

**THE ROLE OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
MANDERA COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The function of education is to provide opportunities for each student to reach his/her full potential in the areas of educational, vocational, social, and emotional development. The school leader must ensure that guidance is an integral part of education and that it is centered directly on this function.

The need for guidance and counseling services has been recognized in various government reports and educational commission since Kenya's independence in 1963. Development plans and policy papers have made various recommendations as regards provision of guidance and counseling in schools and colleges

We are social beings and, so in some way or other we need help and guidance of others. Mother, father, grand parents, teachers and other elders, home, school and society guide youngsters for successful living. Due to explosion of knowledge, industrialization and changes in socio-economic set up the need of professional guidance is felt in the present day society.

This study examined the role of guidance and counseling in secondary schools in Mandera County. The study population comprised of 800 students in the selected 10 schools out of the sixty schools in the County, head teachers, deputy head teachers and guidance and counseling teachers of the selected schools were randomly selected through the simple random sampling technique. The instruments that were used to collect data for the study include interview schedule, a questionnaire and personal observation. The data collected through questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics in form of frequencies and percentages. While data collected using interview schedule were audio taped and transcribed into themes, categories and sub-categories as they emerged from the data. They were analyzed using summary Tables for the purpose of data presentation and interpretation. The findings show that guidance and counseling was minimally used in secondary schools in Mandera County. Punishments especially corporal punishment was widely used to solve disciplinary cases in all schools. It was however; found that there were no policy guidelines from the Ministry of Education on how the schools could use guidance and counseling to manage and assist the student. Based on the findings, it was recommended that Ministry of Education should provide policy guidelines on the