

COMPETENCY MODEL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION: A METHODOLOGICAL REVIEW

Sunday Rufus Olojuolawe

Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Nigeria

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2675-2281>

Kehinde Elizabeth Adelowo

Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Nigeria

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7125-0646>

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Purpose. The place of research in the educational development of any nation cannot be downplayed. The adoption of a methodological approach is significant in achieving valid results and sustainability. However, there does not appear to be an agreement on the methodological approach to developing a competency model for research in technical and vocational education among researchers. This study was designed to analyze the different methods used by researchers to bring out their strengths towards ensuring the adoption of a uniform methodology.

Results. Findings show that there was no consistent and uniform technique for researching competency models in technical education. The outcome of this study has shown that researchers favour the use of qualitative and quantitative methods separately. This may be due to the ease and their convenience usage in terms of energy, time and resources.

Scientific novelty. The listing and review of current articles from 2018 to 2021 in the domain of competency in technical education is novel as it shows the strengths and weaknesses in the usage of different methods by researchers. Similarly, the result shows the rate of research outcomes on a regional basis and document types.

Practical value. The study is going to change the horizon and focus of researchers toward the adoption of the mixed-method research design in the 21st century because of its immense benefits in generating valid research results. The study was able to reveal that the source of data in mixed-method design is always acceptable to experts and the results of the findings can be generalized.

Key words: technical education, competency, model, methodology, review.

Introduction. The role of Technical Vocational Education and Training cannot be over-emphasized, for any developed and developing country. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has been an integral part of national economic empowerment and Development (NEED) in industrialized societies (Mikailu, 2011). Vocational education strives to improve an individual's capacities in terms of knowledge, skills, and understanding so that he may effectively carry out activities in his chosen profession. According to Magaji (2015), vocational education is designed to build skills, abilities, understanding, attitudes, work habits, and appreciation, as well as the knowledge and information needed for workers to enter and progress in useful and productive employment. The application of applicable methodologies in research is critical to producing a valid and desirable outcome,

according to Othman et al. (2012). The value of TVET in nation-building is recognized by all nations (Moses, 2016).

Research has it that after graduation, the high rate of youth unemployment in most developing nations of the world is due to the absence of a valid competency model in the tertiary institutions. Saripudin et al. (2020) observe that many Nigerian students are confronted with challenges in their competency development. Skills and competencies are important for technology development, globalization and the need for innovation (Chalkiadaki, 2018). Consequently, a review of the competency model for technical education from 2018 to 2021 is the focus of this study. Fig. 1 shows the search strings.

Main search: Competency model
Sub search 1: Competency Model + Vocational and Technical Education
Sub search 2: Competency Model + Technical Education

Fig. 1. Search Strings

Source: built by the authors.

Review of literature. Wahba (2010) opines that one of the most important and significant developments in TVET was the development of Competence-Based Standards to support the design of training programmes and curricula. The move toward competency-based standards started in the mid-1970s and represents a response to criticisms that education and training programmes were failing to meet the practical requirements of employment. In many occupational areas, employers found that newly qualified graduates of vocational training programmes were not capable of meeting the requirements of practice without substantial further education and training. The drive to develop competency-based standards started in mainly manual and craft occupations where the practical requirements of employment were clear to see. Training in these occupational areas was dominated by traditional ‘school-based’ approaches involving theoretical education combined with practical classes, often performed with out-of-date equipment and methods. The curriculum base of such programmes was clearly out of alignment with the rapidly changing needs of employers. Lai, Hamisu, & Salleh (2019) describes application competency to include staff selection theory and application aim at developing the competencies of the employees. It is the combination of skills and knowledge that helps employees to accomplish their duties effectively and efficiently in the organization by deciding what is right to do (Lai et al., 2019).

Materials and methods. This study was designed to analyze the different methods used by researchers to bring out their strengths toward ensuring the adoption of a uniform methodology.

The description of the materials and the methods used for the study is shown in Fig. 1 and the detail is described.

The search framework for the competency model in technical education is shown in Fig. 2.

Based on the search string a total number of 6,690 publications was retrieved from the database. The Google Scholar citation and the Excel package were used to analyze the result of the search to reflect the publications by authors and regions of the world.

This number was reduced by setting the scope for inclusions and exclusions as a criterion for articles to be selected for review.

Inclusion and Exclusion. The papers selected from the search engine include (i) Papers published between 2018 and 2021, (ii) Journal on technical education, (iii) Conference studies, and (iv) Papers that discuss the competency model to ensure that the search was restricted to relevant papers. Articles in the press, textbooks and book chapters, and anything not written in English are all excluded. The papers were refined down to 61.

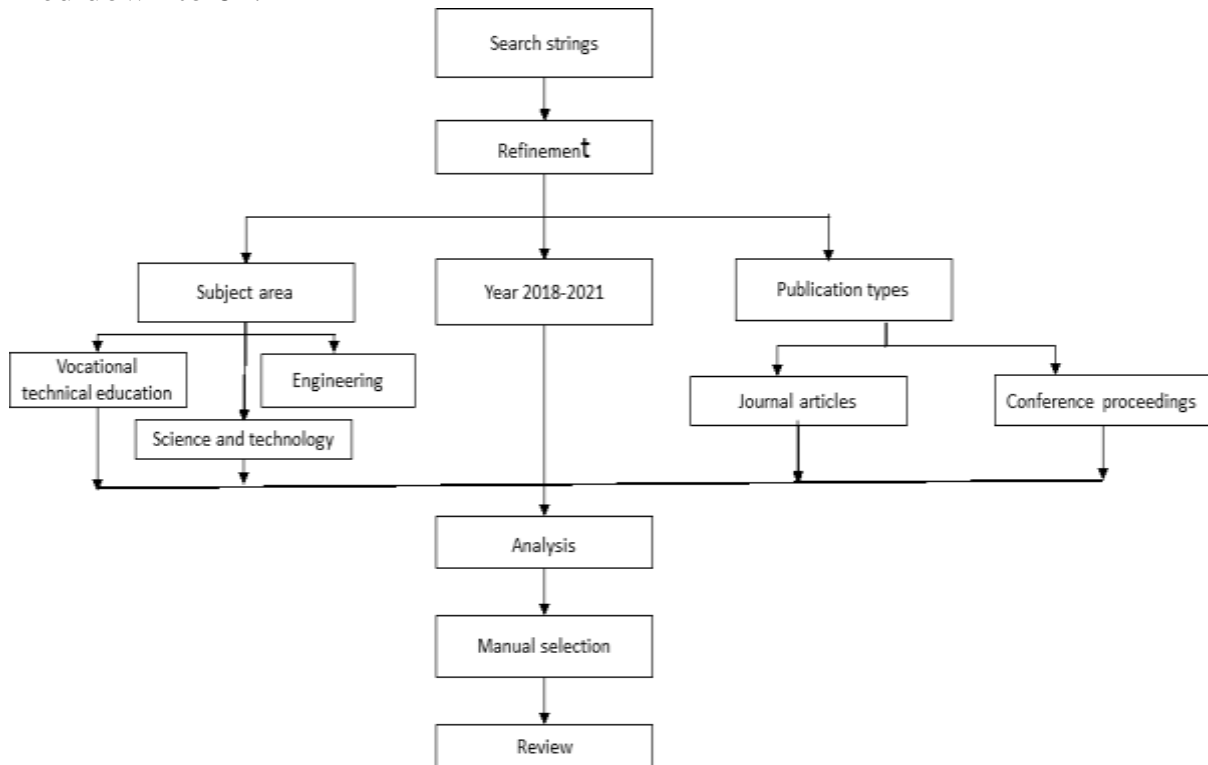


Fig. 2. Competency Model in Technical Education Search Framework

Source: built by the authors.

The manual selection and inclusion of the filtered literature were based on the relevance of the abstracts to the topic. This was accomplished by conducting a critical review of the literature. For the entire study, a total of 45 papers were available. The meta-analysis in Table 2 describes the data of the principal author and publication year, type of document, regions of publication the method used for analysis and the region of publication.

Analysis and Findings. The analysis of the review was based on the generation of charts that shows a pictorial representation of the results of the study. Emphasis was placed on the region of publication, type of document, and the method used by each researcher for conducting the study on the competency model for technical education. Their appropriateness was given careful consideration in the current study.

Results and discussion. The results showed that retrievals were mainly from two main sources. These are conference papers and journal articles. The distribution shows that 20 percent of the articles retrieved are conference papers. While 80 percent are Journal articles. The details analysis of the document type is shown in Fig. 3.

Table 2

Meta-Analysis

No	Author/year	Type of publication	Name of Journal	Methodology	Region
1	(Il'yaschenko et al., 2018)	Journal	International Journal of Mechanical Engineering and Technology	Experimental / Internship	Europe/ Russia
2	(Khan, Khan, Tan & Loon, 2021)	Proceedings	Journal of Physics	Mixed methods	Asia
3	(Lai et al., 2019)	Journal	Journal of Technical Education and Training	Quantitative	Europe
4	(Jerman et al., 2020)	Journal	Organizacija	Qualitative	Europe
5	(Staškeviča, 2019)	Journal	Acta Oeconomica Pragensia	Qualitative	Europe
6	(Supermane, 2018)	Journal	International Information Institute	Quantitative	Asia
7	(Tepavicharova, Dikova & Zahars, 2019)	Proceedings	IVth International Innovative Mining Symposium	Mixed method	Europe
8	(Yao, 2018)	Proceedings	2018 International Conference on Educational Research, Economics, Management and Social Sciences	Mixed method	Asia
9	(Osadchiy & Serezhkina, 2021)	Proceedings	Eighteenth International Scientific and Technical Conference "Optical Technologies for Communications"	Qualitative	Europe
10	(Lloyd-Jones, 2021)	Proceedings	2021 ASEE Annual Conference	Qualitative	USA
11	(Abdurrahman, Widjanarko & Moeryanto, 2019)	Proceedings	Journal of Physics: Conference Series	Quantitative	Asia
12	(Khuzainey, Zulkifli, Sattar Rasul & Pang, 2020)	Journal	Journal of Technical Education and Training	Quantitative	Europe
13	(Nurtanto, Sofyan, Pardjono & Suyitno, 2020)	Journal	International Journal of Evaluation and Research in Education	Quantitative	Asia
14	(Abdullah, Hoque, Ramlan & Shafee, 2019)	Journal	SAGE Open	Quantitative	Asia
15	(Mohamad et al., 2019)	Journal	Journal of Technical Education and Training	Quantitative	Europe
16	(Jerman et al., 2020)	Journal	Organizacija	Qualitative	Europe
17	(Romero-Jeldres & Faouzi-Nadim, 2020)	Journal	Magis	Quantitative	Europe

Continuation of Table 2

18	(Lam & Hassan, 2018)	Journal	International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences	Qualitative	Asia
19	(Arifin et al., 2018)	Journal	International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences	Qualitative	Asia
20	(Nurtanto et al., 2020)	Journal	Journal of Technical Education and Training	Quantitative	Europe
21	(Kateryna et al., 2020)	Journal	International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research	Qualitative	Africa
22	(Jayalath & Esichaikul, 2020)	Journal	Technology, Knowledge and Learning	Qualitative	USA
23	(Ahmed & Sayed, 2021)	Journal	The Journal of Competency-Based Education	Other	USA
24	(Osman, Kob & Abdullah, 2019)	Journal	International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences	Qualitative	Asia
25	(Zarrouk, 2021)	Journal	International Journal of research in Educational Sciences	Qualitative	Africa
26	(Pittich, Tenberg & Lensing, 2020)	Journal	European Journal of Engineering Education	Qualitative	Europe
27	(Remington, 2018)	Journal	Journal of Vocational Education and Training	Qualitative	Europe
28	(A Aziz, Ahmad & Mat Nashir, 2019)	Journal	Jurnal Pendidikan Sains Dan Matematik Malaysia	Quantitative	Asia
29	(Ismail et al., 2019)	Journal	Journal of Engineering Science and Technology	Quantitative	Asia
30	(Salleh & Sulaiman, 2015)	Journal	Asian Social Science	Qualitative	Asia
31	(Kyoung-Joo & Eun-Young, 2018)	Journal	Journal of Technology Management and Innovation	Qualitative	USA
32	(Nurtanto, Sofyan et al., 2020)	Journal	International Journal of Evaluation and Research in Education	Quantitative	Asia
33	(Lai et al., 2019)	Journal	Journal of Technical Education and Training	Quantitative	Europe
34	(Abdurrahman et al., 2019)	Proceedings	Journal of Physics: Conference Series	Quantitative	Europe
35	(Khan et al., 2021)	Proceedings	Journal of Physics: Conference Series	Quantitative	Europe

Continuation of Table 2

36	(Romero-Jeldres & Faouzi-Nadim, 2020)	Journal	Magis	Quantitative	Europe
37	(Vogel et al., 2021)	Journal	Journal of Culinary Science and Technology	Quantitative	USA
38	(Pittich et al., 2020)	Journal	European Journal of Engineering Education	Qualitative	Europe
39	(Mohamad et al., 2019)	Journal	Journal of Technical Education and Training	Quantitative	Europe
40	(Arifin et al., 2018)	Journal	International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences	Qualitative	Asia
41	(Jayalath & Esichaikul, 2020)	Journal	Technology, Knowledge and Learning	Qualitative	USA
42	(Olojuolawe et al., 2020)	Proceedings	TVET Towards Industrial Revolution 4.0	Qualitative	Asia
43	(Fraser et al., 2019)	Journal	Journal of Teaching and Learning for Graduate Employability	Qualitative	Asia
44	(Saripudin et al., 2020)	Journal	International Journal of Innovative Technology and Exploring Engineering	Quantitative	Asia
45	(Olojuolawe et al., 2019)	Journal	International Journal of Entrepreneurial Research	Qualitative	Asia

Source: compiled by the authors.

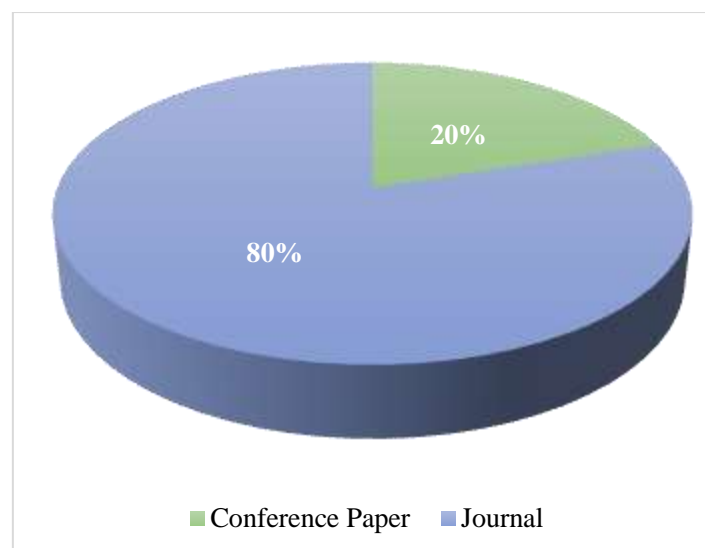


Fig. 3. Distribution of Publication by Document Type

Source: built by the authors.

Findings show that retrievals were from four continents of the world. The continents are Africa, Asia, the United State of America (USA) and Europe. The highest retrieval was from Europe and Asia respectively. This was followed by the

USA and the African continent occupying the least position as shown in Fig. 4.

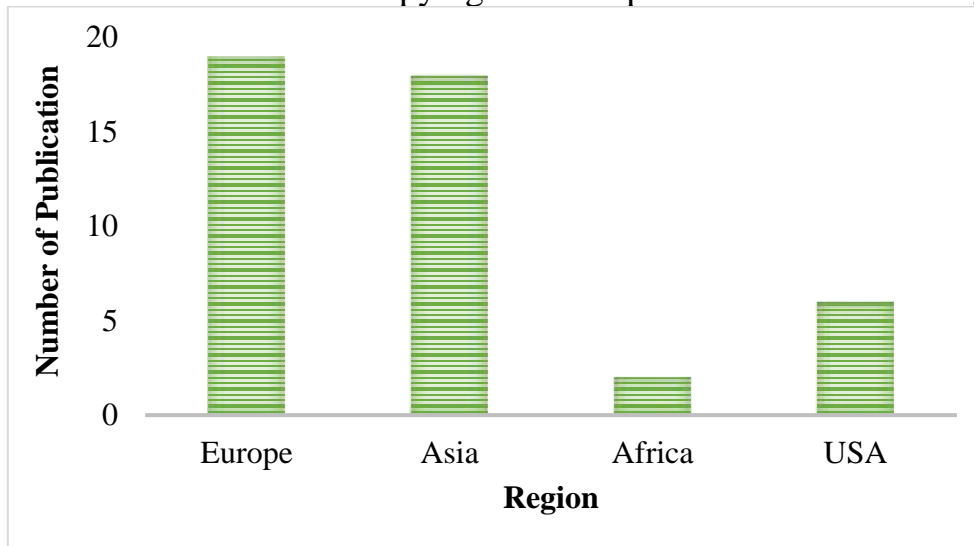


Fig. 4. Regional Distribution of Publication

Source: built by the authors.

Similarly, the findings for the methodology indicated that researchers employed the use of 4 methods in conducting their research. The quantitative and qualitative studies gained higher prominence among researchers with a percentage value of 42 % and 47 % respectively. The mixed-method has a value of 7 %. While others such as review recorded 4 %. This is shown in Fig. 5.

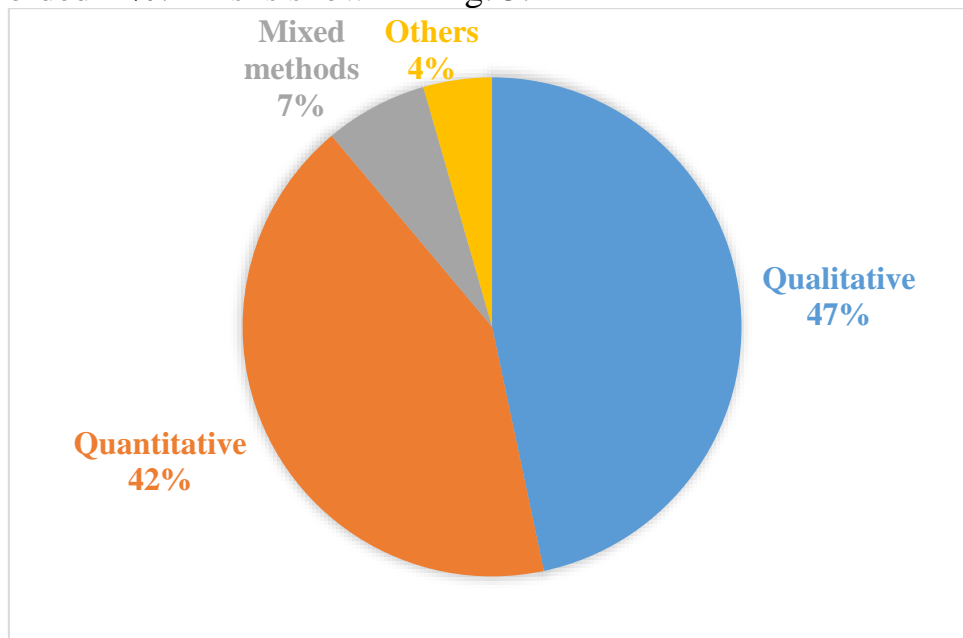


Fig. 5. Findings for Methodology

Source: built by the authors.

Findings revealed that 80 % of the articles reviewed on the competency model for technical education occurred in Journal articles. While 20 % came out in conference proceedings. Similarly, the majority of the publications occurred in the Asian and European continents with Africa recording the least publications. This may account to some extent the reason for the level of our education and the economic backwardness

of the region among the committee of nations. Research pointed to various factors responsible for the high rate of youth unemployment in Africa and Nigeria in particular (Deba, 2014; Ismail & Mohammed, 2015; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2018). A variant of methods was used for the design and the development of the models by the different researchers and authors. While the outcomes of each study cannot be disputed, the streamlining of the methodologies will help to achieve depth and more valid outcomes (Creswell, 2013; Ivankova, 2014; Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2016). The combined strengths of the qualitative and quantitative research methods will provide an enhanced research result (Bentahar & Cameron, 2015; Creswell, 2014). The 7 % recorded in mixed-method seemed to be abysmally low and negates the desire of experts (Creswell John., 2014; Morgan, 2017). Therefore, with a quantitative strength of 42 % and a qualitative strength of 47 % combined, a research design employing a mixed method is recommended for future study in competency model development in vocational and technical education. This permits room for better generalization of results. Though, there exists a variation in teacher level of competency (Goh et al., 2017). The adoption of a unique and standardized method for conducting competency research in technical education will be vital for strengthening methodological and research outcomes.

Conclusions. The results of the study show that there was no consistent and uniform technique for researching competency models in technical education. The review of current articles in the domain of competency in technical education is novel as it shows the strengths and weaknesses in the usage of different methods by researchers. Similarly, the result shows the rate of research outcomes on a regional basis and document types. Based on the analysis, the following should be noted:

- The outcome of this study has shown that researchers favour the use of qualitative and quantitative methods separately.

- This may be due to the ease and their convenience usage in terms of energy, time and resources.

- However, the combination of the two methods will evolve a more valid research study whose source of data can be proven and the results generalized.

- The studies have exposed the near dearth of mixed-method in conducting research especially, competency-related studies in technical education.

- Therefore, for 21st century research, the mixed-method research is recommended for conducting competency studies in technical and vocational education to achieve uniformity and sustainability of approach and method.

- Future research should focus on the discipline approach.

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