ESTABLISHING A PROTOCOL TO OBSERVE LEADERSHIP BEHAVIORS WITHIN ENGINEERING DESIGN TEAMS

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The purpose of this study is to establish a protocol capable of identifying functional leadership behaviors in engineering design teams. The protocol was developed from an extensive literature review that included general leadership theory and researched performed on collaborative design teams. Three different raters applied the leadership protocol to a video recording of a graduate student team performing a function structure activity. The results of the study demonstrate that the protocol has a high amount of intra-rater agreement and an acceptable level of inter-rater reliability. Additionally, the pilot study revealed that clarification is required to improve rater agreement when identifying leader and follower behaviors. Finally, changes to the protocol are proposed to map leadership behaviors to the design space the team is working in and the design activities that the team is performing. Future case studies are introduced that will use the protocol to identify relationships between functional leadership behaviors and the design space and activities a team transitions through over the course of a project.

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