

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The accountancy profession serves as the backbone of economic transparency and development in Nigeria. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), established in 1965 by Act of Parliament, has played a pivotal role in regulating and advancing the profession. With over 53 district societies across Nigeria, including the Ilorin District Society, ICAN ensures standardized accounting practices that support economic growth.

Ilorin, the capital of Kwara State, hosts numerous financial institutions, government agencies, and private enterprises that rely on professional accounting services. The ICAN Ilorin District Society, with its growing membership, has become instrumental in promoting financial accountability,

corporate governance, and ethical business practices in North-Central Nigeria.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the recognized importance of professional accounting, there exists limited empirical evidence on:

1. The quantitative economic impact of accounting professionals in Ilorin
2. The effectiveness of ICAN Ilorin in enhancing professional standards
3. Challenges facing accounting practice in the region
4. The profession's contribution to public sector financial management

This study seeks to address these gaps by providing concrete data on how accountancy professionals through ICAN Ilorin contribute to economic development.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Main Objective:

profession and practice on Nigeria's economy with specific focus on ICAN Ilorin District Society.

Specific Objectives:

1. To evaluate the role of ICAN Ilorin in promoting professional accounting standards
2. To assess accountants' contribution to business growth in Ilorin
3. To analyze the profession's impact on public sector financial management
4. To identify challenges facing accounting practice in the region

1.4 Research Questions

1. How has ICAN Ilorin influenced compliance with accounting standards in the region?
2. What measurable economic benefits has the accounting profession brought to Ilorin?
3. How do accounting services affect the growth of SMEs in Ilorin?

4. What challenges limit the effectiveness of accounting practice in Ilorin?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study will benefit:

1. **Policy Makers:** By providing data for informed decisions on professional service regulation
2. **ICAN Leadership:** For strategic planning and member service improvement
3. **Accounting Firms:** Through identification of growth opportunities
4. **Academic Community:** By contributing to literature on professional economics
5. **Business Community:** Through demonstration of accounting's value proposition

1.6 Scope of the Study

Geographical Scope:

Focuses on Ilorin metropolis and surrounding areas within Kwara State.

Theoretical Scope:

Examines human capital theory and institutional theory as frameworks.

Time Scope:

Covers the period _____ to capture recent developments in accounting practice.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

1. Potential reluctance of some organizations to share financial data
2. Possible bias in self-reported survey responses
3. Constraints in sample size due to limited ICAN membership records
4. Challenges in isolating accounting impact from other economic factors