

Validation of an instrument to measure the digital competence for nurse educators

Juha Pajari¹ // Marjorita Sormunen² // Leena Salminen^{3,4} // Imane Elonen³ // Miko Pasanen³ // Terhi Saaranen¹

¹Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland
²Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland
³Department of Nursing Science, University of Turku, Turku, Finland
⁴Turku University Hospital, Turku, Finland

Background

The digitalization of the health care environment has revealed new competence requirements. To develop modern health care education, teaching and training activities must support continuous professional development for educators. A validated instrument is needed to assess the digital competence of nurse educators for the development of educator's competence. For this, the Educators and Educator Candidates' Competence in Digital Pedagogy (OODI) scale was developed in Finland in 2019.

Aim

The aim of the study was to describe the validation process of OODI instrument to assess nurse educators' digital competence.

Methods

A quantitative cross-sectional study design was used. The study was a part of Erasmus+ funded international research project the New Agenda for Nurse Educator Education, called New Nurse Educator project, taking place from 2020 to 2023.

The validation process of the OODI instrument was reported, as applicable, according to seven steps from the MEASURE Approach to increase the reliability of the instrument and its validation process. The data were collected in Finland from August 2021 to April 2022. Psychometric testing was conducted with a sample of 111 Finnish nurse educators from nine purposely selected universities of applied sciences.

Results

The exploratory factor analysis results explained 56% of the variance with three factors and 20 items. The factors were named to describe their content and the nurse educator's digital competence: implementing appropriate independent and community learning, acting safely and responsibly, and guiding learning based on the evidence. Cronbach's alpha and McDonald's Omega coefficients showed good reliability for a validated OODI instrument.

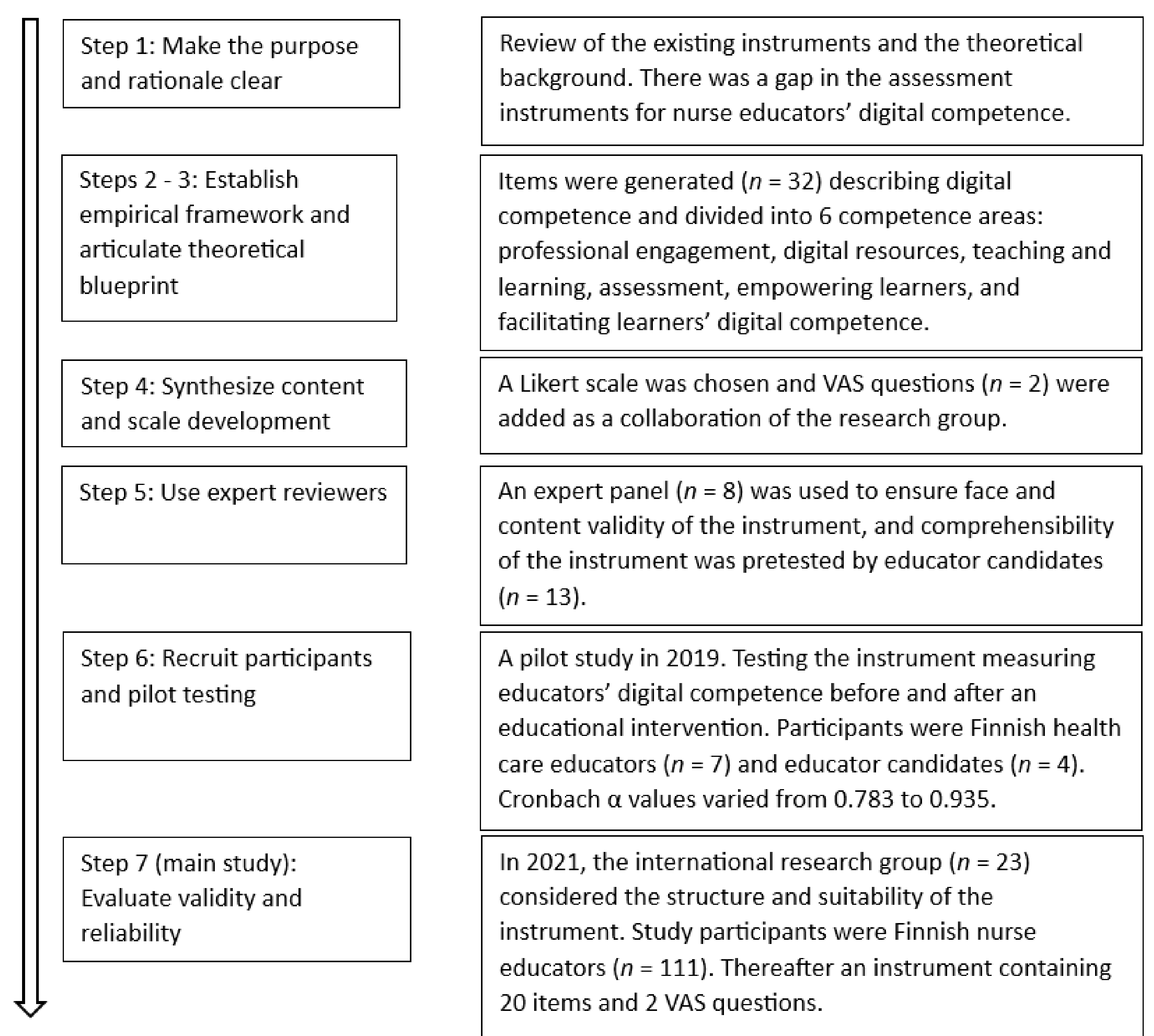


Figure 1. The MEASURE Approach and OODI instrument development process.

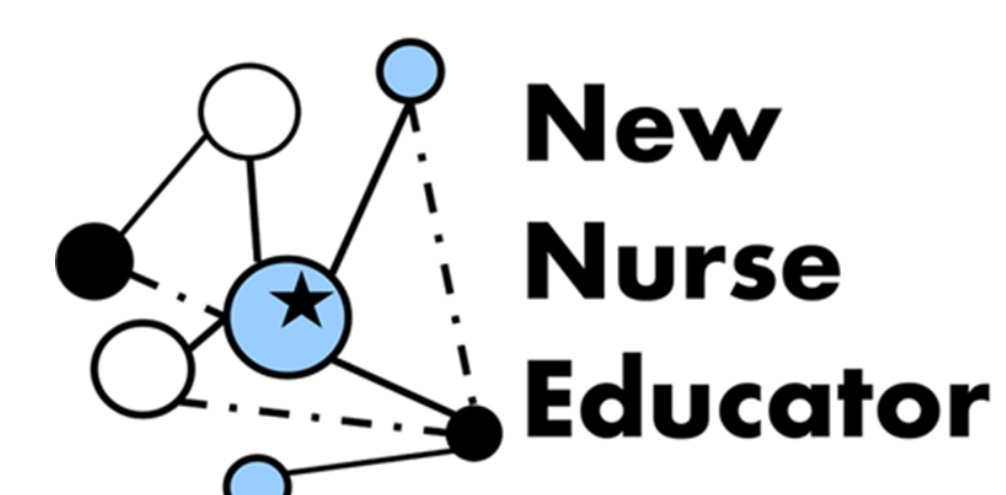
Conclusions

Based on the study, the OODI instrument proved to be valid to assess digital competence and identify the development needs of nurse educators' continuous professional development. However, in the future it is important to validate the instrument internationally.

Main references

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Further information:
Juha Pajari, university teacher,
MhSc, doctoral student
juha.pajari@uef.fi
<https://new-nurse-educator.utu.fi/>



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