

**FINANCIAL COMPETENCY OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS
IN SELECTED CITIES OF CAVITE**

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ABSTRACT

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This study was conducted to determine the financial competency of small business owners in selected cities of Cavite. Specifically, it aimed to: (1) determine the socio-demographic profile of small business owners in selected cities of Cavite; (2) determine the level of financial competency of small business owners in selected cities of Cavite; and (3) determine the relationship between socio-demographic profile and level of financial competency of small business owners in selected cities of Cavite.

The participants of the study were 197 small businesses in selected cities of Cavite namely: Dasmariñas City, Imus City, and Bacoor City. Frequency count, percentage mean, range, and standard deviation under descriptive statistics were used to determine the socio-demographic profile, and level of financial competency. Spearman Correlation was used to determine the significant relationship between socio-demographic profile and their financial competency. On the other hand, cross tabulation analysis were used to analyze the income, savings, debt, and expenses of small business owners.

The study revealed that small business owners mostly belonged to the age group 36 to 40 years old, majority of the were college level, married, and had been operating for three to four years.

Moreover, it was also found out on the cross tabulation of socio-demographic by income, savings, debt, and expenses of business owners that majority of the participants had P12,000 to P41,999 income in a month and 33 of them belonged to the age bracket of 30 to 35 years old, 41 of them were married, and 24 of them reached college level. Most of the participants had savings amounting to of P1,000 to P10,999 a month and 22 of them belonged to the age bracket of 36 to 40 years old, 45 of them were married, and 28 of them reached college. It also revealed that majority of the participants monthly debt were less than P1,000 a month and 31 of them belonged to the age category of 36 to 40, 64 of them were married, and 38 of them reached college. Majority of the participants monthly expenses ranged from P5,000 to P14,000 a month and 13 of them belonged to the age bracket of 36 to 40 years old, 22 of them were married, and 12 of them reached college.

The financial competencies were categorized into three skills: financing skills, accounting skills, and money management skills. And it was found out that money management skills were the most important competency of the small business owners. On the other hand, only educational attainment of small business owners significantly influences the financial competency.

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