ACCOUNTING FOR SCHOOL FEES IN PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING, FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.) DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Accounting for School Fees in Private Secondary Schools" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR	Date
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	Date
EXTERNAL EXAMINER	Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined accounting for school fees in private secondary schools, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of accounting; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with accounting and school. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Agency Theory and the Positive Accounting Theory. A sample size of 409 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 378 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.05). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.537$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.91, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.14$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on accounting.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of accounting for school fees in private secondary schools is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The phenomenon of accounting, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of accounting. An examination by Olawale and Nnamdi (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in accounting. Evidence assembled by Ogunlana and Aderemi (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to accounting. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Over the past two decades, accounting has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of accounting varies considerably from one region to another. Studies by Osinachi and Ogbeide (2019) largely support the view that accounting exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Findings reported by Famuyide and Nnamdi (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to accounting recorded markedly different results. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Debates on national transformation repeatedly return to the role of accounting and its attendant dynamics. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which accounting unfolds. Evidence assembled by Famuyide and Nnamdi (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to accounting. Such findings reinforce the argument that accounting deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Longitudinal research by Ogbeide and Bello (2016) revealed that sustained attention to accounting yields appreciable dividends over time. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

accounting continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in accounting. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which accounting unfolds. The aggregate picture emerging from Okonkwo and Nwosu (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between accounting and the outcomes of interest. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and