



Assessing career guidance in reducing school dropout in secondary schools

Dr. S. Densly

Senior Lecturer, Saint John The Baptist University, Malawi

Corresponding author email: denslyjm24@gmail.com

Abstract

Career guidance is one of the aspects that help and motivates students as it is of great importance it enhances quality of education in career value based on student's interests, abilities and passion. However, it has been found to be hindered by the factor, that it is led by teachers and at times not properly organized. Thus, teachers have been the main agents for career motivation talks in secondary. However, Malawi, a country in sub Saharan region experience a number of school dropout of which mostly come due to lack of proper career guidance and motivation from concerned people. The research used a mixed method of which qualitative and quantitative method used to assess career guidance in schools as a way of reducing drop out. The study was done in Mangochi District and the research identified that career guidance has not yield proper and adequate attention, hence has not achieved its recommendation objective upon of which to the research endorse willing and motivated staff including parents, community, and other people who excelled in life to act as guiders and also the government to recruit and give professional training course to staff concerning career guidance in reducing the rate of school dropout.

Keywords: lack of guidance, foster career guidance, interviewing, regeneration for the community

Introduction

Career guidance plays a key role in helping education systems meet their goals. It also promotes equity with recent evidence suggesting that social mobility relies on wider acquisition not just of knowledge and skills, but of an understanding about how to use them. The mission of

career guidance is widening to become part of lifelong learning. Services are already started to adopt departing from a traditional method of a psychology-led occupation interviewing students about to leave the school. Despite, the investigation carried out by researchers has shown that 70 percentages of students that receive career guidance in high school all intend to enter higher education (Euvrard, 1996).

It has been noted by researchers that lack of career guidance in schools lead to school dropout as most students lack decision making skills (UNESCO, 1998). However, ever since steps were taken in the early 1970s to have career guidance the efforts have hit a mere stone such that up to now Secondary schools in Malawi do not have the actual structures for career guidance programs for students. Among others, career guidance in countries like Malawi has been found to be profound in achieving decision making and gaining of skills.

Thus lack of career guidance would make students lose direction hence teaching and learning being a wasted effort. Furthermore, lack of career guidance has been found to lead school dropout (Ministry of Education Science and Technology, 2008) as students lack motivation. Thus, as children who are ready to take up leadership roles, teachers would be paramount in culturing a spirit of guidance, regeneration for the community. Therefore, the study wanted to understand and motivate staff including parents, community, and other people who excelled in life to act as guiders for promoting students not to dropout from schools and enable them for higher education.

Objectives of the Study

- Assess how career guidance reduces school dropouts in Secondary schools.
- To investigate on the impact of career guidance in reducing school dropout.
- To challenges uncouneted in offering career guidance in Secondary schools.
- To examine ways through which stakeholders can foster career guidance in Secondary schools.

Research Methodology

The target population of the research was students, teachers and school drop out of Mangochi district. The sample comprises two schools with the population of 40 students, 10

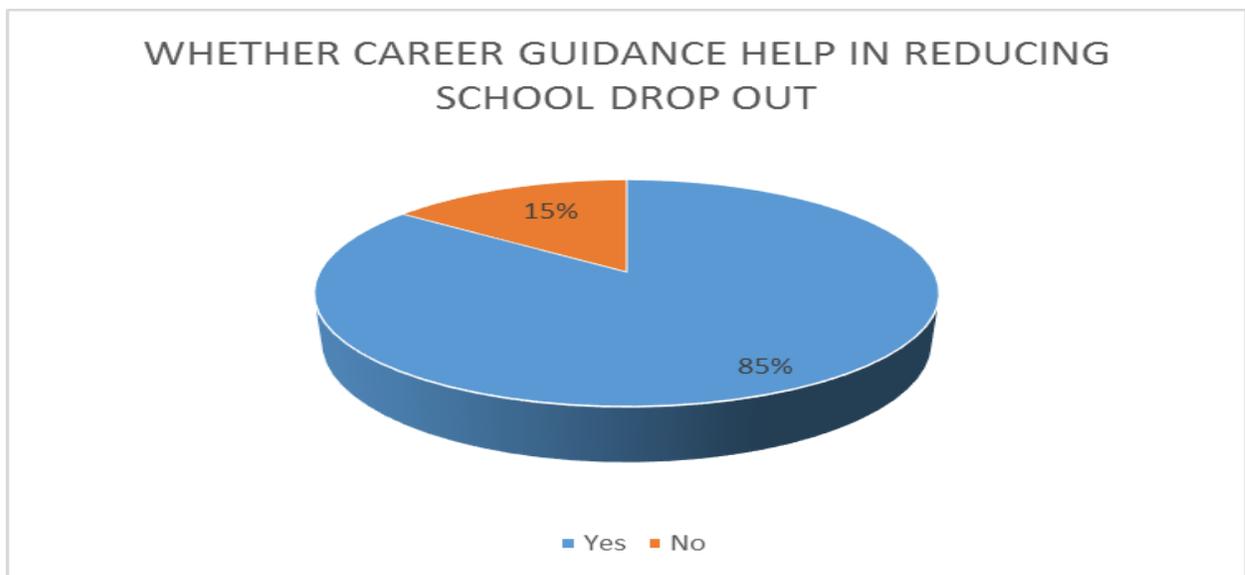
teachers and 5 drops out amounting to 55 people. The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods because several researchers advocate combining the two methods not only for the purpose of triangulation but also for the purpose of drawing from the strength of both methods since both have their own strengths and weaknesses. The descriptive design intends to assess on how career guidance can reduce school dropout in secondary school of Malawi.

Result and Discussion

The findings reveal that 27 representing 67 % understand what career guidance is all about as the way of which student are guided or trained for future whether through models or working hard whereas 13 representing 33 % do not clearly understand what career guidance is all about as one student explain as the way of life.

- The study sought to know from students how they understand the concept of career guidance

Type of Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	27	67
No	13	33
Total	40	100



The results indicate that students understand career guidance as a way of life while others they understand it as guidance for future professional.

However, UNESCO (2000) describe career guidance as the process by which an individual is assisted in the discovery, acceptance and proper use of their abilities, skills and interest in accordance with their aspiration and values. The results from the teachers have shown that unavailability of career guidance in some school makes students to be dull which results into high absenteeism and school dropout

The findings reveal that 85% stated that many of the students attain jobs as they are being trained by their correspondents. This is in line with the findings from Rose Mary (2002) who observed that career guidance is all about “acquiring knowledge, developing specific career and decision making in which gives you an impact. On the other 15% disagreed that career guidance has no impact as some students have the intention of leaving school for either marriage or business.

The study has also revealed that girls are more likely to drop out of regular school due to pregnancy and marriage; boys are more likely to drop out to seek employment.

Additionally, boys are twice as likely to drop out as girls due to behavioral difficulties (National Centre for Education Statistics, 2002). This concur with the National Dropout prevention Centre NDPC (2011) that there are numerous factor impeding learning, including pregnancy, drug abuse, illness or disability, low self-esteem and dysfunction home life.

Recommendations

- There is a need for the government to introduce career guidance in all school as a way to reduce dropout
- There is a need for government or stake holders to train teachers in the field of career guidance as a way to motivate students
- There is a need to introduce of appraisal to either teacher or students as a way of motivating them for the work done

- The need to formulate clubs and society concerned with career guidance
- There is a need to introduce specialist who can act as role models and have excelled with education as a way to motivate the students to work hard.
- Civic education must be communicated to both the teachers, parents and students for the benefit of education

Conclusion

The study has recognized that, in absence of career guidance in schools has led to increase in number of school dropout as it has led to unwanted pregnancies, early marriage, drug addiction, and malpractice. It has been found that, there is a great need from the government, stake holders, school authorities, teachers, parents and also students themselves to have a close look in career guidance as a way to reduce dropout either civic educating them of the goodness of school, introducing the club concerning career guidance, motivation to both teachers and student and also introducing topic or subject concerning career guidance in the syllabus

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