

Career Guidance Seminar

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1.0 Introduction

This is a report which gives an overview of a career guidance seminar that was organized for secondary school students in Kajiado North District of Kenya. The report is organized according to the following sub-headings: preparation of the seminar, venue, seminar proceedings and outcome.

1.1 Seminar Preparations

The facilitator established contact with the principal of St. Augustine Ombmor High School located at Ongata Rongai in Kajiado North District. This was to explain the aim of the seminar on career guidance. This was after establishing that a good number of students have no idea of what career they want to pursue in life. The number of the participants was also noted.

In order to cover for traveling, communication, resource preparation and service costs the school was asked to give five thousand. The head teacher agreed to organize for the venue and other logistics. The date was set as well.

The facilitator prepared the seminar notes based on the objectives of the seminar theme. Necessary teaching and learning resources were also gathered.

1.2 Venue

A career guidance seminar was held at St. Augustine Ombmor High School on Friday, February 4th 2011.

1.3 Seminar proceedings: Career guidance

1.3.1 Introduction

The seminar started with a word of prayer from form 4 class representative. Upon completing the prayers, the principal introduced the theme of the day and the facilitator of the day, Mr. Alex.

The facilitator opened with a light note by asking the students to introduce one another. Some students found it hard to introduce their fellow students (which attracted laughter from other students). The presenter explained that lack of proper career guidance could lead to confusion of careers just as some are confused about the identity of their fellow students.

1.3.2 Objectives

The speaker introduced the specific objectives of the seminar:

- a) To facilitate student's potentials to equip them with functional knowledge, values and attitudes, desirable habits and skills needed by them to cope up with the changes in their environment.
- b) To help students in coming up with personal career goals
- c) To enlighten students on various career opportunities
- d) To assist students in discovering their strengths

1.3.3 Activities

The speaker introduced the activities students are to engage in order to achieve the set objectives. These activities were presented using group discussion method.

1.3.3.1 Group discussion

Each group was made up of ten (n=10) members. In total there were 8 groups. Each of the group was presented with some tasks. The facilitator asked them to discuss the items and present their findings. Each task was allocated time depending on activities involved.

Table 1: Tasks assigned to students

No.	Task	Time
a)	Discuss about various career opportunities available in Kenya and note them down	15
b)	Note personal career goals and discuss them with the rest of the group members	30
c)	Stick papers on one another's back and note each ones strengths	30

1.3.3.2 Group Presentation

After discussions, the facilitator asked each group, through their representative to present the findings. The presentation was made based on each of the assigned tasks. The key emerging points were noted.

1.3.4 Facilitator's Presentation

Following the group presentations, the facilitator made his presentation on each of the discussed area as the students noted. Regarding making career list, the students were instructed to:

- a) Look over the lists of occupations generated through the use of the self assessment tools.
- b) Come up with a much shorter list, consisting of between 5 – 10 occupations.
- c) Circle occupations that you qualify mostly depending on your strengths (for instance based on your Form Four Performance in various subjects).
- d) Write these occupations down on a separate list titled "Careers to Explore.
- e) For each occupation on your list, look at the job description, educational and other requirements, advancement opportunities, and earnings.
- f) Gather more information about these occupation from career counselors o
- g) Identify and conduct informational interviews with people who are well conversant with your career of your choice.

1.4 Outcome of the Seminar

The students who participated in the study were able to:

- a) Set career goals
- b) Narrow down the list of the careers based on their strengths
- c) Set career plan: about what they want to pursue to in higher education.

The school management agreed with the facilitator to make a follow up of students' career development as they prepare themselves for tertiary and university level education.

1.5 Final Remarks

The facilitator made the following final remarks regarding career development:

Career development is a gradual process. It takes time, effort, perseverance and planning. But the concept of career development begins with self development. If you can't develop yourself, there is no question of your career developing at a desired pace. Thus, as counselors, parents, teachers, friends continue to expose you to different career paths, the final choice is YOURS.

Reference

Wanjohi, A.M. (2011). *Career Guidance Seminar*. KENPRO Online Publications. Available online at <http://www.kenpro.org/papers/career-guidance-seminar.htm>

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