

Factors Influencing the Provision of Guidance and Counseling Services in Secondary Schools in Entebbe Municipality

Mutungu Elias

Keywords: *Guidance, Counseling and Services*

Introduction

The study was about the factors influencing the provision of guidance and counselling services in Entebbe Municipality Secondary Schools. The study was important because counselling and guidance are key for streamlining the behaviour conduct and performance of secondary school learners.

Objectives

The objectives/ subthemes of the study included; the school-based factors for guidance and counselling services in Municipality Secondary Schools, the student-based factors favouring the presence of qualified counsellors in Municipality Secondary Schools, the teacher based factors that support guidance and counselling services in Municipality Secondary Schools and the strategies for enhancing guidance and counselling services in Municipality Secondary Schools.

Methodology

The researcher used sampling techniques such as simple random, purposive sampling and focused group discussion. This is simply because all the respondents were carefully selected following the criteria. For example school counsellors, class Teachers, school administrators, prefects and class monitors. The research study applied the following data

collection methods; Questionnaire / Survey method and focus group discussion. Also, data collection tools/instruments included; Self-administered questionnaire, data processing and data analysis packages. The researcher obtained data from 87 respondents through qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Key findings

The study found out that Schools organized counselling and guidance sessions for all their students and individual counselling sessions. The discipline and academic performance of the learners improved over time. The study revealed that there were teacher counsellors in schools but with no specific work roles except for counselling and guidance. Furthermore, there was a persistent lack of professional training. Among the strategies for enhancing guidance and counselling services in Secondary Schools in Entebbe municipality included ensuring better concentration of learners in academics, improving student to student relations, helping the learners to have realistic peer and career goals, helping the learners to become more focused on academic and discipline and others.

Key recommendations

The study recommended that there should be an advancement of educational guidance and counselling concerned with activities that are related to student's adjustment and creating a proper educational environment including vocational guidance and counselling. It further recommended that there should be a promotion of civic guidance and counselling as a process of facilitating the awareness of the dynamics of the civic society. Learners should be guided to appreciate the need to have healthy bodies. Schools need to recruit qualified counselors.

Key References

- Borrow, H. (1983), *Career Guidance for new age*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Dahir, Carol A, 2001, “The National Standards for School Counseling Programs: Development and Implementation, “ *Professional School Counseling* 4:320–327.
- Egbo, A, C (2013), *The Role of Guidance and Counseling in Effective Teaching and Learning in Schools: The Nigerian Perspective*, the European Conference on Education, Official Conference Proceeding 0392.