DOI: https://doi.org/10.66884/kesj.2024.pd3habjw

Bareh.KESJ Volume 4, Issue 1, 2024 ISSN : 2734-2751

# ASSESSING THE AWARENESS LEVEL OF QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION AMONG GUIDANCE AND COUNSELORS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KADUNA STATE

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to assess the awareness of Quantity Surveying profession among Guidance and counsellors in some selected secondary schools within Kaduna State. The researchers chose quantitative approach in the form of questionnaires. A purposive sampling was adopted for this study. The Data were analyzed with SPSS using descriptive analysis. A sample of 201 guidance and counsellors were selected for this study. The findings of this study reveals that there is very little awareness of the profession among guidance and counsellors in secondary schools. To improve upon the awareness level of Quantity Surveying profession, the findings of this study reveal that: Guardian and Counselors should be involved in career day and excursion to site; there should be awareness campaigns organized by Quantity Surveying professional Bodies especially to secondary schools across the state. This study aided the Quantity Surveying Profession by providing an insight in the area of the existing gap in knowledge that exists among guidance and counsellors in secondary schools. It is however recommended that the scope of this research be improved to other Local Government across the state.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Preparing adolescents, progressing from O'level to A'level and to professional discipline has become a priority across all developed countries as a result of the persistent trend and challenges in the labor market conditions coupled with relative advancement in technology (Wong *et al.*, 2021). There are additional uncertainties unfolding in the global market on a seasonal basis thereby, necessitating the need for knowing the right profession for the right student and the right career for the right skill and right talent. Secondary school students preparing for transition to A' level need career guidance to make informed career choices which will contribute to the skilled manpower needs of the economy of the country (Ombaba *et al*., 2014). The choice of career is a critical decision among student's life. The performance matrix of a student in his/her future career will depend on whether or not he/she made the right choice at the right time (Zafar, 2019).

Venugopal *et al.*, (2021), opined that career choice especially among teenagers will solely depend on the level of awareness and improving the awareness of a profession will improve the quality and the quantity of students entering the profession. One of the most important factors that influence students when they make their career choices are the factors related to familiarity with the possible career options.

Edwards & Quinter (2011) noted that most secondary school students make their career choices before sitting for their SSCE examination. These decisions are mostly influenced by the student's interaction with their environment. However, these students enter into a discipline that is almost different


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from what they intended (Sasson, 2021). Teachers are perceived to be seen as informal counselors who in one way or the other, willingly or not, directly or indirectly affect students in their choice of career paths Khan (*et al*., 2012).

Guidance and counsellors have been very effective in helping students to make the right career choices which consequently results in sustainable identification of competent students who will later become professionals that meet the needs of the nation (Gwelo, 2019). Students see their teachers and counsellors as role models which made it paramount that guidance and counsellors have wider understanding of various career choices as role model influence cannot be neglected (ABAH *et al*., 2019).

Quantity surveying and the services rendered by the profession are most times misconstrued to the work and practice of Land Surveying and other allied professions in Nigeria. This is common even among Guidance and Counsellors due to little awareness of the roles and scope of the profession (Opawole, 2015).

Guidance and counseling units in secondary school, if strengthened, can to improve on the academic performance as well as the career choices of O'level students (Saleh *et al.,* 2020). The role played by guidance and counselors is sacrosanct in matching the skills and value of students with career choices; hence, this study explored the level of awareness of Quantity Surveying Profession among guidance and counselors in secondary schools.

## 2.0 Statement of The Research Problem

Quantity Surveying profession, despite being in existence for five decades in Nigeria, has not been a preferred career path for most students. Olatunde & Okorie, (2016) traced the challenge to mean that there is low level of awareness of the profession especially among secondary school students. Among many others, Law, architecture, accounting, medicine, and civil engineering are among the well-known and prestigious professions among senior secondary school students, parents and guardians. This has led to shortage of Quantity Surveying professionals in Nigeria.

The shortage of Quantity Surveying professionals is evident in Nigeria as little is said to be known about the Quantity Surveying profession. To address this shortage, greater numbers of school students should be attracted and enrolled in undergraduate Quantity Surveying programs in our universities. Unfortunately, school students may have misperceptions of the job description of Quantity Surveying profession. These misperceptions have resulted in potential entrants to the profession being lost to other professions which can be corrected if Secondary school teachers and counsellors play an influential role in students' perceptions of future careers (Coetzee & Oberholzer, 2010).
School guidance and counselors' lack of awareness, understanding, misconception, and non-recommendation of a profession to students has led to a significant decline in the number of students choosing the profession as a career before leaving secondary school (Palazzo *et al.,* 2021.

Thus, little has been explored to ascertain whether or not the Quantity Surveying as a profession is known among the guidance and counsellors in secondary schools. This constituted the gap that this researchaddressed.

### 2.1 Research Questions

* How knowledgeable are Guidance and Counsellors on the existence of Quantity Surveying profession?
* How can the awareness level of the Quantity Surveying Profession be improved among guidance and counsellors in secondary schools?


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## 2.2 Research Aim

The aim of this study is to assess the awareness level of Guidance and counsellorsinsecondary school with a view to improve awareness of Quantity Surveying profession in Nigeria.

The objectives of this study will be;

1. To assess the level of awareness of quantity surveying profession among guidance and counsellors.
2. To determine ways of improving the awareness of the profession among guidance and counsellors.

## 3.0 Significance of The Study

The selection of career among students is the first stage in making sure that human capacity matches the labor market demands and secondary school guidance and counsellors are task with the responsibility to guide the students during their career decision making process (Yusran *et al.*, 2021). For secondary school students to have a purposeful career, the role of the guidance and counselling unit of secondary schools cannot be overemphasized. Secondary school career counselors can play a very significant aspect in career growth by providing career advice to students regarding both academic, personal, as well career options (Abdullah Mat Rashid & Abdul Rahim Bakar, 2010). Career counsellors empower students to be decisive in career choices. Career choices are needed so students can be introduced to more options to choose from, and start to explore early, among which is the Quantity Surveying profession (Syakurah *et al.*, 2017).This research will benefit parents, students, guidance and counsellors.

## 3.1 Quantity Surveying Profession

Quantity Surveying is a relatively modern and evolving profession with different definitions. It is an ever-changing profession that can be used to depict the evolution of the construction industry at any point in time. Quantity Surveying acts as the binder that regulates the construction stakeholders in a project, so that the designer design to cost, the engineer engineered to specification, the contractor is paid what is due, and the client pays withing the budget constraints in order to mitigate the occurrence of bankruptcy. In doing this, the quantity surveyor carries out an appraisal of the financial components and profitability of the project by performing various fundamental tasks such as feasibility studies, cost projections, legal and process supervision throughout the project life-cycle. The Quantity Surveying profession is an asset to construction clients and others within and outside the construction industry. This is because quantity surveyors are in charge of financial matters and provide cost management expertise in the construction industry (Chidiebere *et al.*, 2017).

## 3.2 Factors Responsible For Career Choices

Selecting a career that matches an individual's talent and skill is most important but difficult tasks due to advancement in technology and emergence of new professions, thus making the world today more globalized. It is therefore undeniable to say that a wrong career decision would siphon allhuman and material resources in to incorrect way, leading students as well as parents into deep well of depression (Ramona et al., 2015). Career choice as a decision making process is in itself complex but unique for each individual which largely depends on some factors and structures of the individual's immediate environment (Najar & Yousuf, 2019). In a survey conducted, opportunity, personality and environment, respectively were seen as the most important factors that do affect career choices among students (Salami Olufunmilayo & Salami Oluwaseun, 2013). Factors responsible for career choices are summarized in table 1 below.


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**Table 1.** Factors responsible for career choices among students

| S/N | Factors | Authors |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Family background: financial, vocational, and societal status of the family influence the career choice of the students as some parents/children see some professions as insult on their status. | (Ray *et al.*, 2020) |
| 2. | Gender: The female gender has a peculiarity that makes it almost practically impossible to be in the construction industry. The construction industry fosters a male image. | (Dainty & Lingard, 2006; Joseph & Julius O., 2017) |
| 3. | Subjects passed at O'level: the career choice of a child is most likely to be influenced by the subjects he passed well in secondary school. | (Ogowewo, 2010) |
| 4. | Parent/teacher influence: through persuasion and coercion, parent can impose on their children a career choice. While teachers can overemphasize on a particular profession which affects the child's decision. | (Eremie&Chiamaka, 2019) |
| 5. | Profession/educational background of the parent: Occupational and professional Information the child receives from the parent whether directly or indirectly can influence his/her career choices. | (Mbagwu & Ajaegbu, 2016) |

### 3.3 The Roles Of Guidance And Counsellors In Career Choice Of Students.

Career choice especially among secondary school students who are not fully grown to ascertain the scope of various disciplines is a complex decision since it determines the kind of profession that they intend to pursue in life. As students try to make career choice while in secondary school, they face problem of matching their career choices with their abilities and school performance due to poor awareness (Edwards & Quinter, 2011). Awareness and interest about a certain Professional career can only be developed through career counselling from counsellors who have trainings in most of the courses that matches the students' skills and talent (Akram *et al.*, 2017).

Ain *et al.*, (2021) in a survey conducted among students in order to ascertain the role of guidance and counsellors on career choices opined that; a significant percentage of the students are stressed and unsure of what career paths to choose. And most of the students who seemed to have chosen a certain career path have no knowledge of the path taken. This has created a mole in the entire mental focus of the students.

Gitonga, (2013) sees guidance and counselling as the only way of ensuring that students make the right career choices while still in secondary school, and as such, only guidance and counsellors would assist the students on a day-to-day basis in career decisions- similar to the way schools engage medical personnel for medical issues with students.

These have prompted the need for career counselling and guidance for the students so that they are able to take the right decisions at the right time on proper guidance.

### 3.4 Improving The Awareness Of The Quantity Surveying Profession Among Guidance And Counsellors In Secondary Schools

Okafor & Onokwai, (2020), opine that media plays a very important role in promoting public awareness and as such, encouraged


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guidance and counsellors in secondary schools to take advantage of the platform for the betterment of the secondary school students. This implies that guidance and counsellors can only impact on the student in a proportion to which they know. Knowing better will then demand that guidance and counsellors brace themselves with the quantum of information available in all media platforms.

Parents who are knowledgeable in career selection can carry both the students, Guidance and Counsellors along in the career selecting process by considering the students' interest, ability, skills and personality of the students. Career choice process should include experimentation, trials and error, decision making and eventual judgment (Oluremi & Garkuwa, 2018). This is key as students may have little or no passion for a professional career that they are not part of the selection. Every student should be guided and allowed to make his/her choice when choosing a career path. This will promote ownership, responsibility and the desire for maximum impact.

Career Day/Week have significant relationship with Career Choice for Senior Secondary School Students (Okolie *et al.*, 2020). Most students are not aware of the diverse professions that matches their skills and talent. By having a career day/week, these students will have a memory gain on most of the alternative career options. While Abayomi *et al*., (2020) opines that government should take responsibility of employing professional Guidance and counsellors who are up-to-date with various career paths.

### 3.5 Research Method

This study adopts a quantitative approach which involves the use of close-ended questionnaires. These questionnaires were distributed for secondary data collection. Respondents were required to indicate their level of agreement with the factors identified via literature review with respect to the awareness of Quantity surveying profession.

A pilot survey was conducted on ways of improving the awareness of the profession from the perception of guidance and counsellors in secondary schools and further processed and administered. This is relative as there is little literature on the perception of Guidance and Counsellors on the awareness of the Quantity Surveying profession in Nigeria.

The study area includes secondary schools in Jema'a LGA, Kaura LGA, and Zangon Kataf LGA of Kaduna State. The choice of the study area is triggered by the newness of the profession in this study area. while the study population include all guidance and counsellors in secondary schools; only the opinion of guidance and counsellors in secondary schools on the subject matter were analyzed.

The sampling technique adopted for this study is purposive sampling as there is already a targeted population necessary for this study.

The sample size is determined using the Cochran formular: $SS = Z^2 x \frac{P(1-P)}{l^2}$

where the confidence level (Z) was taking at 90% (1.645), the estimated proportion of the population (p) which has the attribute in question is taken at 50%, the margin of error (l ) is taken at 5%. This gives a total of 271 questionnaires that were distributed to the study population in printed and electronic means.

The secondary data collected were analyzed using inferential and descriptive statistics. These include meanand percentages. The data was further analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software.


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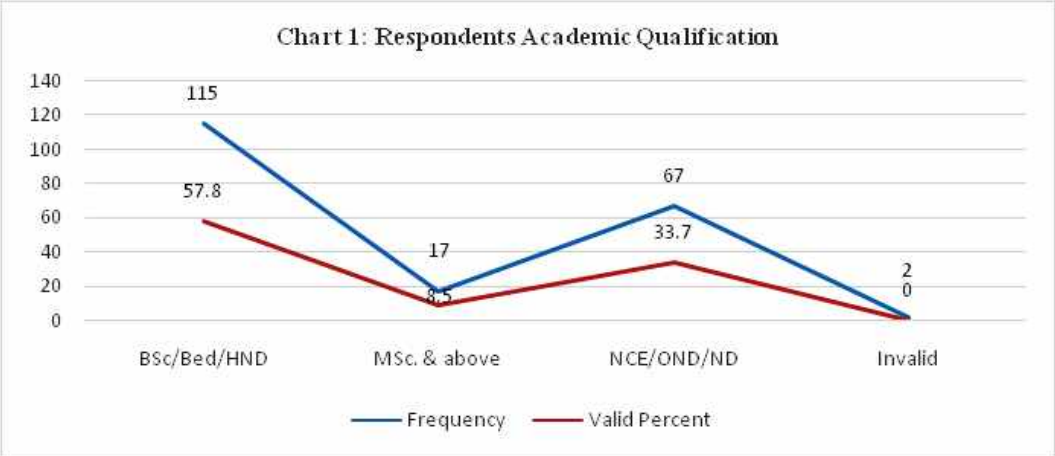
## 4.0 Data Presentation And Analysis

### 4.1 Response Rate

271 questionnaires were administered, representing 100%.201questionnaires were filled and returned representing 74% of the respondents while 70 representing 26% of the respondents did not return the questionnaire. This becomes the accessible population that the research used throughout this study.

### 4.2 Respondents Academic Qualification

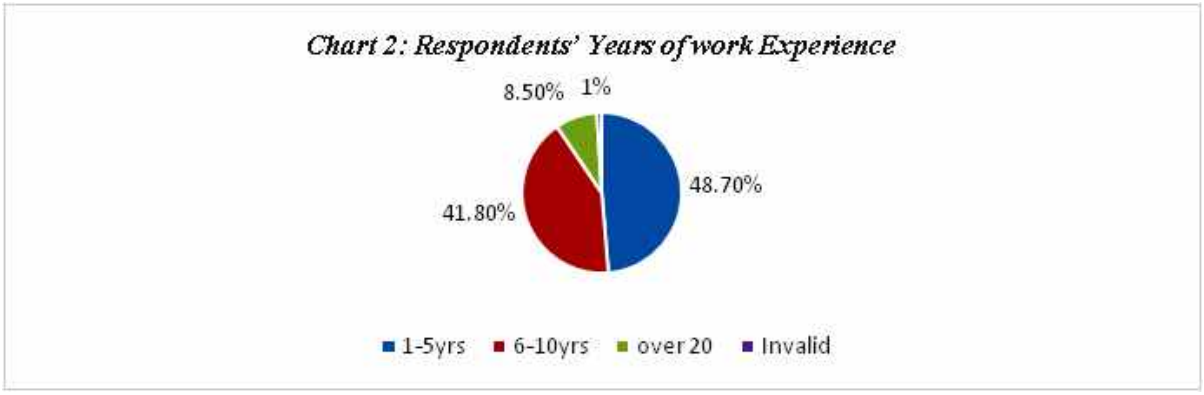
Chat 1below shows that 57.8% of the respondents has acquired either B.Sc./Bed/HND, 33.7% has NCE/OND/ND while only but 8.5 percent has M.sc holders. Majority of the respondents haveB.Sc./Bed/ HND. This signifies that data obtained from the respondents are of true nature and rich and that the respondents are literate enough to read, write, and explain the variables under study.




**Source:** Author's field survey, 2022

### 4.3 Respondents Years Of Work Experience.

Chart 2 shows that 48.7% of the respondents have between 1–5 years, 41.8% of the respondents have between 6–10 years, and 8.5% of the respondents have over 20 years of experience in the teaching profession. This shows that most of the respondents have a reliable range of experience needed for this study as illustrated below.

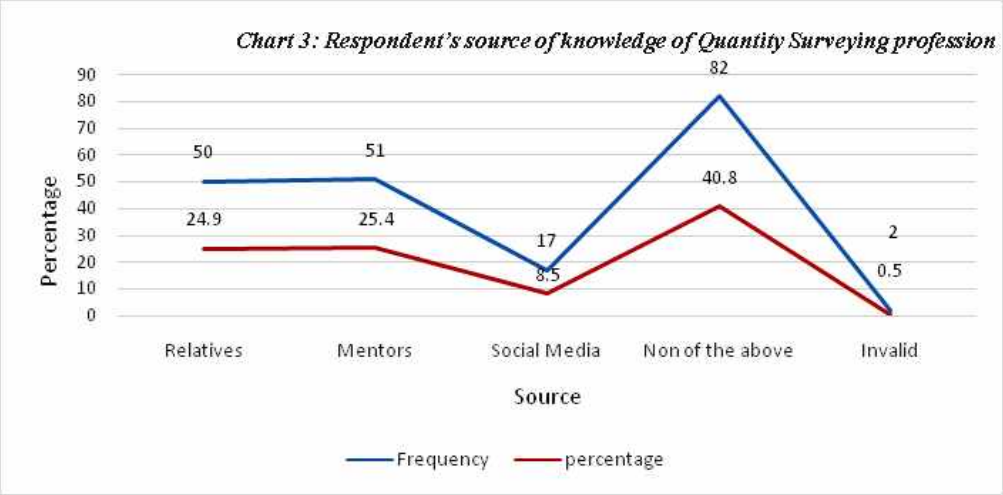



**Source:** Author's field survey, 2022


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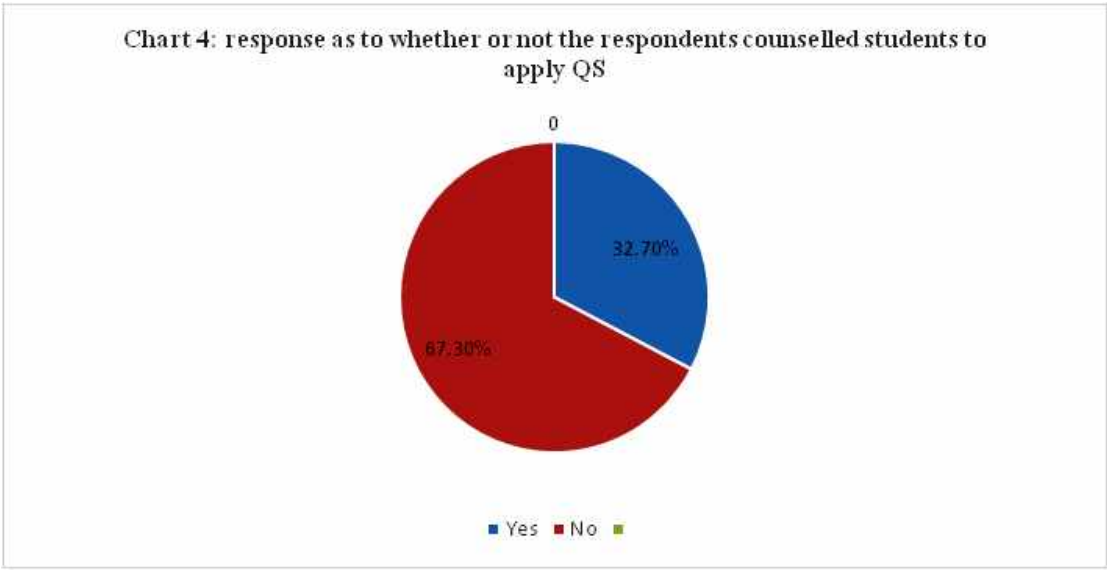
### 4.4 The Awareness Level Of G/c On The Quantity Surveying Profession

From chart 3 below, 25% of the respondents heard of Quantity Surveying profession via relatives, 25.5% heard through mentors or guidance and counsellors, 8.5% through social media, and 41% indicated that they never heard of QS in any of the listed channels as presented in the chart below.




**Source**: Author's field survey, 2022

When asked whether or not the respondents counselled any students to apply for Quantity Surveying profession, 67.3% of the respondents indicated that they never did while only 32.7% indicated that they counselled students to apply Quantity Surveying at A 'level as presented in the chart 4 below




**Source**: Author's field survey, 2022


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With response to the reasons why counsellors do not counsel students to take up Quantity Surveying as a profession, 50.5% of the respondents indicated that they have not heard of the profession, 30.0% indicated that they knew about the profession but didn't know what they do, while 15.5% cannot really say why they have not counselled any students to apply Quantity Surveying at A'level as presented below.

**Table 1:** Response by G/C to the reason behind not counselling students to take up Quantity Surveying as a profession

| Response | Frequency | Percentage | Valid Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dont know what they do | 68 | 33.8 | 34.0 |
| Have not heard of QS | 101 | 50.2 | 50.5 |
| Cant Say why | 31 | 15.4 | 15.5 |
| Invalid | 1 | 0.5 | **100.0** |
| **Total** | **201** | **100.0** | |

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2022

### 4.5 Ways Of Improving The Awareness of The Profession Among Guidance And Counsellors In Secondary Schools

Responding to the question on how the awareness of the Quantity Surveying profession could be improved among the guardian and counsellors in secondary schools, Guardian and Counselors' involvement in career day, excursion to site, and awareness campaigns by Quantity Surveying Bodies in secondary schools were ranked highest with mean score of 4.09, 3.99, and 3.93 respectively, as presented below;

**Table 2:** Rresponse by g/c to the ways of improving the awareness of QS profession among guidance and counsellors in secondary schools

| Variables | Scale | | | | | Total | Mean | Rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
| Organizing career awareness programs by G/C in secondary schools. | 0 | 0 | 83 | 82 | 34 | 199 | 3.75 | 7th |
| Educating parents through PTA on the roles of QS | 0 | 0 | 68 | 82 | 48 | 198 | 3.89 | 6th |
| Awareness campaigns in secondary schools by QS bodies | 0 | 0 | 67 | 82 | 51 | 200 | 3.92 | 3rd |
| Increase media publicity of the QS profession | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 79 | 195 | 3.91 | 4th |
| Furnishing the school libraries with QS related materials | 17 | 05 | 01 | 14 | 17 | 198 | 3.56 | 10th |
| Parents should provide school counsellors with collaborative support and training on career paths & guidance | 16 | 00 | 49 | 99 | 34 | 199 | 3.68 | 9th |
| Excursion to sites by G/C to ascertain the various professionals involved | 0 | 17 | 34 | 82 | 67 | 200 | 3.99 | 2nd |
| G/C should be involved in career day | 0 | 03 | 21 | 14 | 50 | 196 | 4.09 | 1st |
| G/C should be up-to-date with evolving profession through magazines & related seminars. | 0 | 17 | 50 | 67 | 65 | 199 | 3.90 | 5th |

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2022


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## 5.0 Summary of Findings, Conclusion And Recommendation

This study focused on the level of awareness of the Quantity Surveying Profession among Guidance and Counsellors in secondary schools in Kaduna. Secondly, this study identified factors that promote awareness of Quantity Surveying profession among Guidance and Counsellors.

There is very little awareness of the Quantity Surveying Profession among Guidance and Counsellors in secondary schools. This is noticeable as 50.5% of the respondents indicated that they had not heard of the profession while 34.0% indicated that they knew about the profession but didn't know what they do. While 15.5% could not really say why they have not counselled any students to take up a career in Quantity Surveying.

The improve the awareness level of the Quantity Surveying Profession among Guidance and Counsellors, Guardian and Counselors' involvement in career day, excursion to site, and awareness campaigns by Quantity Surveying Bodies in secondary schools are the most important factors to consider with mean score rankings of 4.09, 3.99, and 3.93 respectively.

The study therefore recommend that the Kaduna state chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors should embark on awareness campaign across all the secondary schools in the state to sensitize both Guardian and Counsellors as well as senior secondary school students on what quantity surveying profession entails and the job prospects for quantity surveying graduates.

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ISSN : 2734-2751

# SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

DEPARTMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYING
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY

**March, 2022**

**ASSESSING THE AWARENESS LEVEL OF QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION AMONG GUIDANCE AND COUNSELORS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

I am a lecturer of the above-named university carrying research on the above topic which requires first hand and reliable information from secondary school guidance and counsellors.
Thank you for your willingness to partake in this research. Your input is very valuable and will go a long way in achieving the aim of this research.
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**SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Name of school (optional)……..…… Designation in School: ……..……...
2. Highest academic qualification: Ph.D[ ] M.sc[ ] B.sc/B.Ed[ ] NCE/ND[ ] Others(Please specify)? ……
3. Years of teaching experience: 1-5yrs[ ] 6-10yrs[ ] 11-15yrs[ ] 16-20yrs[ ] Over 20yrs[ ]

**SECTION B: THE AWARENESS LEVEL OF QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION**

4. Have you heard of the Quantity Surveying Profession? Yes [ ] No [ ] ( if 'No' skip to SECTION C)
5. How did you get to know about Quantity Surveying profession? Relatives [ ] Mentors [ ] social media [ ] Others (specify) _____
6. Have you encouraged any students to apply Quantity Surveying at A 'level? Yes[ ] No [ ] if no, answer Question 7 below.
7. Why have you not counselled any students to apply Quantity Surveying at A'level?

Have not heard of QS before [ ] Don't know what they do[ ] Can't say[ ]

**SECTION D: WAYS OF IMPROVING THE AWARENESS OF THE Q.S PROFESSION**

In your own opinion, kindly indicate the level of importance of the various ways of improving the awareness level of the Quantity Surveying Profession as indicated in the table below.
1=unimportant, 2=somewhat important, 3=quite important, 4=very important, 5=extremely important

| S/N | Ways Of Improving The Awareness Of The Q.S Profession | Level of Importance | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Organizing career awareness programs by G/C in secondary schools | | | | | |
| 3. | Educating parents through PTA on the roles of QS | | | | | |
| 4. | Awareness campaigns in secondary schools by QS bodies | | | | | |
| 5. | Increase media publicity of the QS profession | | | | | |
| 6. | Furnishing the school libraries with QS related materials | | | | | |
| 7. | Parents should provide school counsellors with collaborative support and training on career paths & guidance | | | | | |
| 8. | Excursion to sites by G/C to ascertain the various professionals involved | | | | | |
| 9. | G/C should be involved in career day | | | | | |
| 10. | G/C should be up-to-date with evolving profession through magazines & related seminars. | | | | | |

***Kindly suggest other ways of improving the awareness of the QS profession***



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