***ABSTRACT***

*Education is an essential need of every human being. It is said to be essential because without education, human will find it difficult to communicate formally, whether individually or as the member of a group. Human Development report 2016 recorded that the score of IPM of Indonesia is 0.689 which placed the country in the middle category in human development. In the scope of district, especially in Bumi Makmur district,the quality of education is very low. It’s based on population growth that increased significantly, lack of the school availability, inability of local government to run the regulation that concern about education, the comparison of the number of teachers and students which are not ideal, and low level of awareness of the public about the importance of education. These reasons encourage researchers to conduct research with the title* ***"THE ROLE OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL DEPARTMENT IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN BUMI MAKMUR DISTRICT, TANAH LAUT REGENCY"*** *are to know the role of the Head of the Department, supporting factors and inhibiting factors, and efforts of the Head of the department in overcoming education problems in Bumi Makmur District.*

*The research was conducted in Bumi Makmur District, Tanah Laut Regency. This research is conceptualized based on the role theory proposed by Soerjono Soekanto (2017) with descriptive qualitative research method and inductive approach.*

*The results showed that the Head of Department has not been able to give an optimal influence in improving the quality of education. Supporting factors in improving the quality of education in the form of facilities and infrastructure and human resources in quantity has not been able to compensate for inhibiting factors such as budget constraints, poor coordination, as well as programs and activities which have not achieved optimal performance. The Head Office's efforts in overcoming the problems of education is by doing interpersonal approach to the community, alert and responsive to a problem and do cooperation with other agencies in terms of improving the welfare of the community. To overcome the inhibiting factors, the researcher recommends the Head of Department to make vision and mission outside the vision and mission of the department, to create programs and activities based on the aspirations of the parents of the students, to build good communication between the internal government, to create a prevalent budget for each school regarding to the needs and priority scale , as well as conducting seminars and counseling to parents who have school-aged children.*

*Key word : Role of the Head of the Department, quality of education, education problems.*