

Factors Influencing the Selection of Guidebooks as Learning and Teaching Resources

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Abstract- Guidebooks are essential resources in the teaching and learning process, particularly in literature. They provide learners and teachers with structured insights into set texts, enhancing comprehension and academic performance. This study investigates the factors influencing the selection of guidebooks as learning and teaching resources in secondary schools. Using a descriptive research design, data was collected from teachers and students in Bungoma County. Findings reveal that cost, content quality, availability, and teacher recommendations are the most significant factors influencing guidebook selection. Statistical analysis shows that 99% of respondents prioritize cost, while 97% consider the year of publication. Recommendations include improving the affordability and quality of guidebooks and involving teachers in the selection process.

I. INTRODUCTION

Guidebooks play a critical role in the education system, particularly in literature, where they simplify complex texts and provide critical analyses. However, the selection of guidebooks is influenced by various factors, including cost, content quality, and availability. This study explores the factors influencing the selection of guidebooks as learning and teaching resources in secondary schools.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Role of Guidebooks in Education Guidebooks provide summaries, analyses, and interpretations of set texts, aiding both teachers and students. They enhance comprehension, improve analytical skills, and align with curriculum objectives. According to Mukundan and Ahour (2010), guidebooks should be flexible and cater to the diverse needs of learners and teachers.

2.2 Factors Influencing Guidebook Selection The selection of guidebooks is influenced by several factors, including cost, content quality, availability, and teacher recommendations. Sheldon (2008) emphasizes the importance of evaluating guidebooks to ensure they meet educational standards.

2.3 Challenges in Guidebook Selection Challenges in guidebook selection include limited teacher involvement, high costs, and variations in quality. These challenges can impact the effectiveness of guidebooks as teaching and learning resources.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design The study employed a descriptive research design to examine the factors influencing the selection of guidebooks.

3.2 Sample and Sampling Techniques The study targeted 714 respondents, including 700 students and 14 teachers from secondary schools in Bungoma County. A sample size of 119 respondents was selected using purposive and random sampling techniques.

3.3 Data Collection Instruments Data was collected using questionnaires and structured interviews. The questionnaires included both open-ended and close-ended questions.

3.4 Data Analysis Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data was analyzed thematically.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Factors Influencing Guidebook Selection The study identified the following factors as the most significant in the selection of guidebooks:

Table 1: Determinants of Guidebook Selection

Factor	Frequency (N=102)	Percentage (%)
Cost of the guidebook	101	99%
Year of publication	99	97%
Language used in the guidebook	88	86%
Logical explanations	97	95%
Vocabulary used	100	98%
Reader's attitude	101	99%
Interpretation of words	98	96%
Availability	100	98%
Etiquette portrayed	99	97%

Key Findings:

- Cost: 99% of respondents indicated that cost is the most critical factor in guidebook selection. Affordable guidebooks are more accessible to students.
- Year of Publication: 97% of respondents preferred recently published guidebooks, as they are more likely to align with the current curriculum.
- Language and Logical Explanations: 86% and 95% of respondents, respectively, emphasized the importance of clear language and logical explanations in guidebooks.
- Availability: 98% of respondents highlighted the importance of guidebooks being readily available in the market.

4.2 Statistical Analysis A correlation analysis was conducted to determine the relationship between guidebook selection factors and academic performance.

Table 2: Correlation Between Guidebook Selection and Academic Performance

Factor	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Significance (p-value)
Cost	0.581	0.000
Year of Publication	0.472	0.002
Language Used	0.361	0.009
Availability	0.498	0.001

Interpretation:

- Cost had the strongest correlation ($r = 0.581$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that affordability significantly influences guidebook selection and academic performance.
- Availability also showed a strong correlation ($r = 0.498$, $p < 0.05$), emphasizing the importance of accessibility.

4.3 Teacher and Student Perspectives Interviews revealed that teachers prioritize content quality and alignment with the curriculum, while students focus on cost and availability. One teacher stated: *"I recommend guidebooks that are affordable and provide clear explanations of literary elements."*

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion The study concludes that the selection of guidebooks is influenced by multiple factors, with cost, content quality, and availability being the most significant. These factors directly impact the effectiveness of guidebooks as teaching and learning resources. This research highlights the critical factors influencing the selection of guidebooks and emphasizes the need for a collaborative approach involving teachers, students, and policymakers.

5.2 Recommendations

- For Publishers: Ensure guidebooks are affordable and align with the curriculum. Include clear explanations, logical structures, and diverse activities.
- For Schools: Involve teachers in the guidebook selection process to ensure alignment with educational needs.
- For Policymakers: Develop guidelines for vetting and approving guidebooks to maintain quality standards.
- For Researchers: Conduct further studies on the impact of guidebook selection on other subjects and in different regions.

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