International Journal of Innovative Education Research 10(4):66-71, Oct.-Dec., 2022

© SEAHI PUBLICATIONS, 2022 www.seahipaj.org ISSN: 2354-2942

Problems of Guidance and Counselling Services in Secondary Schools in Andoni Local Government Area in Rivers State

Dimkpa Chioma Ann; *Ukoima, Nkalo Ruth & Dick Agnes Mina

Department of Educational Foundations,
Faculty of Education
Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
***Corresponding Author's E-mail Address: ukoimaruth@gmail.com**

ABSTRACT
The study examined problems of guidance and counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. To achieve the purpose of the study, the researcher formulated 3objectives, 3 research questions and 3 null hypotheses to guide the study. The study made use of descriptive survey design. The population of the study consists of 1,436 SS2 students in Andoni Local Government Area Rivers State. The sample size is 480 students. The instrument is self-structured questionnaire. The data gathered were analyzed using mean and standard deviation for the research questions while the null hypothesis was tested using z-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance. Based on the data analysis, the findings of the study revealed that time allocation for counselling on the school time table was a serious problem for guidance and counselling services in schools in Andoni Local Government Area. Again the study showed that inadequate facilities for counsellors to work with was another problem of counselling in schools in Andoni and finally inadequate number of counsellors in schools in Andoni Local Government Area. However, the researcher recommended that the government and school administrators should make effort to ensuring that qualified counsellors are employed to secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area, the school administrators should ensure that counselling is allocated on the school time table and finally, the school counselling units should be well equipped for effective counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area.
Keyword: Problems, student's guidance and counselling.

INTRODUCTION

Counselling services are essential elements in discipline and management of people which includes students in our society. It could be difficult for any society to function well without the exercise of discipline (UNESCO, 2016). Guidance and counselling services are based on the fact that everybody needs help at one time or the other. This help should be rendered unconditionally with empathic understanding and free atmosphere. Again these services promote the personal-social planning and programming for students with special skills that help to achieve the goals needed in the school setting (UNESCO & 2016). Guidance and Counselling Services are considered to be initiatives that have the primary objective of making available information and skills to impact self-awareness and optimal use of the student's potential for holistic growth and development. In schools, students need guidance and counselling services to perform well academically and to solve their social and emotional challenges as well as their career placement.

Counselling is a method of behaviour change. School guidance and Conselling programme have therefore been introduced to assist students overcome the number of challenges they experienced at home and at the school. Nyamwange, (2015) states that because of many pressures imposed on the family, parents tends to have little time with their children to give them the necessary guidance. According to Mushaandja (2016) counselling involves two individuals one seeking help and the other

a professionally trained person who would help and direct the client solves problems and make him achieve his goals which will lead to his maximum development and growth.

Also one of the main vehicles to facilitate balanced educational reforms of the present century is guidance and counselling services. According to Modo; Sanni; Uwah and Mogbo (2018). Guidance and Counselling is one of the educational services that promote the effectiveness of the educational system goals attainment and guiding learners through the learning process. Guidance and Counselling Services have suffered a lot of problems in Andoni Local Government Area (Usman, 2018).Some of the problems include that of poor perception of the counsellor by the school administrators and teachers, lack of provision for the counselling in the curriculum of all levels of education and supervision at all levels, inadequate responsibility of running such a programmed.

Inadequate time was the greatest problem in the implementation of the Guidance and Counselling Services in secondary schools. School time table does not make provision for Guidance and Counselling Services. According to Low (2019) he stated that any form of formal guidance and counselling services with professional counsellors should focus towards the requirement of the students. Lack of funding is another setback to guidance and counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. Funding is a general phenomenon in the education industry, it is killing the system. Kolo (2017: 22) asserted that most unfortunate aspect of educational development in Nigeria is the thwarted approach to funding the system.

Inadequate Number of Qualified Counsellors: especially in the schools in Andoni Local Government Area, the shortage for qualified counsellors has for long posed a threat to establishing the counselling process. The few who are available are being heavily saddled with the roles and duties of teachers so that performing their duties as counsellors becomes difficult. Effiom (2011) argued that an effective counselling process can only be established when there is a balance in counsellor to client ratio. The implication of this is that, when the available counsellors are burdened with too much responsibility than they can handle at a time, this will tend to make the counselling process ineffective.

Inconducive Environment: The counselling process strives better when there is a conducive environment. Accordingto Ebenuwa-Okoh 2012). The counselling process should be carried out in a threat-free and serene setting to enhance the client's response to the process, in the absence of a conducive environment, the counselling will be ineffective and the counsellor will be hindered from achieving the objective of counselling which is to assist the client to actualize his full potentials. Overcoming the challenges of the counselling process will call for a collective effort towards talking necessary action from all parties and stakeholders of the counselling process which includes the government, administrators, teachers, clients and counsellors.

Statement of the Problem

The process of building and maintaining an ideal helping relationship between the client and counsellor is a task not devoid of challenges this can be overcomed by the administrators, teachers, clients and counsellors. Therefore this study is geared towards the problems of Guidance and Counseling Services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the problem of inadequate time allocation for counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area.
2. To determine the problem of inadequate facilities for counselling in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area
3. ToFind out the problem of inadequate counsellors in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area

Research Questions

The following research questions were poised and answered to obtain the finding of the study.

1. How does inadequate time allocation for counselling a problem to Guidance and Counselling Services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area.
2. How does inadequate facilities for counselling a problem to Guidance and Counselling Services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area.
3. How does inadequate number of counsellors a problem to Guidance and Counselling Services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study.

1. There is no significant difference between male and female students on inadequate time allocation as a problem of Guidance and Counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area.
2. There is no significant difference between male and female students on the problem of inadequate facilities for guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area.
3. There is no significant difference between male and female students on the problem of shortage of counsellors and guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher adopted the descriptive survey design to ascertain the problems of Guidance and Counselling Services inSecondary Schools in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. The design was useful because it helped the researcher to elicit information from the respondents. According to Wimmer and Dominick (2011), population is a group, subjects, variables, concepts or phenomena within the area of the scope of the research study consist of 1,436 senior Secondary School Students in Andoni Local Government Area.

The study makes use of the sample random sampling technique to select a sample size of 480 students. Structured questionnaire was used for collecting data for the study. The questionnaire was divided into four sections. Section selection B deals on the respondents, on the subject matter. The questionnaire was designed after elaborate study of materials reviewed in the literature. The likert type four (4) points scale was used as shown; Strongly Agree (SA) =4, Agree (A) -3, Disagree (1) =2, Strongly Disagree (SD) =1.Data Analysis. The data collected was analyzed using mean score and standard deviation while the null hypothesis was tested using z-test at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: *How does inadequate time allocation for counselling as a problem of Guidance and Counselling Services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Area?*

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation/Analysis on Time Allocation as Problem of Guidance and Counselling Services in Secondary Schools in Andoni Local Area

S/N	QuestionnaireItems	Male Student – 180			Female Student – 300		
		Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark
1	The school time – table does not make provision for guidance and counselling services in Secondary Schools in Andoni Local Government Area.	2.89	0.85	Accept	2.95	0.86	Accept
2	The School have no suitable space and time for guidance and counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni local Government Area	2.86	0.83	Accept	2.86	0.84	Accept
3	The school heads do not recognised the importance of guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area	2.83	0.84	Accept	2.82	0.84	Accept
	Grand Total	**2.84**	**0.84**		**2.89**	**0.85**	

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The analysis on table 1 revealed that the respondents accepted that the school timetable does not make provision for guidance and counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area in Rivers State. The analysis also indicated that the respondents accepted that the schools in Andoni Local Government Area do not have suitable space and time for guidance and counselling services. Again the respondents accepted that the heads of schools do not recognize the importance of guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area.

Research Question 2: *How does inadequate facilities for counselling a problem to guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area?*

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation /Analysis on Inadequate Facilities a Problem of Guidance and Counselling Services in Secondary Schools in Andoni Local Government Area.

S/N	Questionnaire Items	Male Student – 180			Female Student – 300		
		Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark
1	The school counselor uses the staff room for counselling	2.86	0.84	Accept	2.91	0.85	Accept
2	The school counselling has no special chair and table for which she could carry out her duties	2.83	0.84	Accept	2.95	0.86	Accept
3	The space for counselling has facilities like mirrow Shelves computers, etc	2.94	0.86	Accept	2.99	0.86	Accept
	Grand Total	**2.90**	**0.85**		**2.96**	**0.86**	

The data analysis in table 2 indicated that the respondents accepted that the schools counsellor uses the staff room for counselling. The analysis also showed that the respondent agreed to the fact the school counsellor has no special furniture for her to be comfortable in carrying out her duties. The analysis again revealed that the space for counselling has no facilities like mirrow, shelves, computers etc.

Research Question 3: *How does inadequate counsellors a problem to guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area?*

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation Analysis on Inadequate or Shortage of Counsellors a Problem to Guidance and Counselling in Andoni Local Government Area.

S/N	Questionnaire Items	Male Student – 180			Female Student – 300		
		Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark
1	The teachers perform the duties of the professional counsellor	2.83	0.84	Accept	2.91	0.85	Accept
2	The few counsellors in your schools are saddled with the roles and duties of a teacher.	2.72	0.82	Accept	2.86	0.84	Accept
3	There are always too many clients for the few counsellors in your schools to handle effectively.	2.75	0.83	Accept	2.93	0.85	Accept
	Grand Total	**2.74**	**0.83**		**2.91**	**0.85**	

The analysis on Table 3: showed that the respondents accepted that point that teachers perform the duties of the professional counsellors. The table still revealed that the respondents agreed that counsellors are saddled with the roles and duties of a teacher. The table finally showed that the respondents accepted that there are always too many clients for the counsellor to handle at a time and the counsellor is ineffective.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between male and female students on inadequate time allocation as a problem of guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area.

Table 4: z-test Analysis of Significant Difference between Male and Female Students on Inadequate Time Allocation for Counselling as Problem of Guidance and Counselling Service.

Status	N	Mean	SD	DF	z -cal	z -crit	Decision
Male Students	180	2.84	0.84				
				478	1.29	1.96	Accepted
Female Students	300	2.89	0.85				

The analysis on Table 4 revealed that the z-cal of 1.29 is less than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance since it is smaller than z-critical. Therefore, hypothesis is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the male and female students on inadequate time allocation for counselling as problem of guidance and counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between male and female students on inadequate facilities for guidance and counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area?

Table 5: z-testAnalysis of Significant Difference between Male and Female Students on Inadequate Facilities for Counselling Services

Status	N	Mean	SD	DF	z -cal	z -crit	Decision
Male Students	180	2.90	0.85				
				478	1.24	1.96	Accepted
Female Students	300	2.99	0.86				

The analysis on table 5 indicated that the z-cal of 1.24 is less than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance since it is less than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, hypothesis 2 is accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female students on inadequate facilities for counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference between male and female students rating on shortage of counsellors as a problem of guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area.

Table 6: z-test Analysis of Significant Difference between Male and Female Students on the Shortage of Counsellors in Andoni Local Government Area.

Status	N	Mean	SD	DF	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
Male Students	180	2.74	0.83				
				478	1.39	1.96	Accepted
Female Students	300	2.91	0.85				

The analysis on the table 6 showed that the z-cal of 1.39 is less than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statically significant at 0.05 level of significance since it is less than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, hypothesis 3 is thus accepted and concluded that there is no significant difference between the male and female students on the shortage of counsellors as a problem of guidance and counselling services in Andoni Local Government Area.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study on research question 1 revealed that time for counselling was not allocated on the school time table in schools in Andoni Local Government Area. This finding is in line with the study carried out by Kabiru (2020), who observed that inadequate time allocation for counselling is a major problem of guidance and counselling services. The findings indicated that the respondents agreed on the view that inadequate time allocation for counselling is a measure problem in guidance and counselling services. The findings also indicated that the respondents agreed that the schools have no suitable time and space for counselling. It was also observed from the table that the respondents accepted that the school heads do not recognize the importance of counsellors in Andoni Local Government Area. The study in research question 2 showed that there were inadequate facilities for guidance and counselling services in secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area.

The findings on research question 3 revealed that there were inadequate number of counsellors in schools in Andoni Local Government Area. This finding is in line with the study carried out by Ukoima (2018), who noted that educational counselling can improve students' academic performance in Rivers State. The findings also indicated that the respondents accepted that the few counselors in schools are saddled with the roles and duties of the teacher. Also respondents agreed to the fact that clients are usually too many for the counsellors to attend to all of them.

CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded that inadequate time allocation for counselling in schools can have adverse effect of the students' performance and wellbeing. Also inadequate facilities for counsellors to work with is another problem. Finally shortage of counsellors to work in schools is another major problem in the secondary schools in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings the following recommendations were made:-

1. The Government and school administrators should make deliberate efforts in ensuring that qualified counsellors are employed to all schools in Andoni Local Government Area.
2. The school administrators should ensure that counselling is allocated time on the school time table.
3. Government and school management should ensure that counselling units in all schools in Andoni are well equipped with facilities that can enhance counselling processes also office spaces should be provided for counsellors and client.

REFERENCES

Ebenuwa – Okon, E.E (2012). Counseling environment as predictor of guidance practice. Effectiveness in Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme. *Educational Research and Review, 7(6), 133 – 137.*

Effiom, D.D (2011). *Programme development in guidance and counselling*. Calabar, Nigeria: University of Calabar press

Effiom, D.D & Effiom D.D (2021). The Nigerian counsellor in the 21ST Century: Counselling Service Delivery, (in, The Nigerian Counsellor in the 21ST Century. P324. Benin city: Ambik press.

Kabiru, B. (2020). Problems and prospects of Guidance and Counselling Services in Secondary Schools in Jigawa *State, Kano Journal of Educational Psychology, 2(2), 2736 – 1365*

Kolo, I.A (2017). *Reforms in the Nigerian Education System*, which way forward? A review, Nigeria.

Low, P.K. (2019). Considering the Challenges of Counselling practice in schools. *International journal Advan, Counsel 3(1) 71 – 74*

Modo, F., Sann, K., Uwah, C. & Mogbo, 1. (2018). Guidance and Counselling Services in Secondary School as coping strategy for improved Academic performance of students in Akwa – Ibom State, Nigeria. *Journal of Research on humanities and social sciences, 3(4), 43 - 47*

Mushaandja, J. H (2016). Major challenges facing teacher counselors in schools in Namibia. *Educational journal, 2(3), 77 – 78*

Ukoima, N.R (2018). Influence of education counselling on the academic performance of primary school pupils in Rivers State. International journal of innovative education Research,6(2), 40 – 48

UNESCO (2017). New roles and Challenges for Guidance and Counselling. lAC.