E-Assessment Application using A Decision-Tree in Predicting Teachers' Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Competency Level

Reymon M. Santiañez, Maria Visitacion Nepomuceno Gumabay, Jesus Bartolome Pizarro

Abstract - The study focused on the development of the application on predicting ICT Competency of teachers based from the model created from the different decision tree algorithms. The proponent decided to create a model and develop a system on predicting ICT competency using a decision tree to assess the level of ICT knowledge and by using the standardized questionnaires. This innovation can lead to a newer paradigm using artificial intelligence. Through developing such innovation, the teachers can easily identify the level of ICT knowledge using the framework from National ICT Competency Standards (NICS) by assessing the developed applications. The algorithm used on the prediction of Teachers ICT Competency are J48 and Best First Decision Tree (BFTree) with the highest accuracy value after being test using cross-validation and classification in Weka. The summary of the evaluation showed that the e-Assessment Application got an overall average weighted mean of 4.63, which described as a very high extent. Based on the response of the respondents, the strongest point of the system was its portability and performance efficiency, which earned the highest average mean among other major categories in the system evaluation. The e-Assessment Application in Predicting Teachers' ICT Competency Level is very useful in terms of predicting the ICT knowledge and skills through the self-evaluation of teachers. The result of the self-assessment and validation of the School Head or Department Head is a big help on identifying different intervention to improve the ICT skills of the teachers used in the teaching instruction and apply the trends in Information Technology.

Keywords: Machine-learning, Algorithm, Prediction, Weka, Data Mining, Decision tree, ICT Competency, e-Assessment.

I. INTRODUCTION

Schools worldwide need to provide quality education with teachers' qualification that provide students the best learning experience on the delivery of knowledge through ICT. The increasing demand for the 21st-century education made ICT competency of teachers in transforming students to achieve its goal. Educators should be hands-on on the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and be highly competent in the use of technology towards the students. To consider the use of the different ICT framework in teaching as a strategy make an efficient guide on the field

of teaching considering the fact that students today are digital natives and learned the use of ICT.

ICT integration is already in DepEd curriculum but the problem is on the implementation in the use of such technology that help the students learned it. As researched, no related study was conducted on the development of the application on predicting ICT Competency of teachers. Therefore, the proponent decided to create a model and develop a system on predicting ICT competency using decision tree based e-assessment application to assess the level of ICT knowledge of teachers. This innovation can lead to a newer paradigm using artificial intelligence. Through developing such innovation, the teachers can easily identify the level of ICT knowledge using the framework from National ICT Competency Standards (NICS) by assessing the developed applications. Moreover, with this innovation, educational institution can easily run through feedbacks and helped trained teachers to complement the 21st century learning methods.

Conceptual Framework

The framework shows the three variables that include the Socio-demographic profile, ICT School Infrastructure, Teachers' ICT Competency that leads to the development of the system. The ICT Competency of teachers used as the basis for the creation of the model using a different algorithm in machine learning. This model used for the prediction of teachers' ICT competency. Decision tree uses to solve classification problems and create a prediction of target class using decision rule, which taken from the prior data (Brid, Introduction to Decision Trees, 2018). The framework was conceptualized on the basis from the different literature cited.

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E-Assessment Application using A Decision-Tree in Predicting Teachers' Information and Communication Technology (Ict) Competency Level

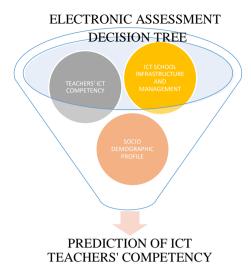


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

Statement of the Problem

The main objective of the research is to develop an electronic assessment application that can predict Teachers' ICT Competency Level.

Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions.

- 1. What are the significant correlates of ICT competencies of Teachers?
- 2. What are the predictors of Teachers' ICT competencies?
- 3. What decision tree algorithm is most appropriate in predicting teachers' ICT competency level?
- 4. What proposed e-Assessment application can be developed using Decision Tree?
- 5. What is the extent of compliance of the developed application to ISO 25010 software quality standards in terms of:
 - 5.1. Functional Sustainability
 - 5.2. Performance Efficiency
 - 5.3. Compatibility
 - 5.4. Usability
 - 5.5. Reliability
 - 5.6. Security
 - 5.7. Maintainability
 - 5.8. Portability
- 6. What are the strengths and limitations of the developed system?

II. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study utilized a quantitative research that employs a descriptive method of research design wherein the researcher conducted a survey on the different participants from junior and senior high school in the Province of Biliran. The results of the study used as an inputs on the design of the model, which were used on the developmental type of research pertaining to the application of ICT Competency for teachers in the province.



Figure 2. Agile System Development Life Cycle (SDLC)

Participants of the Study

The participants of the study are the public school teacher of the Junior and Senior High School in the province of Biliran. The province has 22 public Junior High School and 22 public Senior High School. The Senior High School cater to STEM, ABM, TVL, HUMSS, GAS strands of the K-12 curriculum. The public Junior High School has 633 public teachers while the Senior High School has 108 school teacher. In total, there were 741 public school teachers in the province of Biliran. Among the 741 public school teacher, only 254 was part of the study. The sample size is calculated from an online calculator with 5% marginal error, 95% level of confidence and the response distribution is 50%.

In order to verify the results of the data collected from the self-assessment of teachers' ICT competency, triangulation method was utilized. In the triangulation method, there were eleven (11) Department Heads that validates the self-assessment of the teachers in the Junior and Senior High School. Part of the study is the involvement of the students to evaluate the teachers' capability in ICT and there are three students in every teacher that is randomly selected to rate or evaluate the teacher, with a total of 762 students a participant on the different high schools.

After the development of the Electronic assessment ICT Teacher's competency system application, the researcher implemented the study and was evaluate by 15 IT experts.

Instrumentation

The researcher used questionnaires that served as basis in the development of the system on Predicting ICT Competency of Teachers. The ICT Competency is based from the National ICT Standards for Teacher (NICS) of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology. Upon the conduct of the study, the researcher created a set of questionnaires for teachers, School Heads and Department Heads to validate the teachers' self-assessment, and students for verification purposes.

Data Gathering Procedure

The first procedure used by the proponent in developing the study was to make a communication for the different high school in the province involved in the research such as the District Supervisor and the School Heads. Afterwards, distributing questionnaires to selected participants was conducted. A total of 254 survey questionnaire was



collected from the first day until the fourth day around the Province of Biliran. The results of the survey questionnaire served as data sets in the development of predicting ICT competency of high school public teacher model using decision tree. The next step was to develop the system application through using the agile methods as part of the software development life cycle.

To evaluate the system using ISO 20510 Software Quality Standards the researcher asked 15 IT expert, Teacher ICT Coordinator of the school and Department Head to evaluate the system. The participants were given a set of survey questionnaires. The gathered data was analyzed using statistical tool.

Data Analysis

1. Statistical Data Analysis

The data collected from the participants was computed by the researcher for the result and conclusion of the study. The mean of every standard was calculated through the weighted mean and was inferred in accordance to its equivalent statistical definition. Another statistical tool used was the Pearson R Correlation to answer one of the objectives of the study. It is analyzed what variables is interrelated with the ICT competency level of teachers.

2. Decision Tree

WEKA (Waikato Environment for Knowledge Analysis). A collection of machine learning algorithms for data mining tasks. It contains tools for data preparation, classification, regression, clustering, association rules mining, and visualization. A data mining/machine learning tool developed by the Department of Computer Science, University of Waikato, New Zealand. The collected data from the participants was analyzed using decision tree algorithms such as CART, C4.5/J48 and BFTree to check and identify the level of accuracy of the system as to its performance with regards to the response time on the processing of data and on the creation of the model. The algorithm with high performance and high accuracy was used as a model in the development of application on ICT Competency of Teachers

2.1. Cross Validation

Cross-validation. A model evaluation method where the entire data was not utilized when training a learner. The dataset is divided into two sets, the dataset for training and test dataset for testing the performance of the learned model. In this paper, the researcher utilized the k-fold cross validation using 10-fold cross-validation. K-fold crossvalidation is one way to improve the holdout method. The data set is divided into k subsets, and the holdout method is repeated k times. Each time, one of the k subsets is used as the test set, and the other k-1 subsets are put together to form a training set. Then the average error across all k trials is computed. The advantage of this method is that it matters less how the data gets divided. Every data point gets to be on a test set exactly once and gets to be in a training set k-1 times. The variance of the resulting estimate is reduced ask is increased (Schneider, 1997).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The table presents the relationship between the sociodemographic and ICT infrastructure variables and the level of ICT competency of teachers. Moreover, all the variables have significant relationship to the ICT competency except on professional development of teachers with a p-value of 0.069. This means that age, number of years, professional development whether its effectiveness or undertaken, availability, accessibility and usability of hardware and software have significant relationship with ICT competency of teachers. This means that the ICT competency level of teachers in the Junior and Senior High school is inversely affected with age and number of years of teaching. This means that the younger the age of teachers, the higher the possibility of utilizing ICT in the classroom discussion due to younger population being digital natives. This is also true for the teachers' number of years of teaching.

Table 1. Relationship of ICT competencies of Teachers

Correlated		Pearson R	P-value	Remarks
Va	ariables with			
IC	Γ Competency			
1	Age	476	Less than .0001	Significant
2	No. of Years in Teaching	440	Less than .0001	Significant
3	Professional Development	.203	.001	Significant
4	Professional Development is Arranged by the school	.114	.069	Not Significant
5	Professional Development is Effective	.171	.006	Significant
6	Hardware Available	.362	Less than .0001	Significant
7	Hardware Accessible	.358	Less than .0001	Significant
8	Hardware Used	.317	Less than .0001	Significant
9	Hardware Utilization	.382	Less than .0001	Significant
10	Software Available	.345	Less than .0001	Significant
11	Software Accessible	.486	Less than .0001	Significant
12	Software Used	.576	Less than .0001	Significant
13	Software Utilization	.519	Less than .0001	Significant

Note: alpha = .05

2. The results below show the different predictors on different Teachers' ICT Competencies on Technology Operations and Concepts, Social and Ethical, Pedagogical, Professional, and Overall Competency of Teachers. The figure below shows the decision rule on the prediction of Teachers' ICT Competencies. The top most node in the decision rule serve as the root node,



E-Assessment Application using A Decision-Tree in Predicting Teachers' Information and Communication Technology (Ict) Competency Level

which correspond as the best predictor. It breaks down a dataset into smaller and smaller subsets while at the same time an associated decision tree is incrementally developed [1]. Algorithm generates the rules for the prediction of the target variable. With the help of tree classification algorithm the critical distribution of the data is easily understandable [2].

```
IF (ICT10<=0) AND (ICT3<=0) AND(ICT20<=0)
           THEN Competency_Level = "Basic";
IF (ICT10<=0) AND (ICT3>0) AND(ICT20>0)
R2:
           THEN Competency_Level = "Proficient";
IF (ICT10<=0) AND (ICT3>0)
R3:
           THEN Competency_Level = "Proficient";
IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8<=0) AND(ICT3<=0)
 R4:
           THEN Competency_Level = "Basic";
IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8<=0) AND(ICT3>0)
 R.5
                        THEN Competency_Level = "Proficient
           IFLEN Competency_Level = Projectent;

IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8>0) AND(ICT1<=0) AND (ICT15<=0)

THEN Competency_Level = "Projectent";

IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8>0) AND(ICT1<=0) AND (ICT15>0)
 R6:
R7:
           THEN Competency Level = "Advanced";

IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8>0) AND(ICT1>0) AND (ICT19<=0)
R8:
           THEN Competency_Level = "Proficient";
IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8>0) AND (ICT1>0) AND (ICT11<=0) AND (ICT19>0)
R9:
RS: IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8>0) AND (ICT11>0) AND (ICT11<-0) AND (ICT19>0)

THEN Competency_Level = "Advanced";

R10: IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8>0) AND(ICT1>0) AND (ICT11>0) AND (ICT17<=0) AND

(ICT19<0) THEN Competency_Level = "Proficient";

R11: IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8>0) AND(ICT1>0) AND (ICT10>0) AND (ICT17<=0) AND

(ICT19>0) THEN Competency_Level = "Advanced";
R12: IF (ICT10>0) AND (ICT8>0) AND(ICT1>0) AND (ICT11>0) AND (ICT17>0)
                        THEN Competency_Level = "Advanced";
```

Figure 3. Decision Rule Extracted from the J48 Decision Tree of Technology Operation and Concepts category.

Figure 4. Decision Rule Extracted from the BFTree Decision Tree of Social and Ethical category

```
RI: IF (ICT45c=0) AND (ICT47c=0) AND (ICT45c=0)

AND (ICT35c=0)THEN Competency Level= "Basic";

AND (ICT35c=0)THEN Competency Level= "Basic";

AND (ICT35c) AND (ICT45c=0) IND (ICT45c=0)

AND (ICT45c=0) AND (ICT45c=0) IND (ICT45c=0)

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BY (ICT45c=0) AND (ICT45c=0) AND (ICT45c=0)

BY (ICT45c=0)
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Figure 5. Decision Rule Extracted from the J48 Decision Tree of Pedagogical category.

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RI: IF (ICT53<-0) AND (ICT60<-0) AND (ICT56<-0)

THEN Competency Level= "Basic";

R2: IF (ICT53<-0) AND (ICT60<-0) AND (ICT55<-0) AND

(ICT57<-0) THEN Competency Level= "Basic";

R3: IF (ICT53<-0) AND (ICT60<-0) AND (ICT55<-0) AND

ICT57<-0) AND (ICT60<-0) AND (ICT55<-0) AND

R4: IF (ICT53<-0) AND (ICT60<-0) AND (ICT52<-0)

THEN Competency Level= "Proficient";

R5: IF (ICT53<-0) AND (ICT60<-0) AND (ICT52<-0)

THEN Competency Level= "Basic";

R6: IF (ICT53<-0) AND (ICT52<-0) AND (ICT52<-0)

THEN Competency Level= "Basic";

R7: IF (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT52<-0) AND (ICT52<-0)

R8: IF (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT52<-0) AND (ICT52<-0)

R9: IF (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT52<-0) AND (ICT52<-0)

R9: IF (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT52>-0) AND (ICT52>-0)

R9: IF (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT52>-0) AND (ICT52>-0) AND (ICT52>-0)

R9: IF (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT52>-0) AND (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT53>-0)

THEN Competency Level= "Proficient";

R10: IF (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT53>-0) AND (ICT55>-0) AND (ICT55>-
```

Figure 6. Decision Rule Extracted from the J48 Decision Tree of Professional category.

```
R1: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT32-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Besite";

R2: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT32-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Preficient";

R3: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT32-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Preficient";

R4: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT32-0.5) AND (ICT310-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Besite";

R4: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT310-0.5) AND
(ICT35-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5) AND
(ICT35-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5) AND
(ICT35-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5) AND
(ICT350-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5) AND
(ICT350-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5)

R5: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Preficient";

R6: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Advanced";

R7: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Preficient",

R6: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Preficient",

R7: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT30-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Preficient",

R8: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Preficient",

R9: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Preficient",

R11: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Advanced";

R12: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Advanced";

R13: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Advanced";

R13: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Advanced";

R14: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Advanced";

R15: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Advanced";

R14: IF (ICT38-0.5) AND (ICT46-0.5) AND (ICT300-0.5)
THEN Competency_level-"Advanced";

R15: IF (ICT38-0.5) AN
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Figure 7. Extracted Decision Rule for BFTree Algorithm of Overall ICT Competency



Table 2. Summary of Predictors Result from the Decision Tree Algorithm of Teacher's ICT Competency

ICT Competenc y Number	Indicator Contents	ICT	Algorith
ICT 10	Can use a presentation package to add text and sequence in a presentation?	Technology Operation and	J48
ICT 33	Can accurately report malfunctions and problems with computer software and hardware?	Social and	BFTree
ICT 43	Can use various asynchronous communication tools such as text and email, etc. in teaching?	Pedagogical	J48
ICT 53	Has reviewed new and existing software for education?		J48
ICT 38	Can use databases, spreadsheets, concept mapping tools and communication tools, etc. in learning?	Over-all ICT Competency	BFTree

The table presents the summary of the analysis made from the different decision trees in pointing out the predictors' value of ICT competency of teachers. Based from the decision, ICT and with the highest information gain and became the basis for its first split in every predictor in predicting the teachers' ICT Competency Level – Technology Operation and Concepts, Social and Ethical, Pedagogical, and Professional. On the other hand, the overall ICT competency situates ICT 38 as predictor in the teacher's capability of using it in the classroom.

Furthermore, the algorithm squared out potential predictor factors, an outcome was seen through checking the lesser, and greater influence of variables basing from the decision criteria. Thus, 5 ICT indicators serves as a predictor outcome in the study, basically, these predictors contain presentation package, reporting malfunctions and problems, usage of various asynchronous communication tools, reviewed new and existing software for education, and use databases, spreadsheets, concept mapping tools and communication tools, etc. in learning.

3. Decision Tree Algorithms as a model on the development of e-Assessment Application.

Table 3. Summary of Accuracy Level

ICT Competency Standards	Algorithm	Accuracy
		Level
Technology Operation and	J48	92.5197%
Concepts		
Social and Ethical	BF Tree	90.55%
Pedagogical	J48	87.0079%
Professional	J48	94.09%
Over-all ICT Competency	BF Tree	84.252%

Based on the result of the different decision tree algorithm using J48, CART and BFTree, results show that in the Technology Operations and Concepts the algorithm with highest accuracy level is J48, Social and Ethical is BFTree, Pedagogical is J48 algorithm, Professional is J48 algorithm and Overall competency resulted to an algorithm model of BFTree bearing the highest accuracy level among the three.

4. Screen Designs of the Developed e-Assessment Application



Figure 8. Home Page

This page shows the home page of the system that used by the different users.



Figure 9. Login Page

This figure above illustrates the login page with different account type or user level in the system, which include Teacher, Department Head, School Head, District Supervisor, Division Office and Administrator. The user had to select on the drop down button on the page that corresponds to each level of the account and login the system using the registered email address and password.

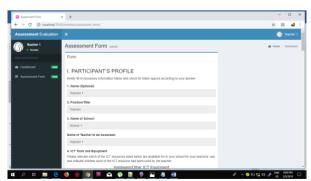


Figure 10. Teachers' Assessment Form Page



E-Assessment Application using A Decision-Tree in Predicting Teachers' Information and Communication Technology (Ict) Competency Level

Figure reflects the page where the teacher had a self-evaluation as to each capacity and knowledge regarding ICT competency. The teacher were choose Yes or No on the assessment form. After answering the form, the teacher submit the form subject for validation by the School Head or Department Head.

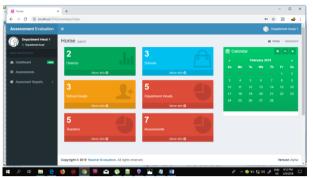


Figure 11. Department Head Home Page

Another figure above illustrates the home page of the Department Heads Home Page account with the displayed the list of the teachers assessment, subject for validation by the department head. The figure shows also the assessment reports of the teachers under the school in term of ICT Competency Level in Technology Operations and Concepts, Social and Ethical, Pedagogical, Professional and Overall Competency

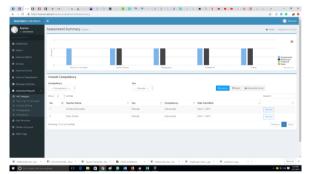


Figure 12. Summary of Assessment for the Overall ICT Competency of Teachers

In the over-all results, this page shows the result of teachers who successfully validated by the school head or department in the school as to its competency and gender. On the list of the Overall Competency of Teachers, on the Assessment Summary the user can preview the result by simply clicking the Preview button on the page.

5. Extent of Compliance using ISO 25010 Software Quality Characteristics

Table 4. Summary of the Overall System Evaluation

Indicator	Mean	Interpretation
Functional Suitability	4.58	Very High Extent
Performance efficiency	4.67	Very High Extent
Compatibility	4.59	Very High Extent
Usability	4.65	Very High Extent
Reliability	4.63	Very High Extent
Security	4.66	Very High Extent
Maintainability	4.56	Very High Extent
Portability	4.67	Very High Extent
Overall Rating Result	4.63	Very High Extent

The table shows the summary of evaluation ratings. Performance efficiency and Portability has the highest weighted mean of 4.67, which described as very high extent. The participants agree also on the Maintainability as the least value with the weighted mean of 4.56, which described as Very High Extent among the ISO 25010 indicators. However, the evaluation result show on the Functional Suitability with weighted mean of 4.58, Compatibility weighted mean of 4.59, Usability weighted mean of 4.65, Reliability weighted mean of 4.63, and Security weighted mean of 4.66, Furthermore, the average weighted mean is 4.63 with the descriptive value of High Extent.

6. Strengths and limitations of the developed system

The e-Assessment Application is very efficient and useful on the prediction of ICT competency of teachers. The system helped also the school head or department head to monitor properly the ICT knowledge of the teachers based on the result of the evaluation. Through this, the heads can make decisions on how to develop the teachers' ICT skills by sending training based on the result on the competency level.

Based from the over-all evaluation of the system, performance efficiency and portability gains the highest weighted mean and serves as the strength of the e-Assessment of Teacher's ICT Competency system application. This means that the quantity of accomplished worked by the system application works effectively. Among the variables indicated in this evaluation, resource utilization is the strongest variable that means the degree to which the amounts and types of resources used by the system performs its functions and meet requirements. If there is strength, the system evaluation also reflects the weakness of the system. Basing from the result of the evaluation, the system application weakest point is the maintainability part. Meaning the probability of performing a successful repair action within a given time is the weakest point. Modularity and analyzability is the lowest variable indicator in the evaluation. This gives the user recognition that the system may have difficulty in performing automatic execution of the task at hand and may resulted to an error in analyzing data.

With this strength and limitation, the researcher has made adjustments and reconsideration in the system application so that performance of the system would not impede all other functions.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

After a thorough analysis of the findings of this study, the following conclusion is drawn:

The Teachers' ICT Competency is significantly related to teachers age, number of years of teaching, professional development, availability, accessibility and usability of hardware and software. The developed web-based application can serve as an effective prediction tool in the Teachers' ICT Competency Level through the self-evaluation of teachers. The result of the self-assessment and validation of the School Head or Department Head is a big



help on identifying different intervention to improve the ICT skills of the teachers that can be used in the teaching instruction and apply the trends in Information Technology. Through this application, it can help to address how the schools make solutions in improving the quality of instructions using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based from the conclusion reached, the following is recommended by the researcher:

- 1. The system should be presented to the schools' division superintendent for the utilization of the system.
- 2. The e-Assessment Application should be utilized by the different schools in the province of Biliran in predicting teachers' ICT Competency level.
- 3. A stable internet connection should be available to the school to access the system.
- 4. Further study should be conducted by the future researchers to enhance the developed system.
- Further studies to include other predictors' variables such as age, years of teaching, hardware and software ICT Tools.

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