ABSTRACT

This study explores the co-relationship of decision-making and prior professional experiences of a headteacher in dealing with challenges in the initial years of headship in a Government Secondary School in Karachi. The purpose of the study was to understand the process of how headteacher’s decisions were informed by her prior professional experiences in coping with the challenges in the initial years of headship; and to identify the other factors that tend to influence a headteacher’s decisions. It is a case-study of a newly promoted female headteacher with twenty-nine years of teaching experience. Multiple data collection tools (interviews, observations, document analysis and reflective memos) were utilized to collect information about the inquiry.

The findings of the study explored the assumption of the study that headteacher’s prior professional experiences do influence her decision-making in the initial years of headship. Moreover, co-relation was found in: teaching and learning, leading and managing the staff, efficient and effective deployment of the staff, strategic direction and development of the school, and resources and accountability. Other factors, which tend to influence the headteacher’s decisions were found to be: pressure from high management and lack of confidence. The study has proposed recommendations and questions for further exploration.