

**THE ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNSELLORS IN SUPPORTING TEACHING AND
LEARNING IN SCHOOLS OF SKILLS IN THE WESTERN CAPE**

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THE ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNSELLORS IN SUPPORTING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN SCHOOLS OF SKILLS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

KEYWORDS

Education Support

Educational Psychologist

Learner Development

Learning Support

Roles

School Counsellor

School Development

School Psychologist

Student Development

Teacher Development

Teaching and Learning

ABSTRACT

THE ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNSELLORS IN SUPPORTING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN SCHOOLS OF SKILLS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Current debates in education and education support focus on the importance of schools needing to facilitate the holistic development of learners and also ensuring the achievement of educational objectives. This study focused on the need for counsellors to support teaching and learning in Schools of Skills and investigated challenges that emerged when school counsellors facilitate school development.

The research question which framed this study was, what is the role school counsellors play in supporting teaching and learning and school development?

A mixed methods approach that employed both qualitative and quantitative techniques was adopted in an attempt to construct a rich and meaningful picture of school counselling practice within School of Skills. Participants included principals, counsellors and educators at four schools of skills situated in the Western Cape. The data collection process included interviews and questionnaires. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with the four principals and the four school counsellors and questionnaires including both open-ended and closed questions were completed by educators.

The findings illuminate the psycho-social barriers experienced by learners and how school counsellors can support learners. Roles of school counsellors are varied and involve the provision of support to various members of the school community in addition to teaching and administration. Challenges faced by school counsellors were highlighted as lack of human resources, lack of support and workload. The recommendations are presented as suggestions for consideration at various levels in the system, from micro (level of the individual) to macro (level of the state).

DECLARATION

I declare that *The Role of School Counsellors in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools of Skills in the Western Cape* is my own work, that it has not been submitted for any degree or examination in any other university, and that all the sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by complete references.

Diane Daniels

Nov 2013

Signed.....

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

DBST - District Based Support Team

DEC – Department of Education and Culture

DoE – Department of Education

ELSEN - Education of Learners with Special Educational Needs

ESS – Education Support Services

EST - Education Support Team

ILST - Institution Level Support Team

NEPI – National Educational Policy Institute

NCESS – National Council for Education Support Services

NCSNET – National Commission on Special Needs in Education and Training

SADTU – South African Democratic Teacher’s Union

SBST - School Based Support Team

SMT - School Management Team

TST - Teacher Support Team

WCED - Western Cape Education Department

EWP6 – Education White Paper 6

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1 Schools of Skills in the Western Cape

Table 4.1 Psycho-social barriers affecting teaching and learning at Schools of Skills

Table 4.2 Roles of school counsellors at Schools of Skills

Table 4.3 Educators' perceptions of the challenges school counsellors face at Schools of Skills

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework

Figure 2.2 Conceptual Framework for the study

Figure 3.1 Age of respondents

Figure 3.2 Number of years of teaching experience of educators

Figure 3.3 Number of years that educators are at school

Figure 3.4 Levels being taught by educators

Figure 3.5 Data analysis procedure

CONTENTS

KEYWORDS	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
DECLARATION	iv
PLAGIARISM DECLARATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
LIST OF ACRONYMS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background	1
1.2. Context of School of Skills	3
1.3. Problem Statement	5
1.4. Research Aims, Objectives and Questions	6
1.5 Significance	6
1.6. Rationale	7
1.7. Theoretical Framework	7
1.8. Research Design and Methodology	8
1.9. Outline of the Thesis	10
	x

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	12
2.1 Theoretical Framework	12
2.2 Conceptual Framework	17
2.2.1 School of Skills	18
2.2.2 School Development	19
2.2.3 Teaching and Learning	20
2.2.4 School Counselling	20
2.3 History and Development of School Counselling	21
2.4 School Counselling in South Africa	23
2.4.1 Defining School Counselling	23
2.4.2 Training in School Counselling in South Africa	24
2.4.3 Roles and Functions of School Counsellors	25
2.4.4 Policy influencing School Counselling in South Africa	29
2.5 Teaching and Learning	31
2.5.1 School Counsellors Supporting Teaching and Learning	31
2.5.2 The Influence of Counselling on Teaching and Learning	32
2.5.3 Barriers to Teaching and Learning	33
2.6 School Counsellors Supporting School Development	34
2.7 Challenges Facing School Counsellors	36
2.8 Conclusion	37

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	38
3.1 Aims and Research Questions	38
3.2 Research Design	39
3.3 Research Paradigm	40
3.4 Research Sites	41
3.5 Participants	43
3.6 Data Collection Procedures	45
3.6.1 Interviews	46
3.6.2 Questionnaires	47
3.6.3 Data Collection Process	48
3.7 Data analysis	50
3.8 Reflexivity	55
3.9 Trustworthiness of the Data	53
3.10 Ethical Considerations	54
3.11 Conclusion	56
CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION OF RESULTS	57
4.1 Barriers to Learning that are Responsible for the need for School Counsellors to support Teaching and Learning	58
4.1.1 Psycho-social Barriers in Schools of Skills	58
4.1.1.1 Social Barriers	59

4.1.1.2 Poverty	60
4.1.1.3 Substance Abuse	60
4.1.2 Behavioural Problems	61
4.1.2.1 Disruptive Behaviour	62
4.1.3 Scholastic Barriers	63
4.1.3.1 Academics	63
4.1.3.2 Absenteeism	64
4.2 The roles school counsellors are currently playing at Schools of Skills	65
4.2.1 Learner Support	67
4.2.2 Teacher Support	68
4.2.3 Parent Support	69
4.2.4 School Development	69
4.3. Challenges facing school counsellors in Schools of Skills	71
4.3.1 Human Resources	72
4.3.1.1 Lack of Counselling Time	72
4.4 Supervision	73
4.4.1 Lack of Support from District and Senior Management	73
5. Summary and Conclusion	74
CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	75
5.1. Psycho-social barriers experienced by learners in Schools of Skills	75

5.1.1 Social Barriers	77
5.1.2 Behaviour Barriers	79
5.1.3 Scholastic Barriers	79
5.2 The roles school counsellors are currently playing in Schools of Skills	80
5.3 The role of school counsellors in supporting Teaching and Learning	82
5.4 The role of the school counsellor in School Development	83
5.5 Challenges facing school counsellors in Schools of Skills	84
6. Limitations of the Study	85
7. Conclusion and Recommendations	85
8. Suggestions for further Research	88
REFERENCES	89
APPENDICES	96
APPENDIX I: Permission to conduct research	96
APPENDIX II: Letters for principals	97
APPENDIX III: Letters for school counsellors	98
APPENDIX IV: Letter for Educators	99
APPENDIX V: Consent form for principals	100
APPENDIX VI: Consent form for school counsellors	101
APPENDIX VII: Consent form for educators	102
APPENDIX VIII: Questionnaires for educators	103
APPENDIX IX: Interview questions for principals	107
APPENDIX X: Interview questions for school counsellors	108