

The Roles and Challenges of Educational Leaders for Sustainable Education Goals and Agenda during Movement Control Order (MCO)

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ABSTRACT

In the education sector, the sudden outbreak of Covid-19 placed immense pressure on school leaders, who were tasked with ensuring that the goals and agenda of education were maintained. Various issues and challenges have arisen in carrying out this responsibility and one of the challenges was the stumbling block posed by the Movement Control Order (MCO) due to Covid-19. This study focused on the roles of educational leaders in implementing change, as outlined by Fullan (1998) and Hall and Hord (2014), in response to the need for adaptation to the new norms during and after the MCO. Based on the literature, the roles of the educational leaders can be categorized into six (6) categories – to solve complex environmental problems, to practice effective communication, to be flexible, to apply the appropriate technology, to combine old and new concepts, and to be a facilitator of change. This study examined the roles of educational leaders and its relationship with the Covid-19 MCO issues and challenges faced by those leaders in Malaysia and the actions taken. Based on the results, several post-MCO recommendations or actions were proposed.

Keywords: Educational leaders, Covid-19, Movement Control Order (MCO), complex environment, Malaysia