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The Role of Life Orientation Teachers in Promoting Career Guidance and Counselling for Secondary School Learners

N.G. Dama, J. Mathwasa and T. Mushoriwa

University of Fort Hare, King Williams' Town Road, Alice 5700, Eastern Cape, South Africa

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ABSTRACT This paper assessed the role of Life Orientation (LO) teachers in promoting Career Guidance and Counselling for secondary school learners. A case-study design within qualitative approach purposively selected 12 LO teachers and 12 learners from Grade 10 to 12 in six secondary schools to participate in the study. Data was collected through face-to-face interviews and focus group discussions and was thematically analysed. The study found that despite understanding their roles, LO teachers still lack the necessary skills to fully provide learners with relevant knowledge to choose careers that match their subjects of specialisation. The study revealed that teachers experience challenges such as lack of training, lack of support from different stakeholders, and negative attitudes towards the subject by both learners and LO teachers. A major recommendation was that the Department of the Basic Education should appoint competent staff to tackle the unique academic, psychosocial and career glitches faced by learners in schools.