

# The Impact of Guiding Students to Participate in Skills Competitions on the Growth of Young Teachers

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**Abstract:** The improvement of the teachers' quality will lead to the improvement of school education. With the continuous progress and development of modern society, the requirements of skills competition in vocational colleges are also increasing. Young teachers can improve themselves by guiding students to participate in skills competitions. This changes the teachers' teaching philosophy and allows them to master new technologies and techniques. Besides, skills competitions also enrich curriculum resources while improving teaching quality. In this paper, we reviewed research papers and outlined the positive effects of guiding students to participate in skills competition on the growth of young teachers. Several targeted suggestions are then put forward with the goal of facilitating the transformation of the teachers' teaching philosophy, enhancing their professional development, and ensuring their rapid growth.

**Keywords:** Skills competitions; Young teachers; Guiding students; Vocational education

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## 1. Introduction

Skills competitions are a popular activity that enhances the skill level of participants in a specific field through in the form of competitions. It has been widely adopted in various fields, particularly in vocational education and training, as it is considered an effective learning and training method. Participants are presented with practical and challenging tasks during the competition, which require them to actively analyze and solve problems. Students must continue to study and consolidate their professional knowledge while preparing for a competition to achieve excellent results in the skills competition and improve their skills<sup>[1,2]</sup>. For instance, students of vehicle maintenance majors can benefit significantly from participating in vehicle maintenance competitions. On one hand, they can better understand the mechanical structure and functions of each equipment; on the other hand, they can exercise their practical, communication, and teamwork skills<sup>[3]</sup>.

Although skills competitions have been highlighted by many major vocational institutions, previous studies have mostly focused the role of competitions in enhancing students' abilities, without much emphasis on the effect of skills competitions on young teachers. Therefore, in this paper, we reviewed previous research output, analyzed the role of students' participation in skill competitions in promoting the development of young teachers, and put forward some recommendations.

## **2. Research status**

Many studies have been done on skills competitions. Qi <sup>[4]</sup> investigated the benefits of skills competitions on students' practical abilities, emphasizing the importance of adjusting teaching content and reforming teaching methods. Wan <sup>[5]</sup> analyzed the development of higher vocational education propelled by vocational skills competitions and suggested that building a reasonable teaching system and changing teaching evaluation methods will be helpful for the development of vocational education. Liu <sup>[6]</sup> analyzed the benefits of participating in agricultural products quality and safety testing competitions in promoting the teaching level of agricultural products quality and safety testing. Wang <sup>[7]</sup> found that participation in skills competitions significantly improves students' employability in higher education institutions and enhances their teamwork skills. Wu <sup>[8]</sup> analyzed the role of skills competitions in improving the metalworking internship curriculum, in which competitions enhance students' understanding of the course content and improve their practical skills. Li <sup>[9]</sup> explored the improvement of teaching methods in secondary vocational schools using parts mapping and computer-aided design drawing technology project competition as an example, and suggested ways to integrate relevant contents into the school's curriculum. Wan <sup>[10]</sup> discussed the key technologies of the skills competition of "modern electrical control system installation and commissioning" and shared strategies for achieving favorable results.

Scholars have examined skill competitions from various angles and have come to a consensus that they contribute to the growth of vocational education. However, there remains a dearth of research on the impact of skill competitions on the development of vocational college teachers. Specifically, the effects of guidance skills competitions on young teachers' advancement are still unclear, which makes it a crucial and purposeful area of inquiry.

## **3. Role of guiding skills competition**

### **3.1. Changing of teaching ideas**

Guiding students to participate in skills competition can potentially promote the transformation of teaching concepts among teachers in vocational colleges in several ways. Firstly, when students participate in skills competitions, they are exposed to real-world scenarios and challenges, which require them to apply what they have learned in the classroom. This hands-on experience can help students develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter and develop practical skills that they could not acquire through classroom lessons.

Secondly, teachers who guide their students to participate in skills competitions are more aware of the current trends and best practices in their respective fields. This can lead to a transformation of their teaching concepts as they incorporate new ideas and approaches into the curriculum. Teachers will also be inspired to find innovative ways to teach and engage their students based on the experiences they gain from guiding their students in skills competitions.

Finally, participating in skills competitions can help build a sense of community among students and teachers. Teachers who guide their students through these competitions can create a supportive learning environment that encourages students to take risks and pursue excellence. This can foster teamwork spirit among students and teachers, which can help transform the way teachers teach, and help teachers emphasize student-centered approaches that prioritize teamwork and problem-solving skills.

### **3.2. Improving teaching quality**

Teachers who guide their students in skills competitions may gain a better understanding of the skills and knowledge required to succeed in their field. This can enable them to better align their teaching with industry standards and requirements and ensure that their students are learning practical skills that are in demand in the job market. Teachers who work with students to prepare for skills competitions gain practical

experience and can incorporate these skills and knowledge into their teaching methods. Guiding students to participate in skills competitions can also encourage continuous learning among teachers. By staying up to date with the latest industry trends and best practices, teachers can improve their practical abilities and ensure that they are providing their students with the most relevant and effective education possible.

### **3.3. Improving scientific research**

Teachers who guide their students to participate in skills competitions can gain a better understanding of the latest industry trends and best practices, which will inspire them to conduct research in their field and explore new areas of inquiry. Furthermore, teachers may gain insights into new technologies and techniques through guiding their students in skills competitions. These insights may inspire them to explore these new technologies and techniques further and incorporate them into their research. By staying up to date with the latest industry trends and best practices, teachers may be better equipped to conduct research that is relevant and impactful.

### **3.4. Mastering new processes and technologies**

Skills competitions often require the use of new processes and technologies that may not be covered in traditional classroom lessons. By guiding their students through these competitions, teachers can gain hands-on experience with these new processes and technologies and develop a deeper understanding of how they work. This can inspire them to explore new technologies and processes that are relevant to their field and incorporate them into their lessons.

### **3.5. Enrich course resources**

Teachers who guide their students through these competitions can incorporate the new technologies and processes into their curriculum, thus enriching the course resources. Meanwhile, skills competition can put teachers at the forefront of new technology. This can inspire them to explore new topics and areas of inquiry that are relevant to their field and incorporate the latest technology into the lectures, thus giving students access to more cutting-edge curriculum resources. Skills competitions can also reflect the effectiveness of the curriculum and teaching methods. Teachers can adjust to the curriculum and teaching methods, thus improving the course resources.

## **4. Specific suggestions**

### **4.1. Learning from experienced teachers**

Young teachers can learn from experienced teachers in guiding students in skills competition. Experienced teachers are often more skilled and knowledgeable, and they can share their experience with younger teachers, including strategies for guiding students in skills competition. Experienced teachers can help young teachers develop their teaching skills and techniques. They can offer advice on preparing students for skills competitions, creating effective lesson plans and training programs, and assessing their students' progress. In addition, experienced teachers may have valuable connections within the industry that can be useful for young teachers and their students. They may be able to provide access to training resources, job opportunities, or contacts that can be beneficial for students who participate in skills competitions. Moreover, learning from experienced teachers can help younger teachers to develop a greater sense of confidence in their own abilities, which can translate into more effective teaching and guidance.

### **4.2. Learning technology in enterprises**

Learning technology in enterprises can be helpful for young teachers in guiding their students in skills competition. Technology is constantly evolving and changing, thus staying up to date with the latest

technological advancements can be challenging, especially for younger teachers do not have much experience in the industry. By learning about technology in enterprises, young teachers can gain a better understanding of the latest tools and techniques used in the industry, which can help them prepare students for skills competition more effectively. This can include learning about new software programs, advanced manufacturing techniques, and emerging technologies like virtual and augmented reality.

Furthermore, learning technology in enterprises can provide young teachers with valuable connections and networking opportunities, which can be beneficial for their students. They may be able to connect with industry experts who can provide guidance and mentorship to students participating in skills competitions or provide access to training resources or job opportunities.

#### **4.3. Participating in enterprise project research**

Participating in enterprise project research and development can be helpful for young teachers in guiding students in skills competition. Firstly, young teachers can gain first-hand experience with cutting-edge technologies and practices, which they can then apply to their lessons. Secondly, collaborating with enterprises can help young teachers build connections within the industry, which can be useful for both themselves and their students. These connections may lead to opportunities for mentorship, internships, or employment for students participating in skills competition. In addition, working on enterprise projects can help young teachers identify shortcomings that their students may have and develop strategies to address them. This can lead to better preparation and training for skills competitions, as well as more effective teaching overall.

### **5. Results**

Skills competitions are an important part of vocational education and have a very significant role in promoting the growth of young teachers. In the process of guiding students in skills competition, young teachers can not only update their educational concepts, but also learn advanced technologies and techniques quickly, which can help improve their teaching ability. At the same time, young teachers should learn from experienced veteran teachers and participate in the R&D in enterprises. Only when young teachers in vocational colleges are knowledgeable and up can their teaching activities be improved.

### **6. Conclusion**

In the context of the development of the new era, skills competition in vocational colleges have become an effective guarantee for the growth of young teachers. The research of this paper focuses on the influence of guiding students to participate in skills competition on the growth of young teachers. On the one hand, skills competition in vocational colleges can help young teachers improve their comprehensive practical skills. On the other hand, guiding students to participate in skills competition can put young teachers' professional development in a virtuous cycle. This paper presents some targeted suggestions to promote this positive impact. To maximize these benefits, it is recommended that more funds and policies be invested to increase teachers' participation in skills competition.

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## Disclosure statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## Author contributions

S.W. and X.Z. conceived the idea of the study and wrote the first draft of the paper. J.C. and D.L. revised the format of the article.

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