



Development Of Metal Cutting Practical Skills Assessment Scale For Technical Colleges In Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study developed a metal cutting practical skill assessment scale (MCPSAS) to improve students' performance in metal cutting practical skill processes. The study answered three research questions and tested two hypotheses. The MCPSAS comprising of practical skills based on National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) curriculum and related literature were developed and validated by five experts in Ebonyi state University Abakaliki. The study adopted instrumentation design and was carried out in two geo-political zones South- East and North- East of Nigeria. The population of the study was 492 Metalwork students. The sample size was 48 metalwork students selected from 12 Technical Colleges. The instrument for data collection was entitled Metal Cutting Practical Skills Assessment Scale MCPSAS. The reliability of the instrument was established using Kendall coefficient concordance and this yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.89. Data for the study was collected by personal contact with the respondents with the help of research assistants. Data were analyzed using factor analysis, statistical mean and standard deviation for the research question and t-test at 0.05 level of significance for the hypotheses. The result of the study showed that seven clusters and 75 practical skills were found appropriate for the MCPSAS. Based on this result, it was recommended amongst others that metal cutting practical skill assessment scale are appropriate for Technical Colleges and other similar institutions in Nigeria should be made to be aware and learn to use the MCPSAS for assessing performance in metalwork practical skills processes in Technical Colleges

Keywords: *assessment scale ; practical skill; metal cutting. process skills*

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I. Introduction

Technical College is one of the principal vocational institutions that provide technical education in Nigeria, charged with the responsibility of imparting necessary skills that lead to the production of craftsmen and technicians who are expected to be skilled and self-reliance in the world of work. The skill oriented and performance- based programmes allow effective training and assessment of craftsmen in a wide range of trades that help students to achieve various instructional objectives in the different domains of learning (Okwelle and Okoye, 2012). Technical College education, centers around the performance in psychomotor domain with relevant emphasis on cognitive and affective domains (FGN 2004 and NBTE 2007). Technical College is viewed as an institution where vocational trainings are given to students. These skills will enable them to gain entry into various occupations like Automobile, Electrical/Electronic and Mechanical Engineering Craft Epenyong (2011). Nwachukwu (2006) defined Technical College as the principal vocational institution that gives vocational training intended to prepare students for entry into various occupations as craftsmen and technicians. Both definitions are geared towards training for skill acquisition in different occupations. Hence, Technical College can be described as an institution where students are trained in various occupations to acquire employable skills that will enable them function well in the occupation in the world of work. By implication,

much attention is focused on psychomotor performance or practical learning. Psychomotor component requires the appropriate use of workshop tools, equipment and training materials that are necessary for effective training of the craftsman in his / her chosen trade such as Automobile, Electrical/Electronic and Metalwork Mechanical Engineering Craft, among others.

Metalwork technology is one of the technical courses studied in Technical Colleges in Nigeria. Metalworking is a science, art, craft, and trade. According to Anya and Kelly (2017) metalwork technology is one of the courses in technical colleges which are aimed at training skilled labour for self-reliance. Metalwork technology is a field of study that teaches individual how to make use of metal to produce different product for daily needs. Danjuma and Umaru (2019) stated that Metalwork Technology is the activity of making objects / products out of metals. Metal works is generally called Metalwork Technology because it involves modern ways of making metal products using different tools, equipment and machines. Ombugus (2013) opined that the aim of Metalwork technology curricular at the Technical College level is to teach the learner how to practice the trade independently upon graduation. Maigida (2013) defined metalwork technology as the study of all aspects of metalworking such as bench, sheet, art, metal jewelry, metal finishing, forging, casting, machines, heat treating, material testing, welding and other fastening methods in metal manufacturing. In this context, metal work technology involves the study where metals are redesign and reconstructed for modern objects used at home and the industries. Eze (2011) stated that the metal work craftsmen are involved among others in the following operations: manipulating complex tools and equipment; determination and selection of appropriate metals; determination and commitment to obeying safety rules guiding the complex machines they are working with.

Metalwork studies aims to produce skilled craftsmen for self or paid employment in the world of work. In metalwork curriculum, there are some operations / tasks enumerated in metal cutting operations. According to National Board for Technical Education (NBTE, 2013) metalwork process involves complex tasks. Such tasks are taught in step by step procedure to enable students to acquire the required skills for machine operation. According to Anya (2015) the step by step procedure will facilitate their rate of acquisition of practical skills.

Skills acquisition is one of the surest ways through which young people can find their ways into the labour market either in the public or private sectors. Osuala (2004), defined skill as the ability to perform expertly, facilitate performance during employment. Michael (2004), notes that skill is an individual capability to control element of behavior, thinking and feeling within specified content and within particular task domain. Advance in technology have rendered metalwork skills inadequate for work in metal process industry; while creating needs for new and often sophisticated skills. This is because metal products are coming with new devices as a result of technological advancements. With the seemingly rapid growth in metal users in Nigeria today, there is need to improve skills of the workforce needed for metal industry.

Evidence from research studies (Bukar, 2006; Chejile, 2006; Garba, 1993; Okwelle, 2003) indicate that the popular method of assessing students' practical skills in Technical Colleges including metal cutting practice trade by their teachers and instructors in Nigerian Technical Colleges is based on mere looking at the students' finished products with little or no attention to the process involved in carrying out the practical work. Marks are then awarded to the students based on what the teacher or examiner feels the student deserves. This observatory method of awarding marks to students is considered biased and subsumes the award of grades that show individual examiner's feelings. According to Chejile (2006) the reason for this lopsided practice of assessment by the teachers could be that they are either reluctant, background or too busy to assess the various stages of individual student's work by at least preparing a definite procedure of assessment.

In order to improve the standard of assessment in technical and vocational education, there is need to use valid and reliable assessment instruments which will take account of the process of practical activities leading to the completion of the final practical products. Though such instruments have been developed in some other technical and vocational trades (Bukar, 2015, 2006; Chiejile, 2006; Garba, 1993; Okeke, 2004; Yalams, 2005), literature available to the researcher indicate that no such instrument has been developed and validated for use in metal cutting practical skill processes in Technical Colleges. Against the background of paucity of standard instrument for assessing practical skills in metal cutting operations trade prompted the development and validation of a metal cutting practical skill assessment scale in Technical Colleges.

Statement of the Problem

Metalwork technology as a skill oriented field of study is expected to equip learners with saleable skills that make way for self-reliance and paid employment. Poor performance of students in metalwork technology have made most of Technical College school leavers to be unable to gain admission into higher institutions due to their inability to make at least a credit in the subject in the National Board for Technical Education Examinations (NABTEB). The Chief Examiner's reports 2018 and 2019 stated that many candidates recorded poor achievement in metalwork technology in their practical results. It is also the observation of West African Examination Council (Technical) Chief Examiner 2019 and National Examination Council 2018 that students

do not know how to carry out practical works in the workshops, especially in the area of metal cutting. This according to examiners reports students perform below credit level in their external examinations. The students might have had poor assessment that lead to poor mastery of the skills in drilling, reaming, facing, turning, boring, milling and broaching in metalwork technology processes. The extent of mastery in skill attainment in a competency-based subject like metal work trade is ascertained through a competency-based assessment process.

However, it has been revealed from research studies that graduates of metalwork technology from Technical Colleges are unable to perform as expected in their occupational trades. This situation could be attributed to various factors which include; wrong method of assessing the skills of the students of metalwork technology. Furthermore, less attention has been given to the influence of school proprietorship on students' practical skill acquisition. The three types of proprietorship of Technical Colleges; include private Technical Colleges, State's Technical Colleges and Federal Technical Colleges. However, the study examines the extent of State and Federal Technical Colleges influence on students' assessment in practical skill acquisition on metal cutting practices in metalwork trade. The influence of gender has become necessary on assessing student's practical skills due to nature of metal cutting practices in metalwork technology, to clarify the gender differences in metal cutting practice skills irrespective of location. Location of the school attribute to students skill acquisition in metal cutting practice.

The National Technical Certificate (NTC) and the Advanced National Technical Certificate (ANTC) examination conducted by NABTEB for assessing metalwork technology are focused more on assessment of knowledge (cognitive) neglecting the process skills (psychomotor) and the whole affective (attitude). This assessment process has made the metalwork graduates lack sufficient skills resulting to lack of saleable skills, unemployment, and lack of self-reliance in metal cutting practice work. This study therefore, seeks to develop a Metal Cutting Practical Skill Assessment Scale (MCPSAS) in Technical Colleges in Nigeria

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to develop metal cutting practical skills assessment scale in Technical Colleges in Nigeria. Specifically, the study will seek to:

1. validate metal cutting practical skill assessment scale
2. test reliability of the metal cutting practical skill assessment scale
3. Find out influence of location on the mean rating of the student practical skills

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study

1. What are valid metal cutting practical skill assessment scale?
2. What reliability of the metal cutting practical skill assessment scale?
3. What how location influence mean rating of the student practical skills?

Hypotheses

The null hypothesis which was formulated to guide the study was analyzed at 0.05 level of significance.

1. H_0 : There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the Metal Cutting Practical Skill Assessment Scale (MCPSAS) in metalwork technology between Urban and Rural students in Technical Colleges.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study is an instrumentation research design. Instrumentation research design is used for a study if the purpose of the study is to produce a new or modifies content, procedures, technologies or instrument for educational practices. The study answered three research questions and tested two hypotheses. The MCPSAS comprising of practical skills based on National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) curriculum and related literature were developed and validated by five experts in Ebonyi state University Abakiliki. The study adopted instrumentation design and was carried out in two geo-political zones South- East and North- East of Nigeria. The population of the study is 492 Metalwork practice technical students. The sample size of the study was 48 metalwork technology students selected from the 12 Government Technical Colleges selected from each geo- political zone of Nigeria (seven State own Technical Colleges and five Federal Technical Colleges). The sampling method was purposeful sampling technique. This was to enable the researcher to select the metalwork practice students purposefully from the sampled Technical Colleges. Data were analyzed using factor analysis, statistical mean and standard deviation for the research question and t-test at 0.05 level of significance for the hypotheses. The instrument used for this study is Metal Cutting Practical Skill Assessment Scale (MCPSAS). The draft copy of the instrument has a total of 79 items which were designed to assess the following practical skills in metal cutting processes; Lathe turning, Milling, Facing,

Drilling, Reaming, Boring, and Broaching Operations in Technical Colleges. Following a detailed review of relevant literature and NABTEB curriculum, which award Nigeria National Technical Certificate (NTC), the instrument was arranged in seven clusters. The developed MCPSAS was based on four point scale namely: Very Highly Appropriate (VHA), Highly Appropriate (HA), Moderately Appropriate (MA), Appropriate (A), and Inappropriate (IA). These levels of responses were weighted as 4, 3, 2, 1, and 0 respectively to form parts of MCPSAS. Also, an operational scoring guide was attached to assist the Raters / Teachers in their assessments. face validation of the draft instrument was carried out by five experts; three in Technology and Vocational Education Department Ebonyi State University, one expert from Measurement and Evaluation Unit of Science Education and one expert from metal work technology, Faculty of Vocational and Technical Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Following the comments of these experts, a final instrument consisting of 75 items were finally drafted and used for the study. To determine the reliability of the instrument, a pilot testing of the draft copies of the instrument was administered to 12 Metalwork Students in North-Central zone of Nigeria which consist of Niger, Kwara, Kogi, Benue, Plateau, and Nasarawa States that are outside the study area. The responses of these metalwork students were scored and subjected to factor analysis. The items that did not meet the specifications in terms of minimum loading were dropped out of the seventy-nine items that were subjected to preliminary validation exercise. Four items failed to attain a minimum loading of 0.35 on any of the seven factors. Kendal coefficient concordance was used to test the degree of reliability of each of the operations and the entire instruments, which yield 0.89. This was considered reliable and adequate for academic research To answer research question 2, Kendal coefficient of concordance was used to test degree of reliability of each of the operations and the entire instrument. T-test was used in testing hypotheses 1, and 2, that guided the study. This was tested at a 0.05 level of significance. For selecting the practical skills appropriate for inclusion in the Metal Cutting Practical Skills Assessment Scale (MCPSAS) a mean cut off 2.50 and above was utilized. Therefore, any practical skill with mean score of 2.50 and above was considered appropriate and chosen while a practical skill with a mean score below 2.50 was considered inappropriate to be included in the developed instrument for testing the hypothesis, t- test was used at a 0.05 level of significance. That means if calculated value is more than the critical value, the hypothesis rejected, but when the calculated value is less than the critical value the hypothesis is upheld.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Research Question 1: What are valid metal cutting practical skill assessment scale?

Table 1: Factor Loadings Summary of Means, and Standard Deviations of the Seven Metal Cutting Practical Skill Assessment Scale in Technical Colleges in Nigeria N = 48

| Metal Cutting Practical Skills Assessment Scales | | DOS1 | LTO2 | MOS3 | Factor FOS4 | BOS5 | ROS6 | BOS7 | \bar{X} | SD |
|--|--|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| DOS1-10 | Drilling Operation Skills Cronbach's alpha | .951 .867 | | | | | | | 2.97 | 0.48 |
| LTO11-25 | KMOMSA Lathe Turning Skills Cronbach's alpha KMOMSA | .714 | .753 .645 .833 | | | | | | 3.06 | 0.46 |
| MOS26-40 | Milling Operation Skills Cronbach's alpha KMOMSA | | | .717 .473 .479 | | | | | 3.02 | 0.29 |
| FOS41-48 | Facing Operation Skills Cronbach's alpha KMOMSA | | | | .788 .549 .719 | | | | 3.07 | 0.50 |
| BOS50-56 | Boring Operation Skills Cronbach's alpha KMOMSA | | | | | .853 .640 .862 | | | 3.01 | 0.28 |
| ROS57-65 | Reaming Operation Skills Cronbach's alpha KMOMSA | | | | | | .780 .749 .780 | | 3.04 | 0.36 |
| BOS66-75 | Broaching Operation Skills Cronbach's alpha KMOMSA Overall Cronbach's alpha | | | | | | | .751 .823 .788 0.68 | 3.18 | 0.35 0.39 |

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis; KMOMSA = Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.

Table 1 presents the summary of the factor loadings of the practical skill assessment scale in metal cutting processes in Technical Colleges in Nigeria. The results showed homogeneity of item spread. However, out of seventy-nine items of the MCPSAS subjected to factors analysis, four items (i.e., item 5, 12, 58, and 60) did not load properly and were discarded, thus leaving 75 items. According to Ogbonna in Obe (2019), for an item to be accepted in any factor it has to attain a loading of up to 0.35. For the drilling operation skills its validity was determined using 2scales: agree (1) and disagree (0). This section consists of 10 items describing different drilling operation skills. The items were subjected to principal components analysis (PCA). PCA is considered suitable for this analysis because it helps researchers who are interested in scale and wish to generate an empirical summary of any given data set (Tabachnick, & Fidell, 2001). More than 90% of the respondents agreed that each of the items is drilling operation skills required in Technical Colleges in Nigeria. The metalwork technology students (more than 70%) also affirmed that all the items identified as the lathe turning and milling operation skills are metal cutting operating skills required in Technical Colleges in Nigeria and that these skills are capable of improving their metalwork practice and also improve their performance. From the factor loading results, about 78%, 85%, 78%, and 75% agree that the items identified as facing, boring, reaming, and broaching operation skills respectively are metalwork cutting practical skill assessment scale required in Technical Colleges in Nigeria. Furthermore, results presented in Table 1 also indicated a positive value of Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO) and the result showed a grand value of .714, .833, .479, .719, .862, .780 and .788 respectively. These results are congruent with Pallant (2005) who noted that for factor analysis to be considered appropriate for data analysis, the KMO value must be .6 and above. Factor analysis is considered fit for this study because it permits a researcher to ascertain if many variables can be described by few factors (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2009).

Research Question 2: What are reliable Metal Cutting Practical Skills Assessment Scale (MCPSAS) in Technical Colleges?

Table 2: The result of the reliability of the metal cutting practical skills assessment scale using Kendall coefficient of concordance Tau (w) are given below:

| S / N | TASK / OPERATION | N0 OF ITEMS | Kendal coefficient of concordance Tau (w) | REMAKS |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------|---|--------|
| 1 | Drilling Operation | 10 | 0.65 | A |
| 2 | Lathe Turning Operation | 15 | 0.80 | A |
| 3 | Milling Operation | 15 | 0.80 | A |
| 4 | Facing Operation | 8 | 0.45 | A |
| 5 | Boring Operation | 8 | 0.45 | A |
| 6 | Reaming Operation | 9 | 0.50 | A |
| 7 | Broaching Operation | 10 | 0.65 | A |
| | Average (W) | | 0.614 | A |

Key: A=Appropriate.

Table 2: revealed that each of the seven major tasks / operations has a high reliability co-efficient. Also, the result of the analysis revealed that 75 items of the instrument were highly reliable for inclusion in the final copy of the instrument. The obtained Tau (w) for the various clusters ranged between 0.45 and 0.80. And that of the entire instrument was found to be 0.61. The developed instrument was found to be valid, reliable and practically useful for assessing metal cutting practical skills in Technical Colleges.

Research Question 3: What are influence of location on the mean rating of the student practical skills?

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation Ratings on the Influence of Location on the Student Practical Skills in Technical Colleges

| S/N | Items | Urban | | | | Rural | | Remark |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|--|--------|
| | | Urban | | Rural | | SD | | |
| | | \bar{X} | SD | \bar{X} | SD | | | |
| 1 | Taking measurement | 2.80 | 0.30 | 3.12 | 0.56 | A | | |
| 2 | Setting- up drilling machine | 3.01 | 0.30 | 3.11 | 0.57 | A | | |
| 3 | Drilling a hole in metal bar | 3.02 | 0.34 | 3.02 | 0.25 | A | | |
| 4 | Drilling a blind hole in a metal | 2.84 | 0.31 | 3.27 | 0.56 | A | | |
| 5 | Spot drilling | 2.97 | 0.29 | 3.06 | 0.28 | A | | |
| 6 | Make chain drill | 2.96 | 0.33 | 3.11 | 0.37 | A | | |
| 7 | Use appropriate clamping device | 3.00 | 0.27 | 3.34 | 0.34 | A | | |
| 8 | Handling vibrating drilling machine | 2.94 | 0.30 | 3.15 | 0.42 | A | | |
| 9 | Counter sunk drilling | 2.80 | 0.30 | 3.12 | 0.56 | A | | |
| 10 | Counter sink drilling | 3.01 | 0.30 | 3.11 | 0.57 | A | | |
| | Cluster mean | 3.02 | 0.34 | 3.02 | 0.25 | A | | |

Key: \bar{X} = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation, A = Appropriate.

The result presented in Table 3 showed the mean ratings of the respondents on the influence of location on the metal cutting practical skills. The result revealed that items 1 to 10 in Technical Colleges in Urban area had

mean values ranging from 2.80 to 3.01 with corresponding standard deviation ranging from 0.27 to 0.34 indicating that the metal technology students in Urban area agree that the 10 items identified as the metal cutting practical skills are the skills, they require for effective metal cutting. Similarly, the results from the Technical Colleges in Rural area revealed mean values ranging from 2.02 to 3.34 with corresponding standard deviation ranging from 0.25 to 0.57 indicating that all the respondents agree that these skills are needed for metal cutting practical. The overall standard deviation of 0.34 and 0.25 indicate that the respondents in the Urban and Rural Technical Colleges are very close to one another in their opinions.

Hypothesis 1:

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of Metal Cutting Practical Skill Assessment Scale (MCPSAS) in metalwork technology between male and female students in Technical Colleges

Table 4: t-test Summary of Metal Cutting Practical Skills in Metalwork Technology between Male and Female Students in Technical Colleges in Nigeria N (Male = 32, Female = 16)

| S/N | Operations Skills | Male | | Female | | Df | t-cal | Sig. 2-tailed | Remk |
|-----|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | \bar{X}_m | SD | \bar{X}_f | SD | | | | |
| 1 | Drilling | 3.05 | 1.01 | 2.93 | 0.97 | 46 | 0.461 | 0.832 | NS |
| 2 | Lathe Turning | 3.10 | 0.88 | 3.04 | 1.00 | 46 | 0.196 | 0.505 | NS |
| 3 | Milling | 3.03 | 0.93 | 3.01 | 0.92 | 46 | 0.138 | 0.299 | NS |
| 4 | Facing | 3.02 | 1.02 | 3.09 | 0.99 | 46 | -0.48 | 0.877 | NS |
| 5 | Boring | 3.06 | 0.85 | 2.99 | 0.95 | 46 | 0.851 | 0.889 | NS |
| 6 | Reaming | 2.97 | 1.01 | 3.08 | 1.00 | 46 | -1.01 | 0.229 | NS |
| 7 | Broaching | 3.20 | 0.96 | 3.17 | 0.97 | 46 | 0.081 | 0.320 | NS |
| | Cluster Mean | 3.06 | 0.95 | 3.04 | 0.97 | 46 | 0.034 | 0.564 | NS |

Key: \bar{X} = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation, Df = Degree of freedom, Remk = Remarks, S = Significant, NS = Not significant.

Table 4 presents a t-test summary to test the hypothesis 1 that there is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female students on Metal Cutting Practical Skill Assessment Scale (MCPSAS) in metalwork technology in Technical Colleges in Nigeria. Results revealed P-values on the operating skills items which ranged from 0.299 – 0.889 with overall cluster means of p = 0.564, t-cal of 0.034 at 46degree of freedom. Since each of the overall P-values is greater than 0.05 criterion values, it implies that there was no significant difference in the mean responses of the respondents. Therefore, the hypothesis 1 of no significant difference was not rejected.

Hypothesis 2

H₀₃: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the Metal Cutting Practical Skill Assessment Scale (MCPSAS) in metalwork technology between Urban and Rural students in Technical Colleges.

Table 5: t-test Summary of Metal Cutting Practical Skills in Metalwork Technology between Urban and Rural Technical Colleges in Nigeria N (Urban = 25, Rural = 23)

| S/N | Operations Skills | Urban | | Rural | | Df | t-cal | Sig. 2-tailed | Remk |
|-----|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | \bar{X}_m | SD | \bar{X}_f | SD | | | | |
| 1 | Drilling | 2.80 | 0.30 | 3.12 | 0.56 | 46 | -2.48 | 0.053 | NS |
| 2 | Lathe Turning | 3.01 | 0.30 | 3.11 | 0.57 | 46 | -0.72 | 0.030 | S |
| 3 | Milling | 3.02 | 0.34 | 3.02 | 0.25 | 46 | 0.016 | 0.167 | NS |
| 4 | Facing | 2.84 | 0.31 | 3.27 | 0.56 | 46 | -3.25 | 0.121 | NS |
| 5 | Boring | 2.97 | 0.29 | 3.06 | 0.28 | 46 | -1.07 | 0.659 | NS |
| 6 | Reaming | 2.96 | 0.33 | 3.11 | 0.37 | 46 | -1.46 | 0.419 | NS |
| 7 | Broaching | 3.00 | 0.27 | 3.34 | 0.34 | 46 | -3.86 | 0.163 | NS |
| | Cluster Mean | 2.94 | 0.30 | 3.15 | 0.42 | 46 | -1.83 | 0.053 | NS |

Key: \bar{X} = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation, Df = Degree of freedom, Remk = Remarks, S = Significant, NS = Not significant.

Table 5 shows a t-test summary on hypothesis 3 that there is no significant difference in the mean responses of the Metal Cutting Practical Skill Assessment Scale (MCPSAS) in metalwork technology among students in

Federal and State Technical Colleges. Results show P-values on all the operating skills which ranged from 0.030 – 0.659 with overall cluster means of $p = 0.053$, t-cal of -1.83 at 46 degree of freedom. Since each of the overall P-values except that of item 2 is greater than 0.05 criterion values, it implies that there was no significant difference in the mean responses of the respondents from urban and rural locations on MCPSAS of the metalwork technology in Technical Colleges in Nigeria. Therefore, the hypothesis 3 of no significant difference was not rejected.

IV. Conclusion

The study set out to develop and validate metal cutting practical skill assessment scale for assessing practical skills in mechanical engineering craft students in Technical Colleges. The study successfully developed a valid and reliable test instrument for assessing practical skills of students in metalwork trade in technical colleges. The result related to the research question indicated that all the 75 practical skills were considered appropriate for inclusion in the metal cutting practical skill assessment scale (MCPSAS). This signifies that the mechanical engineering craft studies trade teachers in technical colleges considered the 75 skill activities as appropriate for use in assessing students' performance in practical areas of metalwork trade. Technical Colleges in Nigeria are set up to equip youths in different trades, either paid or self-employed. This study on metal works skills required by students of Technical Colleges for self-employment in Nigeria is as a result of the technical manpower in the 21st century labour market demands which have caused many metalwork graduates with various certificates to be unemployed. For Nigeria to rise above the problem of unemployment among metalwork Technical College students there is need to impart sound metal cutting practical skill processes as this will help them to be self-employed without necessarily waiting for white collar jobs.

V. Recommendations

From the data collected and analyzed, the following recommendations are made;

1. The examination bodies in charge of conducting and organizing examinations for the Technical Colleges (NABTEB) should integrate the competency-based assessment instrument in their examination for certification of student in metalwork in Technical Colleges.
2. The NBTE should integrate the developed competency-based assessment instrument into the curriculum of Technical Colleges for training metalwork student.
3. The Nigerian Educational Research and Development council should integrate the Developed competency-based assessment instrument into the vocational curriculum of Technical Colleges.

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