerinin, seçeneklerinin ve konunun anlaşılırlığı ve cevaplanabilirliği hakkında veri toplamak için katılımcı grup arasından 30 kişiye uygulanmıştır. Ön uygulama sonrasında ölçeğin yapı geçerliliği; açımlayıcı faktör analizi yapılmıştır. Ancak açımlayıcı faktör analizinin ilk sonuçları incelendiğinde, bazı maddelerin faktör yük değerlerinin 0.40'ın altında kalması ve bazı maddelerin ise birden fazla faktörde yüksek faktör yük değerine sahip olması nedeniyle ikinci bir uzman incelemesinden sonra ölçeğin 40 madde olarak kabul edilmiştir. 40 madde olarak kabul edilen ölçeğe Varimax dik döndürme tekniği ile açımlayıcı faktör analizi yapılmış ve ölçek üç faktör yapısı altında toplanmıştır. Üç faktörlü yapıyı doğrulamak için doğrulayıcı faktör analizi yapılmıştır. Ölçeğin güvenirliğini belirlemek amacıyla Cronbach Alfa (α) iç tutarlılık katsayısı, iki yarı güvenirliği ve test tekrar test güvenirlik katsayıları hesaplanmıştır. Yapı geçerliği ve güvenirlik hesaplamalarında SPSS 20.0 programı kullanırken, doğrulayıcı faktör analizi için LISREL 8.7 programı kullanılmıştır.

Bulgular

Araştırmada, örneklemin ve elde edilen verilerin faktör analizi için uygunluğunun test edilmesi için Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) değeri ve Barlett anlamlılık değeri hesaplanmıştır. Araştırmada KMO değeri 0,96, Barlett's test sonucu ise $\chi^2=7845.15$; df=780; p<0.00 anlamlı bulunmuştur. Verilerin faktör yapısının belirlemek için açımlayıcı faktör analizinde, ölçeğin

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temel faktörlerini ortaya koymak için ölçeği oluşturan faktörlerin birbiriyle ilişkisiz olduğu varsayımından yola çıkılarak dik döndürme yaklaşımlarından en sık tercih edilen Varimax döndürme tekniği uygulanmıştır. Analiz sonrasında ölçeğin 3 faktörlü bir yapıda olduğu ve birinci faktör altındaki maddelerin yük değerlerinin .45-.88 arasında, madde toplam korelasyon değerleri ise .56-.80 değerleri arasında değiştiği, ikinci faktör altındaki maddelerin yük değerlerinin .48-.75 arasında, madde toplam korelasyon değerleri ise .57-.81değerleri arasında değiştiği ve maddelerin yük değerlerinin .44-.76 arasında, madde toplam korelasyon değerleri ise .62-.77 değerleri arasında değiştiği bulunmuştur. Ayrıca TLB ölçeğini oluşturan tüm maddelerin madde ayırıcılık güçleri hesaplanmıştır. Madde ayırıcılık güçleri hesaplanırken her bir katılımcının ölçek genelinden aldığı toplam puan hesaplanarak, büyükten küçüğe doğru sıralanmıştır. Grubun % 27'si (n=99) üst grubu, % 27'si (n=99) alt grubu oluşturmuştur. Her bir katılımcının ölçek genelinden aldığı toplam puana göre oluşturulan üst ve alt gruplar arasında anlamlı farklılığın olup olmadığı Bağımsız Gruplar ttestiyle sınanmıştır. Test sonucuna göre tüm maddelerin .01 düzeyinde anlamlı olduğu tespit edilmiştir (p=0.00). Faktör isimleri maddelerin içerikleri dikkate alınarak isimlendirilmiştir. İlk faktörde yer alan maddelerin tümüne pedagojik ve sosyal beceriler, ikinci faktörlerde yer alan maddelerin tümüne yönetimsel beceriler, üçüncü faktörlerde yer alan maddelerin tümüne ise mesleki beceriler ismi verilmiştir. Ölçeğin oluşturulan yapısının doğrulanması için DFA yapılmış ve DFA sonuçlarına göre ölçeğin uyum indeksleri mükemmel uyum gösterdiği bulunmuştur. Ölçeğin güvenirlik düzeyini belirlemek amacıyla Cronbach Alfa (α) iç tutarlılık katsayısı, iki yarı güvenirliği ve test tekrar test güvenirlik katsayıları hesaplanmıştır. Ölçeğin, iç tutarlılık katsayısı (Cronbach Alfa) .94-.95; test tekrar test güvenirlik katsayısı .80-.89; iki yarı güvenirliği de .94-.91 arasında değiştiği sonucuna ulaşılmıştır.

Sonuç, Tartışma ve Öneriler

Literatür taraması sonucunda mesleki ve teknik ortaöğretim yöneticilerinin teknik liderlik boyutunda göstermeleri gereken beceriler ile ilgili bir ölçüt olmadığı bu yüzden teknik liderlik becerileri ölçeğine ihtiyaç olduğu sonucuna varılmıştır. Buna bağlamda, CEDEFOP, NCVER yayınları, Ortaöğretim Kurumlar Yönetmeliği, alanda yapılmış çalışmalardan, bu kurumlarda yöneticilik yapan kişilerden alınan görüşler doğrultusunda mesleki ve teknik ortaöğretim yöneticilerine yönelik teknik liderlik beceri ölçeği geliştirilmiştir. Bu çalışmada genel olarak, yöneticilikte teknik liderlik becerileri ölçeğinin okul müdürlerinin yöneticilik boyutundaki teknik liderlik becerilerini ölçebilecek derecede yeterli geçerlik ve güvenirliğe sahip olduğu bulunmuştur. Sonuç olarak, ölçeğin geçerlik ve güvenirlik çalışmalarının kabul edilebilir sınırlar içerisinde çıkması nedeniyle ölçeğin mesleki ve teknik eğitim okulları yöneticilerinin, teknik liderlik becerilerini belirlemek için yapılacak araştırmalarda kullanılabileceği düşünülmektedir. Alanda mesleki ve teknik eğitim yöneticilerinin teknik liderlik becerilerini belirleyecek bir ölçeğin olmaması nedeniyle, geliştirilen ölçeğin büyük bir boşluğu kapatacağı düşünülmektedir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Mesleki ve teknik, Okul yöneticisi, Ölçek

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