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## **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

***Abstract.** Educational management and educational leadership are central concepts in understanding organizing in educational institutions but their meaning, the difference between them and their value in educational organizing remain the subject of debate. In this article, we analyze and contrast the two concepts. We conclude that educational management entails carrying the responsibility for the proper functioning of a system in an educational institution in which others participate. Carrying a responsibility of this kind is a state of mind and does not necessitate actions, though it typically and frequently does. In contrast, educational leadership is the act of influencing others in educational settings to achieve goals and necessitates actions of some kind. When those carrying a delegated responsibility act in relation to that responsibility, they influence and are therefore leading. Although educational leadership is ideally undertaken responsibly, in practice it does not necessarily entail carrying the responsibility for the functioning of the educational system in which the influence is exercised. Through our analysis, the notion of responsibility, which is underplayed in considerations of organizing in educational institutions, comes to the fore. Educational responsibility is an important notion and it should play a more prominent role in analyses of organizing in educational institutions.*

***Keywords:** educational leadership, educational management, educational administration, educational responsibility*

### **Introduction**

Educational management and educational leadership are foundational concepts in the organization of educational institutions but a lack of clarity has emerged over

time in the way they are described and used by practitioners and academics. Both concepts are subject to continuing discussion, which is made more complex by their practical and theoretical importance (Heck and Hallinger, 2005). In these debates, recent narratives on educational leadership have been favored (Bush, 2008) and the notion of educational management has become neglected, downplayed – see Lumby, (2017) for a review – and in some instances attacked (Fitzgerald, 2009). Perhaps the favoring of educational leadership and the disregard of educational management in descriptions of organizing practices in educational institutions is the way matters will develop. However, those trends and the lack of clarity around the concepts does not help research or theory development in the field. Further, the ‘fall’ of educational management underplays its importance in organizing in schools and colleges. In this article, we analyze and contrast the notions of educational management and educational leadership. As Barker (2001: 470) asserts, just as there is a need to distinguish between classical music from other musical forms, there is a ‘need to distinguish leadership from other forms of social organization, such as management’. However, our analysis shows that educational management and educational leadership are not simply different configurations of a broadly similar general form of activity, they are categorically different. Educational management in practice entails delegation, which involves being assigned, accepting and carrying the responsibility for the proper functioning of a system in which others participate in an educational institution, and implies an organizational hierarchy. ‘Carrying the responsibility’ is a metaphorical description of a state of mind and does not necessarily entail actions, though it implies them and frequently prompts them. Such actions are important in the organizational life of educational institutions (G. Bekimbetova, 2020). Educational management and educational leadership are thus conceptually different. Through our analysis, the notion of responsibility, which is underplayed in considerations of the organization of educational institutions, comes to the fore. Given its importance, ‘educational responsibility’ should feature more prominently in analyses of educational organizing. In the article, we first explore educational management, and explain where the notion of ‘educational administration’ fits into our deliberations

(G.Bekimbetova & U.Rakhimov, 2021). We then analyze educational leadership and related concepts, focusing in particular on leadership theories, models and styles. In the subsequent section, we consider the notion of educational responsibility and in the final section, we summarize the points we have made and reflect on the issues we have raised. Throughout the article, we use the term ‘educational’ in the way it is typically used, that is, to make clear the institutional context for management and leadership.

### **The essence of management**

Management and bureaucracy. The term ‘management’ is often used in relation to an organizational hierarchy, with those occupying higher (management) positions in the hierarchy having more power and responsibility than those lower down the (management) hierarchy. This view of management has its roots in Weberian bureaucracy (Bendix, 1977), and Lumby (2017) has recently drawn attention to these origins in this journal. From a Weberian bureaucratic perspective, those in lowly positions in the management hierarchy are monitored and controlled by those with higher standing, in the interests of organizational efficiency. When viewed from that standpoint it is easy to see why educational management may be viewed negatively. It has connotations of control and the dominance of those deemed to be of lower standing in the hierarchy with a focus on efficiency at the expense of institutional aims and purposes. Thus, when staff systems in schools are viewed this way, teachers would be controlled and dominated by those at higher levels, such as the head teacher/principal who is deemed to have status and privilege. Regardless of the validity of such a perspective, our interest here is not in understanding management on the basis of how those in a management hierarchy behave in relation to their colleagues but in understanding the essence of management. To do that we start with the idea of delegation, a central concept in notions of management, which we consider is key to understanding the real meaning of management. Management and delegation. Definitions of delegation typically encompass assigning the responsibility for the functioning of a system of some kind to another person, which is accepted by the other person, see for example, Mullins with Christie (2016). Importantly, such a system entails the participation, contribution and involvement

of other individuals. In the staff system in a school, these individuals would be members of the teaching staff and ancillary staff (Hawkins and James, 2017). Educational institutions are no exception to the idea of delegation; it enables them to function properly. Thus, using a secondary school in England as an example, the school governing board delegates the responsibility for the day-to-day functioning of the school to the head teacher/ principal (HT/P). Aspects of that responsibility are then delegated to others, such as the responsibility for the school's curriculum provision to the deputy HT/P, and the responsibility for the school's finance and premises systems to the school business manager. Parts of the functioning of those systems, such as the provision of the science curriculum or school finances, will be further delegated to various heads of 'department' of a range of kinds. For example, responsibility for the functioning of a teaching subject department comprising a group of teachers is delegated to a head of department. Responsibility for the school's finance system, which may include other finance staff but will also involve others in the school when they engage in financial matters, would be delegated to the school's finance manager by the school's business manager. All these different levels of responsibility are connected to educational systems of some kind, all of which involve the participation of others: the whole-school system; the curriculum provision system; subject teaching systems; and resource provision systems.

By beginning with the central concept of delegation, carrying the responsibility for the proper functioning of an educational system in which others participate in an educational institution emerges as the fundamental essence of educational management. Educational management in practice: carrying the responsibility for the functioning of an educational system of some kind What being assigned and carrying the responsibility for the functioning of a system entails in practice is relatively under-explored in educational organization theory. The focus tends to be on accountability and individuals being called to account for the functioning of the system for which they are responsible (Ball, 2008; Moeller, 2008). The relationship between the two notions in practice is complicated as Moeller (2008) points out. Being called to account in this way can only occur once the responsibility has been assigned and accepted. Thus carrying the responsibility is pre-eminent in relation to

accountability in identifying the essence of educational management. Lauermann and Karabenick (2011: 127), in a review of teacher responsibility, view responsibility as ‘A sense of internal [our emphasis] obligation and commitment to produce or prevent designated outcomes, or that these outcomes should have been produced or prevented’. Thus responsibility is a state of mind. The sense of duty and dedication is typically experienced as a burden and a weight to be carried (G.M. Bekimbetova, 2020a). Head teachers have depicted their experience of the responsibility they carry as having ‘invisible rucksacks on their backs’ (James and Vince, 2001: 312) into which others continually ‘throw rocks’, that is, add new, additional responsibilities. The state of mind portrayed by these metaphors has cognitive aspects – one knows one is responsible for the functioning of a system – and affective aspects, which are probably more important; hence the sense of the burden being carried. This affective burden results from being accountable – the expectation of being required to account to oneself and others for the functioning of the system for which one is responsible (Lenk, 1992). Accountability can have a complex relationship with responsibility in educational settings (Lauermann and Karabenick, 2011) but it is nonetheless significant. Various actions may be associated with carrying the responsibility for the functioning of a system in which others participate, as the person doing so engages in ensuring the system is functioning as it should. These actions are viewed as the practice of management. Thus standard texts, such as Mullins with Christie (2016), view management as coordinating, directing and guiding others to achieve organizational goals. Here a confusion with leadership begins to arise. These so-called ‘management’ activities inevitably influence others, and are thus leadership actions according to widely accepted definitions of leadership (Bush, 2008; Cuban, 1988; Yukl, 2002), which we discuss further below. Interestingly, even the act of assigning the responsibility for the functioning of a system to another person, which is central to our sense of understanding the essence of management, is an influencing act and therefore a leadership act. It is easy to see how educational leadership and educational management can become confused and/or conflated as one notion or used synonymously.

### **The negative view of educational management**

The negative view of educational management would appear to arise from a confusion between leadership and management in practice. When those carrying the responsibility for the functioning of a system interact with others on the basis of that responsibility, they are influencing and are therefore leading. Thus, if the (influencing) practice of those carrying the responsibility for a system is deemed uncreative; bureaucratic, which is viewed negatively (Lumby, 2017); concerned with mundane activities (Cuban, 1988); and entailing monitoring and controlling people, it is a criticism of their leadership practice, not their carrying of their management responsibility. To criticize the notion of management on the basis of the influencing activities managers may or may not engage in is inappropriate. In defense of management in educational settings, carrying the responsibility for the functioning of a system in which others participate in an educational institution is important and can be very challenging. Those doing so may carry a heavy burden and may not be given sufficient credit for it (James and Vince, 2001). The notion of management is also often associated with organizational structures that are rigid and inflexible and therefore having no place in the complex and dynamic world of an educational institution (Lumby, 2017). (G.M.Bekimbetova, 2020b) The problem here is the confusion between using management hierarchies in a normative way – that is the way schools should be organized – as opposed to an analytic way, it is a way of understanding organizational relations. Even so, there is a strong argument that a structure with specified and designated responsibilities may both provide a secure ‘containing structure’ for fully authorized actions (Dale and James, 2015) and may help to prevent the abuse of power in educational institutions (Lumby, 2017). Educational management is often considered to be concerned with organizing the status quo in educational institutions, a perspective on management which has a long history (Barnard, 1938; Bennis and Nanus, 1985; Kanter, 1983; Peters and Waterman, 1982). This perspective has negative connotations. Educational leadership, on the other hand, is about organizing change for improvement (Bush, 2008; Cuban, 1988; Hallinger, 2003) which is viewed positively. Such an assertion is, however, highly problematic in educational institutions, especially in relation to

the status quo. They are continually changing organizations characterized by high levels of interaction and therefore in a continual state of flux and change (Hawkins and James, 2017)(G.Bekimbetova, 2019). Further, an individual may carry the responsibility for the functioning of a programme that radically changes practice in a school. The change programme is a system in which others participate and the individual would carry the responsibility for its proper functioning.

### **Educational leadership theories and models**

Theories and models of leadership in organizations generally are numerous and diverse. Ladkin (2010: 15) identifies a wide range and then declares ‘the list goes on and on’. In addition to the many leadership models/theories, there are also leadership styles (Goldman, 1998), which Leithwood et al. (1999) have categorized as contingent, participative, managerial, moral, transformational and instructional in educational settings. Hallinger (2003) argues for a categorization based on the characteristics: top-down versus bottom-up; first order and second order target for change; and managerial/transactional versus transformational. Jackson and Perry (2008) succinctly offer a range of perspectives, distinguishing between leader-centred and follower-centred views. Grint (2005) proposes a ‘theories model’ but also argues that the quest for consensus on leadership models, perspectives and theories is ‘both forlorn and unnecessary’ (p.1). Generally, studies of leadership assert its importance, although some writers, for example Raelin (2016), question the very notion of leadership, but that remains a minority view and not one we are advocating here. Studies of the concept of leadership have occurred with increasing regularity in the public sector literature generally – see Chapman et al. (2016) for a review. These studies and others utilize a range of social science methodologies, but we note the (usually normative) studies employing works derived from humanities, for example, the plethora of books drawing on Machiavelli’s Prince and the sophisticated text by March and Weil (2005). The education field’s most significant contribution to this wider literature has perhaps been through distributed leadership (Bolden, 2011) Leadership theories, models and styles that have been applied in educational contexts are extensive, wide-ranging and varied (Bush and Glover, 2014; Leithwood et al., 1999) and categorizing them is a challenging endeavor.

Educational leadership as the practice of influencing others to achieve goals in an educational context can be viewed as a system, which has a purpose/rationale, requires inputs/resources, has processes, achieves outcomes and takes place in an environment/ context. This model underpins our categorization in the following subsections. The purpose of undertaking this categorization is to contrast these different aspects of leadership as influence to achieve goals with management as being assigned and carrying the responsibility for the functioning of a system in which others participate. Also, in the categorization, the importance of leading/influencing responsibly comes to the fore. Leadership theories and the purpose of the influence. Educational leadership theories in this category specify an objective, a purpose and reason, for the leadership/influence being exercised. They include learning-centred leadership (Hallinger, 2009; Southworth, 2003), where the objective is to improve student learning, and instructional leadership (Blase and Blase, 2004; Hallinger 2003; Kaparou and Bush, 2015; Southworth, 2002) where the objective of influencing activities is to enable teachers to bring about student learning. The objective of any leadership action in an educational setting is important and the quality of any such action cannot be fully evaluated unless the objective of the action is known and is included in the evaluation. Thus, for example, an experienced science teacher in a secondary school in England could tell a more junior science teacher colleague: ‘It doesn’t matter if you don’t cover the whole examination syllabus’, who then decides not to teach the full syllabus. That would be very effective leadership by the experienced teacher on the basis of the influence achieved but not on the basis of its objective. We expect teachers in the teaching staff system to influence others responsibly in order to achieve appropriate objectives. Whether or not that is the case, those leading/influencing may not carry the responsibility for the functioning of the system in which they are influencing. In the example above, that would be carried by the head of the science department. Leadership theories that describe the resources for leadership. The main body of leadership theories that describe the resources for leadership include trait theories, those that focus on an individual’s characteristics or personality and the resultant capacity to influence others. This approach emerged early in the analysis of leadership and has a long

history, from Galton (1869) to Drucker (1955) to Zaccaro, (2007). In educational leadership theories, we see the trait perspective emerging in the literature that advances the importance of the leader's values (see, for example, Sergiovanni, 1992 and Lazaridou, 2007).

The early credibility of the trait perspective was undermined by Stogdill (1948) who argued that leadership capability was heavily influenced by the context and that personality traits did not adequately predict leader effectiveness. The issue is complex, however. Personality traits and an individual's sense-making capability, which is considered by some to be 'the master trait' (James et al., 2017; Loevinger, 1976, 1987) can impact on leadership practice in schools. Further, whether a strong sense of the importance of acting responsibly in educational settings is a trait is relevant here (see Lauermaun and Karabenick, 2011). The early attraction of traits as an essential resource for influencing others is grounded in the idea that influencing others requires authority, which is, in essence, legitimate power (Woods, 2016), and that particular traits convey that requisite authority. Of course, that simple view of authority as power that is deemed legitimate in some way calls up numerous questions around what the source of power is and how it is deemed legitimate, but nonetheless it is a useful working definition. Typically, the position an individual hold in the management/leadership hierarchy of an organization, including an educational institution, confers authority. Ideally, this authority would be commensurate with the responsibility they carry, or the position-holder will have insufficient resources to influence those who participate in the system for which they are responsible (J. Shaturaev, 2021a). The authority of a member of the teaching staff of a school can be secured in non-formal ways, with power derived from a range of sources and its use legitimized in a range of ways. Whether its use, when made visible in actions (Foucault, 1980) is responsible is important here. Leadership theories and the process of leading. Theories which describe leadership processes in organizations generally are numerous (Ladkin, 2010), as they are for educational leadership (Bush and Glover, 2014). They are typically normative in nature, and examples of those that have been advocated for use in educational contexts include: servant leadership (Greenleaf, 2002); strategic leadership (Davies and Davies,

2004); invitational leadership (Egley, 2003); ethical leadership (Brown and Treviño, 2006); constructivist leadership (Lambert, 2002a); and sustainable leadership (Hargreaves, 2007). Transformational leadership (Bass, 1990) has also been widely advocated in educational settings (Leithwood and Jantzi, 1990) but not transactional leadership specifically (Bass, 1990). We consider these two leadership theories in more detail later because of their special relationship with the outcome of leadership, the change in the motivation of those being influenced. The implicit assumption in all these theories that describe the process of leading is that they are being undertaken to achieve legitimate outcomes. Further, it is quite possible for a teacher to influence their colleagues according to the principles of a leadership theory without carrying the responsibility for the functioning of the system in which they are influencing. Educational leadership theories that address the process of leading would include those that focus on who is doing the leading. Theories in this group include ‘teacher leadership’ (Muijs and Harris, 2006; Yorke-Barr and Duke, 2004). It is the teachers who are doing the influencing to achieve desired goals. Distributed leadership (Harris, 2005, 2013) and shared leadership (Lambert, 2002b), which have been widely advocated for use in educational settings, fit into this category. Here the process of influencing other teachers is the province of ‘the many’ members of the teaching system, not just ‘the few’ at the top. The implicit assumption of those advocating this approach is that the teachers – ‘the many’ – will not exceed their authority and will act responsibly when influencing their fellow teachers, and that the goals of the teachers doing the influencing are the same desired goals as those responsible for the system within the institution in which they are influencing.

The context for leadership. Over 50 years ago, Fiedler (1964) argued that leadership effectiveness depends on the environment for leadership, the context (J. Shaturaev, 2014). Three aspects of the context are significant. The first is the general level of acceptance and respect accorded to those seeking to influence. The second aspect is the degree of structure of the intended objective of the leadership influence and ‘the nature of the task’ to which it applies ‘in terms of its clarity or ambiguity’ (Fiedler, 1964: 160). The third aspect is the authority of the person

influencing. Favorable contexts for the leadership process are where all three of these aspects are at a high level. Ideally, in educational institutions, members of the teaching staff seeking to influence responsibly in relation to the context will enhance the extent to which the context is favorable for their influence. Regardless of the favorability of the environment, those influencing do not necessarily carry the responsibility for the system in which they are influencing (J. Shaturaev, 2021c). Leadership theories and the outcome of the leadership process. An outcome of all the different kinds of leadership process is the extent to which people are moved or motivated to think/feel/act in some way. This change is central to influence. Perspectives on motivation vary but it is generally considered to be the ‘the degree to which an individual wants or chooses to engage in certain specific behaviors’ (Mitchell, 1982: 84). Two kinds can be distinguished: (a) intrinsic motivation, and (b) extrinsic motivation (Be’ nabou and Tirole, 2003; Ryan and Deci, 2000). In intrinsic motivation, the task an individual is engaged in is inherently motivating. Work on it gives ‘internal rewards’, such as an enhanced feeling of doing ‘good work’, an increased sense of self-fulfillment, or a greater sense of vocational satisfaction and these intrinsic rewards drive behavior (J. N. Shaturaev & Jumaev, 2019). In extrinsic motivation, engagement on a task is driven by rationales other than the inherent value of the task, such as a tangible reward for completing it, a threat of some kind if the task is not completed, or the status accrued from performing the task. Here we argue that the distinction between the two forms relates to two important leadership theories: transformational leadership theory and transactional leadership theory (Bass, 1990). These theories require particular attention because of the different kinds of motivation they generate, and because of their significance in educational settings. Transformational leadership seeks to call up people’s inner motivation to work on an intrinsically motivating task (Piccollo and Colquitt, 2009). Transactional leadership on the other hand relies on an external stimulus. At the heart of transactional leadership is an exchange, a transaction (Miller and Miller, 2001), which seeks to engender extrinsic motivation. Interestingly and perhaps surprisingly, Leithwood and Jantzi (2005) include transactional leadership in a framework for the analysis of transformational

leadership and view it as synonymous with management practices. Transformational leadership developed in the late 20th century, partly as a response to a changing and challenging economic and technological environment (Styhre, 2014). Neoliberalism, which grew out of these social changes, *inter alia* emphasized the role of those responsible for business organizations and their leadership practices in achieving organizational success (J. Shaturaev, 2021b). This perspective extended to the public sector, especially the education sector with political leaders emphasizing the importance of education for economic success, and the necessity of improving education quality with limited resources (Hood and Dixon, 2015; Hughes, 2012; Pollitt, 2013). Hence, the need for a leadership model that inspired and intrinsically motivated the workforce – transformational leadership. Transformational leadership has been widely advocated as an appropriate model of educational leadership – see, for example, Leithwood and Jantzi, (1990) and Hallinger 2003 – although clarity around the concept has been a casualty of such advocacy. Given its link with intrinsic motivation the promotion of transformational leadership is understandable. Teaching is a vocation; people are called to do it and for them, the task of teaching will be intrinsically motivating (J. Shaturaev, 2021d). Transformational leadership can relatively easily connect with this intrinsic motivation and enhance it (J. Shaturaev, 2019). For example, the transformational leadership component ‘intellectual stimulation’ (Bass, 1990) would seek to deepen and enhance knowledge about and practice in the already engaging task of teaching. Further, because of the complex interactional nature of schools (Hawkins and James, 2017), those responsible for their proper functioning need to be able to trust teachers to act responsibly, which places a premium on intrinsic motivation, and therefore transformational leadership. Such an expectation is part of the professional practice of teachers (Lauermann and Karabenick, 2011). Interestingly, transactional motivation methods such as offering pay incentives to teachers has long been known have little effect on teachers’ motivation (Sylvia and Hutchinson, 1985), and may indeed crowd out (Sandel, 2013) teachers’ intrinsic motivation (Deci, 1971). In summary, the preceding review of the nature of educational leadership establishes it as a practice and reveals the importance of undertaking such influencing practice

responsibly. We expect responsible actions by members of staff in an educational institution. As individuals, they carry the responsibility for their own influencing actions even though they may not carry the responsibility for the functioning of an educational system of some kind in which others participate, which is the essence of educational management. In the next section, we consider the notion of responsibility in educational settings – educational responsibility.

### **The importance of educational responsibility**

Referring back to the definition offered by Lauermann and Karabenick (2011) we gave earlier, responsibility is an internal sense of obligation, not an action, although it may underpin actions. Responsibility is a multi-relational concept (Auhagen and Bierhoff, 2001) with a range of components (Lauermann and Karabenick, 2011). Lenk (1992) sets out a framework for analyzing the concept, which Lauermann and Karabenick (2011) configure into six components/questions: (a) Who is responsible? (b) For what? (c) For/to whom? (d) Who is the judge? (e) In relation to what criteria of responsibility? (f) In what realm of responsibility? In relation to the difference between educational management and educational leadership, the core distinction lies in the first and second components: who is responsible and for what? Educational management necessitates a designated individual carrying the responsibility for the functioning of a system in which others participate in an educational institution. In asserting that, we acknowledge that there are instances where this responsibility may be shared, but they are exceptions. In educational leadership, individuals are responsible for their own of leadership/influencing actions regardless of whether they carry the responsibility for the functioning of a system in which they are influencing. The notion of the realm of responsibility, the sixth component/question identified by Lauermann and Karabenick (2011), would be educational institutions. Thus the responsibility we are referring to here is educational responsibility. Interestingly, there is a growing interest in the notion of ‘responsible leadership’, especially in the corporate sector (Voegtlin, 2016). It is posited as a theory of leadership by a number of authors such as Pless and Maak (2011) and Voegtlin et al. (2012), and in that sector, perhaps unsurprisingly, it sits alongside ethical leadership (Mayer et al., 2012). Such a

perspective on educational leadership has yet to feature in the literature.

A person carrying the responsibility for the functioning of a system in an educational institution in which others participate may or may not be called to account for the functioning of the system for which he/she is responsible. Similarly, an individual member of the teaching staff carries the responsibility for their own actions influencing colleagues and may or may not be called to account for their influencing/leadership actions. It is an expectation associated with the professional nature of teaching and the individual may be called to account for their influencing actions. The obligation that these two facets of educational responsibility entail as a result of delegation and professional expectations cannot be respectively casually handed on to another or legitimately denied. In conceptualizing educational responsibility in the way we have, we are aware that the boundary between the two dimensions – responsibility for a system in which others participate in an educational institution and individual teachers carrying the responsibility for their own influencing actions – we have created a boundary. The distinction relates to management responsibility, created by delegation and professional responsibility, resulting from being a professional teacher and acting in accordance with those expectations. Professional responsibility is not delegated to individual teachers by those able to assign responsibilities in a management sense. Notions of professional accountability reflect that standpoint (Moeller, 2008). In advancing educational responsibility, we are struck by the way the rise of education leadership as a central feature of organizing in educational institutions has been not only at the cost of educational management but also at the cost of teachers as professional practitioners. A view of ‘teachers as leaders’ rather than ‘teachers as professionals’ has developed. A key feature of the professional practice of teachers is responsible action in relation to students, colleagues and the institution of which they are a part and its stakeholders.

### **Conclusion**

In this article, we have sought to consider and to contrast educational management and educational leadership. In essence, educational management/administration entails being assigned and carrying the responsibility for the proper functioning of a system of some kind in which others participate in

an educational institution. Carrying this responsibility is a state of mind not an action.

Educational leadership on the other hand is the act of influencing others in educational settings to achieve goals and thus necessitates actions. Although educational leadership is ideally undertaken responsibly, in practice it does not entail carrying the responsibility for the functioning of the system in which the influencing/leadership actions take place. When those carrying a delegated responsibility for a system in which others participate act, which they typically do, they influence others and are therefore leading. Educational management (carrying a delegated responsibility) and educational leadership (influencing others) are conceptually different, a difference that is not recognized in the literature. Through that analysis, the notion of educational responsibility comes to the fore. Educational responsibility is a significant and relatively under-utilized idea in the literature on organizing in educational institutions.

The distinction we have made between educational leadership and educational management matters for a number of reasons. It facilitates the development of theory in the organization of educational institutions and it enables organizing practices in schools to be better reflected upon, understood and improved. The distinction will help those developing their management and leadership practice through further study and participation in research-based programs – Masters and Doctoral students – to have a secure platform upon which to build their work. Finally, distinguishing between leadership and management allows the importance of educational management to be acknowledged and its status raised. What educational management entails, being assigned and carrying the responsibility for the proper functioning of a system in an educational institution in which others participate, is important. School failure is frequently blamed on a failure of leadership. We do not discount that but suggest that it could be a failure of management. This management responsibility, together with the second component of educational responsibility, professional responsibility, are foundational in the everyday operation of schools and in securing the legitimacy of schools as institutions.

We acknowledge that at times in this article, we have been working with and

rehearsing basic ideas but necessarily so to achieve conceptual clarity. We also recognize that we may have been somewhat provocative in this account, cutting across established orthodoxies and prevailing views. We welcome countervailing perspectives and wish to encourage constructive debate on the issues we have raised.

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