

Influence of guidance and counseling services on K.C.P.E performance of class eight pupils in public primary Schools in Kisii South sub- County, Kenya

Many pupils do not perform well in school despite the concerted efforts to push the course forward. There has been low academic performance in KCPE among class 8 pupils in Kisii South sub-county. While academic performance has been explained from many factors, it was also important to study the influence of guidance and counseling services. The purpose of the study was to determine influence of guidance and counseling services on academic performance among class eight pupils in public primary schools in Kisii South Sub-County. The research objectives were: to investigate influence of counseling services on academic achievement of class eight pupils in public primary school in Kisii South Sub-County, to find out the influence of assessment services on academic achievement among class eight pupils in Kisii South Sub-County, to determine the influence of information services on academic achievement of class pupils in public primary schools in Kisii South Sub-County and to establish the influence of placement service on academic achievement of class eight pupils in public primary schools in Kisii South Sub-County. The researcher used a concurrent triangulation design to carry out the research. Target population was 2670 class eight pupils, 500 class eight teachers, 58 head teachers and 1 QASO. A sample size of 100 class eight teachers and 300 class eight pupils, 10 head teachers and 1 QASO were selected. Pupils were sampled through simple random sampling, while 10 head teachers, 100 teachers and QASO were purposively sampled. For pupils and teachers, questionnaires were administered to collect quantitative data while head teachers and QASO officials were interviewed to obtain qualitative data. Quantitative data was analyzed through descriptive statistics while qualitative data was analyzed through thematic analysis. Validity was ensured by expert judgment by university lecturers and reliability of the instrument was checked using Cronch bar reliability test, where an index of 0.77413 was obtained. The study found out that that there was significant influence of counseling services on academic performance. It was also found that assessment services significantly influenced academic performance of class eight learners in Kisii South Sub-County. There was also a positive correlation between influence of information services and academic performance. However, there was very weak positive correlation between placement services and academic performance. The study recommends that the Ministry of Education should staff primary schools with qualified guidance and counseling personal to dedicate their services to enhance academic achievement. Teacher's counselors should provide comprehensive counseling programs to the learners in school to help them acquire more information on career choice and ways of achieving good careers.