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**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON INDIVIDUAL
AND GROUP COUNSELING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
IN NAKALOKE TOWN COUNCIL, UGANDA
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the students' perceptions on individual and group counseling in secondary schools in Nakaloke Town council, Mbale District Uganda. The study was conducted under two research objectives. These were; to find out the students perception on individual counseling and to determine the students' perception on group counseling. The study employed cross sectional survey research design. A questionnaire was used as the main instrument of data collection. The study comprised all secondary schools in Nakaloke Town Council where the study was conducted. This area has a total population of 3494 out of which 473 respondents were used as a sample size. The data was analyzed using Pearson product moment correlation. The major findings of the study shows that, the result from the Pearson correlation reveals that there was a significant, high and positive correlation ($r = 0.513$, $p = 0.001 < 0.05$) between students perception and individual counseling. However, the result from the Pearson correlation also reveals that there was a significant, weak and positive correlation ($r = 0.323$, $p = 0.002 < 0.05$) between students perception and group counseling. This also shows that all the individual and group counseling have a relationship with the students' perception. The study recommended that, students should be encouraged by the teachers and head teachers to engage in individual or group counseling, the two counseling strategies should be used frequently and these counseling strategies should be the best alternative used by schools in managing students discipline rather than other forms of discipline such as corporal punishment.

