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Master Thesis Defense

<u>Entitled</u> THE ROLE OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS IN FOSTERING THE TEAMWORK SUCCESS IN AL AIN SCHOOLS FROM TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVES

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<u>Abstract</u>

The present study aims to explore the role of public-school principals in fostering teamwork among teachers. The study examines the leadership practices perceived by teachers, analyzed by selected demographic variables, i.e., (gender, ethnicity, and years of experience). Three questions guided this study. The first examined the perspectives of Al Ain school teachers regarding challenges that may hinder teamwork success in the school. The second identified how school teachers in Al Ain understand successful teamwork practices of principals, while the third looked into the teachers' recommendations for teamwork success regarding the role of the principals. The researcher uses descriptive statistics to analyze the quantitative items of the study using Statistics Package for Social Sciences. A sample of 334 public school teachers from Al Ain completed the online survey rating teamwork, their views regarding principals fostering teamwork, and recommendations and suggestions that could promote teamwork among school teachers. The teachers' responses to the items were analyzed on a 5 point Likert-scale. The present study enlists the working environment, lack of teachers' involvement in decision making as the leading barriers to teamwork. The findings indicate the principals usually foster teamwork but still, there is a need to take initiatives like shared decision-making involving teachers, provide administrative support, and collaborating with the teachers.

Keywords: Principals; School Leadership; Teamwork; Teachers' Teamwork.