

## Evaluating the Impact of School Career Guidance and Counseling on Subject Choice Among Rural Students: A Case Study of X High Schools in Guizhou

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### Abstract

*Providing rural youngsters with high-quality career support and counselling in school is crucial. The purpose of this study was to explore how school-based vocational help and counselling programs affect topic choices for rural students in Guizhou's X High Schools. Guizhou has a large rural population. Our study examines the multiple elements that affect rural students' subject choices. A thorough review of these educational efforts and their results is helping us achieve this. We want to examine how career counselling and counselling practices at X High School affect students' academic selections and professional goals. This will be done by examining these approaches. This study examined students' and instructors' opinions and experiences in these programs using interviews, questionnaires, and qualitative analysis. This study provides important insights into the effectiveness of career advising and counselling in rural educational contexts for educational policymakers and practitioners seeking to improve rural student outcomes. This study adds to the body of knowledge on how school-based career assistance and counselling affect rural adolescent topic choices. This underlines the need to personalize these programs to rural residents' needs and goals. This will help these youngsters make better academic and professional decisions.*

**Keywords:** School Career Guidance, Subject Choice, Rural Students, Guizhou Case Study.

### 1. Introduction

Education possesses the capacity to exert a substantial influence not only on the life paths of individuals but also on the broader political and economic environments of communities and nations (Pavel & Isak, 2022). Placing a significant focus on education, particularly in rural regions, is essential to address opportunity disparities and provide equitable access to opportunities for all children (Billmeyer et al., 2020). The focus of educational attention in the Chinese province of Guizhou, situated in the southwestern section of the country, is on the academic experiences of students hailing from rural regions who are now enrolled in X High Schools (Xiaoliang, 2019). To enhance educational outcomes and facilitate personal and regional growth, it is important to comprehend the impact of school career guidance and counselling on students' decision-making process on their academic pursuits (Crisan-Tausan, 2020). The Influence of School-Based Guidance and Counseling on Students Within the realm of education in rural regions, the provision of career guidance and counselling assumes a crucial role as indispensable tools that empower students to get the requisite information for making

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informed decisions regarding their academic and professional pathways (Arumugam et al., 2021; Van Hai et al., 2022). These activities assume a heightened significance inside the X High Schools of Guizhou, as these schools are situated in a predominantly rural region (Wu et al., 2019). The choices made by students residing in rural locations about their academic pursuits might significantly influence the range of opportunities and trajectories accessible to them (Mgqwashu et al., 2020).

This study examines the dynamics of school career assistance and counselling programs within the context of X High Schools in Guizhou. The objective of this study is to examine the impact of career counselling on the academic pursuits of students enrolled in educational institutions situated in rural regions. This will be achieved via an analysis of the strategies and methodologies currently employed in these institutions. Our research aims to elucidate the many factors that influence these decisions and, ultimately, the prospects of these students through the implementation of interviews, questionnaires, and qualitative research methods. The examination of how career advising and counseling programs may effectively meet the needs and aspirations of rural students holds great importance in a rapidly evolving world, where education plays a pivotal role in driving progress and growth. Education plays a crucial role in fostering advancement within this particular context. The primary objective of this study is to provide valuable insights to educational authorities, educators, and stakeholders, aiming to enhance the educational experiences and achievements of rural students attending X High Schools in Guizhou.

## **2. Methodology**

A comprehensive investigation was conducted to examine the impact of school career advice and counselling on topic selection among rural students attending X High Schools in the province of Guizhou (Mohebbi et al., 2021). This investigation employed a rigorous and multi-faceted approach, encompassing a thorough review of pertinent literature and the collection of empirical data (Aithal & Aithal, 2020). The research started with a thorough examination of existing literature about career guidance and counselling, with a specific focus on the intersection of these subjects with rural education (Xue et al., 2021). The literature review played a crucial role in our study, providing a foundation for identifying key concepts, theories, and effective strategies in the domain of career guidance and counselling specifically in rural areas (Verdugo-Castro et al., 2021). To facilitate the completion of the literature review, a systematic approach was adopted, involving comprehensive searches across many reputable academic databases (Gusenbauer & Haddaway, 2020). The databases utilized in this study were Scopus, Web of Science, IEEE Xplore, and Google Scholar. The selection of these databases was based on their comprehensive coverage across many academic areas, therefore guaranteeing users access to up-to-date and high-quality research.

The used methodology involved the meticulous selection of a set of words and phrases, including "school career guidance," "counselling for rural students," "subject selection," and "rural education in Guizhou (Çetin, 2021)." The objective was to gather a diverse array of pertinent resources that were specifically tailored to the unique circumstances of rural education in the X High Schools of Guizhou (Guo et al., 2020). The research conducted had two main components an extensive examination of the current body of literature, followed by an empirical phase dedicated to collecting primary data on the impact of career aid and counselling on the selection of topics among students residing in rural areas. The employed methodology was empirical, including a blend of interviews and questionnaires administered to both students and instructors inside the chosen high schools (Daliri et al., 2021). Throughout the interviews, the participants were queried on their encounters with career guidance and counselling, the factors that impact their choices of subjects, and their anticipated trajectories for the future (Ma & Shea, 2021). Simultaneously, interviews were conducted with instructors to acquire a more

comprehensive understanding of the techniques and procedures employed in delivering career aid and counselling to students residing in rural areas (Verdugo-Castro et al., 2021).

Questionnaires were administered to a representative sample of students to gather quantitative data on their topic selections and the extent to which career aid and counselling influenced their decision-making process (Olmos-Gómez et al., 2021). The surveys provided further information to the qualitative data obtained via interviews. During the literature review phase, an initial pool of research papers and articles exceeded 1,000. However, we maintained strict criteria to select the most pertinent sources for our research. Included papers needed to have employed qualitative and/or quantitative research methodologies, ensuring the reliability and validity of their findings. Our research exclusively considered papers published in peer-reviewed academic journals, underscoring the scholarly robustness of the studies. After a thorough evaluation, we identified 47 research papers that met our stringent criteria. These papers formed the backbone of our research, providing diverse insights and perspectives into the interplay between career guidance and counselling and subject choice among rural students in Guizhou's X High Schools. The schematic representation of our methodological journey can be found in Figure 1, delineating the path we followed to curate the research literature.

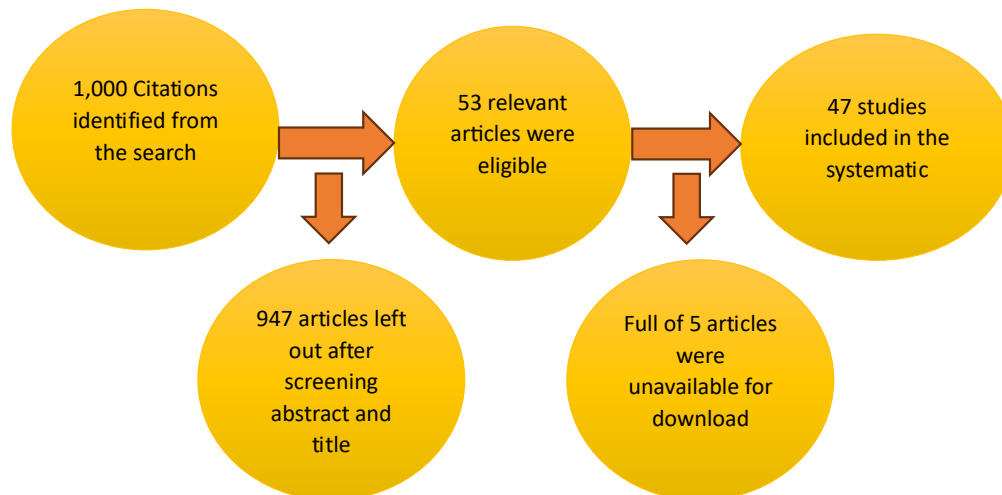


Figure 1. Flow chart showing the selection process of the articles for review

### 3. Review of Success Factors for Enhancing Career Guidance and Counseling Among Rural Students in Guizhou's X High Schools

#### 3.1 Defining Success Factors

The effective implementation of career guidance and counselling programs for rural students in Guizhou's X High Schools hinges on several critical success factors. This section aims to delineate and expound upon these pivotal elements that contribute to the enhancement of these educational initiatives.

#### 3.2 Government Support

Government support emerges as a cornerstone in the success of career guidance and counselling programs (Mahairi, 2023). In the context of rural education in Guizhou, government support can manifest through incentives that promote a sustainable learning environment. Measures such as tax waivers and access to low-interest loans for developers of green site practices could incentivize the adoption of career guidance and counselling initiatives among rural students (Yeganeh et al., 2021). Government

endorsement and the active promotion of sustainable educational approaches can further expedite their adoption by validating their effectiveness to the public and garnering widespread support (Sharma & Kumar, 2023). Additionally, government support may encompass providing clear directives, guidelines, logistical assistance, training opportunities, and the allocation of necessary resources to facilitate the integration of career guidance and counselling into the educational landscape.

### 3.3 Client Support and Commitment to Career Guidance

The dedication and commitment of clients, in this case, the educators, students, and their families, play a pivotal role in the success of career guidance and counselling initiatives. The seriousness and willingness of clients to invest resources and effort into the adoption of these programs significantly impact their effectiveness (Gouda & Saranga, 2020). The success of career guidance and counselling programs in rural Guizhou is contingent upon the commitment of students, educators, and their families. Their support for new educational approaches and the provision of necessary resources is paramount for successful program implementation (Rapanta et al., 2021). Clients' interest and demand for career guidance services are key determinants of success; if clients show little or no interest in these services, educators may lack the motivation to engage in their delivery (Huxley & Davies, 2023). Therefore, client engagement and demand constitute vital success factors in the context of rural education in Guizhou.

### 3.4 Effective Troubleshooting

Troubleshooting, or effective problem-solving, is crucial in addressing operational or technical challenges that may arise during the implementation of career guidance and counselling programs (Putri et al., 2022). An efficient troubleshooting mechanism ensures that issues are promptly identified and addressed, mitigating potential disruptions to the educational process and ensuring that students receive optimal support (Almaiah et al., 2020). The successful integration of career advising and counselling in educational institutions situated in rural regions necessitates a high level of proficiency in troubleshooting.

### 3.5 Effective Communication Channels and Feedback Mechanisms

Effective communication among many stakeholders, including students, instructors, parents, and legislators, plays a crucial role in determining the degree of success attained by career advisory and counselling initiatives (DeMolen, 2023). The facilitation of efficient communication streamlines the process of problem-solving and addressing complaints, expedites the execution of programs, and fosters collaborative efforts among all relevant stakeholders (Nivedhitha Sathish Kumar, 2023). Furthermore, decision-makers need to possess access to efficient feedback mechanisms to sustain a level of continual awareness about the advancement of program operations. The provision of timely feedback allows for timely adjustments, facilitating the continuous improvement of career advising and counselling for rural students, while also ensuring that it remains responsive to their evolving needs (Boeskens et al., 2020). Efficient feedback mechanisms are crucial for the success of these creative undertakings due to their inherent nature.

### 3.6 Management

Stakeholder management is another pivotal success factor for career guidance and counselling programs in rural Guizhou. Stakeholders in these initiatives include students, educators, parents, and policymakers, all of whom have a vested interest in their success (Chavula et al., 2022). To ensure a seamless implementation process, it is essential to identify and manage the differing demands and expectations of these stakeholders. Additionally, capturing their interests and needs during the early stages of program development is crucial for ensuring their continued support (Sjödin et al., 2020). Effective

stakeholder management relies on the skills and expertise of program administrators and educators, acquired through years of experience and ongoing training (Kaso, 2021).

### 3.7 Competence of Program Team/Stakeholders

The competence exhibited by the individuals involved in career guidance and counselling programs significantly influences their success (Hamzah et al., 2021). Knowledge and awareness gained through regular practice and training enhance the competence of program administrators, educators, and support staff, particularly in rural areas where such practices may be relatively new (Keup et al., 2023). The competence of all stakeholders, including educators, students, and parents, is essential for the effective delivery of these programs (Xiong et al., 2020).

### 3.8 Technical and Management Ability of Educators and Program Administrators

In the realm of career guidance and counselling, the technical and managerial abilities of educators and program administrators are paramount (Altime & Bilyaminu, 2021). Educators are responsible for pre-program activities, such as curriculum design and planning, as well as the program's day-to-day management, including student support and guidance. The energy and effort they invest in these roles significantly impact the success of career guidance and counselling initiatives (Majid, 2020). Therefore, providing educators and program administrators with the necessary technical and managerial training is vital for successful program implementation (Yurtseven Avci et al., 2020).

### 3.9 Incentive Schemes and Regulations

The correlation between the availability of incentive programs and supportive laws and the effectiveness of career advisory and counselling programs in rural parts of Guizhou is evident. The utilization of incentives can have a transformative impact on encouraging active participation from students, teachers, and families in the execution of these programs (Alenezi, 2023). The utilization of government-sponsored incentives, such as tax breaks and subsidies, has the potential to significantly enhance participation rates (Yang & Wei, 2023). Furthermore, the existence of clear and supportive legislation can cultivate an environment that is advantageous for the growth and sustainability of these initiatives (50). It is important to possess a cognizance of and effectively utilize these attributes of success to optimize the impact that career guidance and counselling initiatives have on the student population attending rural X High Schools in the province of Guizhou. The aforementioned attributes underscore the importance of cohesive and inclusive endeavours including many entities such as governmental organizations, instructors, students, and families. These efforts are crucial for ensuring the successful incorporation of career guidance and counselling within rural educational settings. By embracing these identified attributes associated with success, educational policymakers and practitioners have the potential to enhance the educational experiences and outcomes of rural students. This, in turn, can enable these individuals to make more informed and purposeful decisions regarding their career trajectories and the strategies they employ to achieve their goals. The subsequent table presents a concise overview of the success criteria for the enhancement of career guidance and counselling services for rural students enrolled in X High Schools in Guizhou.

Table 1. summarises the success factors for enhancing career guidance and counselling among rural students in Guizhou's X High School

Success Factors	Description	Author and years
<b>Government Support</b>	-Incentives and financial support from the government. - Endorsement and promotion of sustainable educational practices. - Provision of directions, guidelines, resources, and logistics	Paul et al. (2021)

		support.	
<b>Client Commitment</b>	<b>Support and</b>	- Dedication and commitment of clients, including students, educators, and families. - Willingness to invest resources and effort. - Client engagement and demand for career guidance services.	Rabiul et al. (2022)
<b>Effective Troubleshooting</b>		- Efficient problem-solving mechanisms for addressing operational or technical challenges.	Thomann et al. (2019)
<b>Effective Channels</b>	<b>Communication</b>	- Open and effective communication among stakeholders. - Feedback mechanisms for timely adjustments.	Nova (2022)
<b>Stakeholder Management</b>		- Identification and management of differing demands and expectations of stakeholders. - Capturing stakeholder interests and needs.	Awan et al. (2021)
<b>Competence of Team/Stakeholders</b>	<b>Program</b>	- Knowledge and awareness gained through regular practice and training. - Competence of all stakeholders.	Bass and Moore (2023)
<b>Technical and Management Ability</b>		- Technical and managerial abilities of educators and program administrators. - Training to enhance technical and managerial skills.	Camisón-Haba et al. (2019)
<b>Incentive Regulations</b>	<b>Schemes and</b>	- Availability of incentives that encourage participation. - Supportive regulations for program growth and sustainability.	Zebra et al. (2021)

These success factors collectively contribute to the effective implementation and impact of career guidance and counselling programs among rural students in Guizhou's X High Schools.

#### 4. Discussion

The successful adoption of career guidance and counselling programs in rural Guizhou's X High Schools hinges on several critical success factors, which are interconnected and collectively contribute to the overall effectiveness of these initiatives. Just as we have explored in the context of green construction practices and their related success factors, these elements do not act in isolation. They interact and synergize to create an environment where students can make informed and meaningful subject choices, thereby shaping their future educational and career trajectories. One of the foundational success factors identified in our study is government support, which plays a pivotal role in the adoption of career guidance and counselling programs. Government support extends through various channels, including tax incentives, financial backing, and the active promotion of sustainable learning practices. These measures incentivize educators and students alike to engage in career guidance and counselling, ultimately validating the effectiveness of these initiatives and garnering broader support. In many

ways, government endorsement serves to legitimize and promote these programs, facilitating their integration into the educational landscape.

Client support and commitment constitute another crucial success factor, encompassing educators, students, and their families. Their dedication to investing resources and effort significantly impacts the overall effectiveness of career guidance and counselling programs. Active client engagement, including educators and students, and their demand for career guidance services, are fundamental determinants of success. As stakeholders in these programs, their interest and commitment drive their success. Troubleshooting mechanisms emerge as critical components in ensuring program resilience. These mechanisms are vital for swiftly identifying and addressing operational or technical challenges, thus minimizing disruptions to the educational process and ensuring optimal support for students. Effective troubleshooting complements other success factors by ensuring the seamless operation of career guidance and counselling programs.

Effective communication channels and feedback mechanisms are essential for maintaining open and productive dialogue among stakeholders. These communication avenues foster collaboration, resolve concerns, and streamline program delivery. Moreover, feedback mechanisms empower decision-makers with insights into program activities, enabling timely adjustments to meet the evolving needs of rural students. The significance of effective communication and feedback cannot be overstated, particularly in the context of innovative educational initiatives. Stakeholder management remains pivotal for program success, requiring the identification and effective handling of varying demands and expectations. Educators, students, parents, and policymakers all have a stake in these programs, and their interests and needs must be captured during program development to ensure continued support. Effective stakeholder management relies on the skills and expertise of program administrators and educators, gained through experience and ongoing training. Competence, both among program teams and stakeholders, is paramount for program delivery. Regular practice and training enhance the competence of all stakeholders, from educators to students and parents. This increased competence contributes significantly to the success of career guidance and counselling initiatives.

## 5. Conclusion

In the realm of rural education in Guizhou, the findings of this study highlight the pivotal role of effective career guidance and counselling programs in shaping the subject selection process for students attending X High Schools. Our research has delved into the multifaceted factors that influence the choices made by rural students, shedding light on the significance of tailored career guidance and counselling strategies employed within these educational institutions. As we conclude this study, it becomes evident that career guidance and counselling are indispensable tools for enhancing the educational experiences and outcomes of rural students. The success of these programs is not only reliant on the dedication of educators and students but also on several interconnected factors that collectively contribute to their effectiveness. Just as we have identified in the context of green construction practices, these success factors for career guidance and counselling do not act in isolation. They interact and synergize, creating an environment where students can make informed and meaningful subject choices, thereby charting their future career paths more effectively.

Much like the pressing need for environmentally responsible construction practices in developing countries, the importance of tailored career guidance and counseling in rural education cannot be overstated. Guizhou, with its predominantly rural population, underscores the significance of these programs. By acknowledging and actively working towards these success factors, educational policymakers, educators, and all stakeholders

can collaborate to bridge disparities, ensure equitable opportunities, and promote the well-being and prosperity of rural communities.

This study contributes to the broader understanding of how school-based career guidance and counselling influence the subject selection process among rural students in Guizhou. It emphasizes the importance of customization, tailored to meet the unique needs and aspirations of rural populations. Ultimately, by embracing these success factors, we can facilitate more informed, meaningful subject choices, and future career paths for these students, nurturing their potential and contributing to the socio-economic landscape of the province and beyond.

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