

**PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTRIBUTES MENTORING, AND SELF EMPLOYMENT  
OF VOCATIONAL GRADUATES OF KANO STATE TERTIARY  
INSTITUTIONS, NIGERIA**

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**A DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND  
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## ABSTRACT

*This study investigated and identified the role counseling play in mentoring vocational graduates towards self employment. The objectives of the study were; to determine the availability of the counseling services, to evaluate the vocational training graduates' attitudes on the skills and training acquired; to investigate the uptake of self employment by the vocational training graduates of the tertiary institutions; to offer counseling services to vocational graduates who are ready and available to participate, using appropriate counseling strategies; to determine the most preferred counseling strategy among the graduates; and to establish the effectiveness of counseling strategies in raising their self awareness, self efficacy, and self motivation; which could lead to vocational practice among the vocational graduates. The design is a comparative study and also a mixture of positivists and interpretative paradigms. 354 samples were randomly selected from the target population of 4,559 using simple random sampling. Frequency and percentages as well as T-test were used to analyze the quantitative data, while qualitative content analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data. The findings of the study indicated that the vocational graduates were fully aware of counseling services in their schools, but due to inadequacy of counselors, they do not patronize the centers adequately. 62.1% of them indicated availability of the services. They also confirmed that they have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills during their training and 84.1% were satisfied with it. In terms of vocational uptake after graduation, out of the 354 samples 63.6% males and 36.4% females, only 101 (28.5%) have started practicing their vocations and the remaining 253 (71.4 % ) were yet to start practicing their vocations instead. After giving to the experimental group counseling intervention, a t test was run and the result shows that counseling strategies significantly raises the self efficacy, self motivation, and self awareness of the vocational graduates. This is so because the experimental group has higher self efficacy, self motivation, and self awareness over the control group. The researcher also found out that among the four strategies employed, group counseling was the most preferred among the sample with 53% and psycho education was the least preferred with 7% preference. The researcher recommends that adequate and professional school counselors and facilities should be provided to every school, Resource mobilization to assist the vocational graduates, and also group counseling should be adopted by school counselors to raise the self efficacy, self motivation, and self awareness of their student which are personality attributes which could help in making them become self employed instead of waiting for white collar jobs which is not readily available for them.*

**Keywords;** *Counseling, strategies, vocational practice, vocational graduates, self employment*