Authentic Leadership in School Organizations

António Veloso Bento, Maria Isabel Barreiro Ribeiro
bento@uma.pt, xilote@ipb.pt
University of Madeira, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (Portugal)

Abstract

This research study, descriptive and exploratory in nature, had as its fundamental objectives to know the perceptions of the teacher/students of a graduation program in Sciences of Education about their leaders, measured and evaluated through the Authentic Leadership Questionnaire (ALQ) and to verify possible existing differences between the public and private school organizations in the four characteristics defined for the ALQ: a) self-awareness; b) transparency; c) moral/ethics; d) balanced processing. A not probabilistic sample by convenience consisted of 86 participants from Northern Brazil.

The results of this research study show that the level of authenticity of the leader, in the four characteristics defined for the ALQ, in the perception of the subjects inquired, is above of the moderate level. Having in account the type of school organization (public or private), the differences found in the levels of the four characteristics defined for the ALQ were not statistically significant even though, the leaders of the private schools demonstrated to possess slightly higher values in the four analyzed sub areas: self-awareness, transparency, moral/ethics and balanced processing.