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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies**](https://journalajess.com/index.php/AJESS) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJESS\_137792** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Assessing the Role of Career Guidance Programs in Secondary Schools: A Path to Job Creation and Sustainability** |
| Type of the Article |  |

**PART 1: Comments**

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|  | **Reviewer’s comment**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer** | | | **review.** |  | | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | This manuscript addresses a highly relevant issue in the context of youth unemployment and educational alignment in Zambia. Its focus on career guidance in secondary schools presents a valuable. The study offers practical insights for bridging the gap between education and employment, which can be of benefit not only to policymakers in Zambia but also to international researchers working on similar challenges. By highlighting the link between informed career choices and sustainable job creation, the paper adds meaningful knowledge to both educational and labor market research. Overall, it contributes significantly to the academic discourse on youth empowerment and employability in developing countries. | Noted |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | Yes, the title is appropriate and clearly reflects the main focus of the study. It effectively highlights the core elements: career guidance, secondary education, job creation, and sustainability. The phrasing is specific and relevant to both academic and policy-oriented audiences. | ok |
| **Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.** | The abstract is comprehensive and well-structured, clearly presenting the purpose, methodology, results and recommendations of the research. However, it would be useful to briefly refer to the research gap or problem that justifies the study. A one-sentence summary of the theoretical framework would further strengthen the scientific context of the study. It would also be useful if the abstract referred to the lack of primary data collection as a limiting factor. Finally, it would be useful to highlight how the study provides new, added value to the Zambian and international policy and scientific discourse. | Revised accordingly |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | The manuscript is scientifically sound and addresses an important topic related to youth employment and education policy. The theoretical framing is clear, and the relevance of the subject matter is well-established. However, the methodology could be more robust, particularly in defining indicators that form the basis of the analysis. The manuscript would benefit from explicitly formulated research questions and hypotheses to give the study a clearer analytical structure. While the literature-based approach is valid, more detailed methodological justification would enhance its scientific rigor. Overall, the study provides valuable insights but would be strengthened by a more precise research design. | Noted |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | The number of references used in the manuscript is sufficient for a theoretical study. However, the authors tend to rely heavily on a limited number of sources, often citing the same author multiple times. This limits the diversity of perspectives and reduces the academic richness of the literature review. Including references from a wider range of scholars, especially more recent international studies, would strengthen the scientific foundation of the manuscript. A more balanced selection of sources would enhance the credibility and comprehensiveness of the theoretical background. | Corrected |
| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | The English language used in the article is generally suitable for scholarly communication. However, in some parts, the phrasing is slightly awkward and could benefit from minor grammatical and stylistic revisions. Overall, the language does not hinder understanding and meets the basic academic standards. |  |
| **Optional/General** comments | The manuscript addresses a highly relevant and timely topic concerning career guidance and youth employment, particularly in the Zambian context. The study offers valuable insights for policymakers and educators; however, its methodological framework could be strengthened by clearly defined indicators, research questions, and hypotheses. The current methodology lacks a solid analytical structure, which would be necessary to enhance its academic rigor. From a formal perspective, the manuscript needs careful revision to meet the specific formatting and structural requirements of scholarly publication. The text's readability is also affected by excessive fragmentation and overly segmented sections. With methodological improvements and formal adjustments, the paper could make a significant contribution to the academic discourse on education and sustainable development.  **PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT** | Revised |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |