

Reframing Transformational Leadership for Education and Nation Building in the Caribbean

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Educational leadership has hitherto played a subdued role within the domain of education improvement in the Caribbean. It now needs to assume a more explicit and interventionist role in that domain in order to transform educational delivery, produce better educated and skilled individuals, and place Caribbean citizens at the heart of international competitiveness. A delimitation of improvement to the teacher and local level has curtailed discourses on the critical importance of educational leadership in the arena of education and country-wide amelioration. This article examines the pivotal importance of educational leadership as an integral part of a broader transformational change programme, viz. educational improvement and economic development for nation building opportunities. The article draws on the work from three separate yet related studies, and seeks to reframe the notion of transformational leadership to encompass social justice, diversity, and spiritual values as part of leadership praxis, thus concretizing their applicability to educational leadership in the Caribbean. Traversing scholarship, research and professional practice from the USA, UK, and Caribbean, the article presents a new perspective of transformational educational leadership and innovative strategies to support leadership preparedness, applicable to the Caribbean founded on a moral imperative of social justice, spiritual values, and diversity.

Keywords: Transformational leadership, diversity, social justice, spiritual values, school improvement, Caribbean nation building

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