

**PILOT STUDY: IMPORTANCE OF THE TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE DIRECTOR IN THE COMMITMENT OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN AN EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

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**ABSTRACT**

Given the new challenges ahead for this knowledge era, educational leadership is perceived as a key element for educational improvement. This construct is presented as a goal and simultaneously as a mean for other aspects to occur. Improving the current education at schools should not be a responsibility for educational leaders alone; it should also rest upon the teacher's shoulders, teacher should also be committed to change. The relationship between transformational educational leadership and teacher's commitment to change can potentially influence student engagement with schools, and therefore it can generate better academic and behavioral results.

This paper examines the effects of transformational leadership practices on organizational conditions, teachers' commitment to change and student engagement with school. For this study a survey was performed in a private school in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The survey is a combination and adaptation of two previous studies, one performed in Canada and the second one in Hong Kong. The data was used to explore the relative effects of transformational leadership practices on selected variables. The following mediating variables were used: school culture, strategies for change, school structure, and the school environment. Results indicate that transformational leadership effects are significant, albeit weak on teacher's commitment to change and student engagement with school.

**Keywords:** Transformational Leadership, Teachers' Organizational Commitment, Student Commitment.

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