

For many years, Occupational and Employability Competencies Needed by Automobile Electrical Systems' Technicians have been a topic of debate. Employers have argued that students are often not adequately prepared for the workplace challenges. The graduate generic skills are perceived as more important than technical skills by employers and valued over them. In a major study conducted by Harvey and Geall (1977), graduate employability was identified as a major concern for employers. According to the report from the UK Industry and Parliament Trust's Study group on employability, "employers are not satisfied with the quality of young people and graduates coming into the labour market." Hence, the Identification of Occupational and Employability Competencies Needed by Automobile Electrical Systems' Technicians will entail a re-think in the development of appropriate curriculum for these technicians by the universities' authorities. Such a curriculum should incorporate among others, interpersonal, communication and problem solving skills.

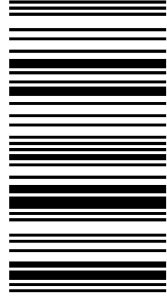


Aliyu Mustapha
Moses Tswana Saba (Ed.)

Identification of Occupational and Employability Competencies

Needed by Automobile Electrical Systems'
Technicians

Aliyu Mustapha receives his masters and undergraduate degree in Educational Technology and Automobile Technology from the National Open University of Nigeria and the Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria respectively. His research interests center on the upliftment of vocational and technical education to a world measurable standard



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**IDENTIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND EMPLOYABILITY
COMPETENCIES NEEDED BY AUTOMOBILE ELECTRICAL
SYSTEMS' TECHNICIANS**

DEDICATION

With deep reverence for my creator, the noble prophet (Muhammad SAW), his household and those who follow and will continue to follow his footprint till the end of the universe.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

All praises, glorification, submission and devotion are due to Allah, the master of the universe. I beseech Allah to increase constantly and permanently His blessing on the last prophet (Muhammad SAW).

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Abstract

This study was carried out to identify the occupational and employability competency needs of Automobile Electrical Systems' Technicians. Specifically, this study determined: - the Occupational Competencies Needed by Automobile Electrical Systems' Technician in General automotive electrical system diagnosis, battery and charging system diagnosis and repair, starting system diagnosis and repair, lighting and accessories system diagnosis and repair and the general employability competencies. Five research questions were answered and three null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 levels of significance to guide the study. Some related literatures were reviewed, among which are: Development of Automobile in Nigeria, the Occupational Competencies in Automobile Body and Electrical System, the Employability Competencies in Automobile Body and Electrical System, and the Methods of Teaching Employability Skills. The descriptive survey approach was used and the target population for this study was made up of Automobile Technicians, Automobile Teachers and Automobile Lecturers, within the selected areas in Niger State. Eighty-one (81) item-questionnaires were used as instruments for data collection, which were analysed according to the research questions. The data collected from the respondents were analysed using frequency counts, mean and analysis of variance (ANOVA). The findings among others include: the practices of safe working habits in workshops, the proper use of hand tools, power tools, equipment and measuring instruments, establishing good rapport with subordinates, ability to write reports, among others. It was recommended that there should be a review of the Automobile Electrical Systems' Technicians training programmes to ensure that they are competent and employable in the automobile and related industries; The roles, responsibilities, and ethical obligations of employees in the industry should be adequately communicated to the students during training; given the evolution of industrial and labour laws, there should be regular and systematic evaluation of teaching curricula, taking into account the industrial and employers' requirements.