

## **Causal Factors of Low Civil Service Examination Passing Rate in Batangas Province, Philippines**

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### **Abstract**

The Civil Service Examination (CSE) serves as a gateway for career advancement in the Philippine government service. However, a growing concern has emerged among Local Government Unit (LGU) employees in Batangas Province—the persistently low passing rate in the CSE. This study addresses this issue by examining the demographic profiles of examinees, their perceived strengths and weaknesses in core language skills, and the underlying factors contributing to underperformance. It also explores how variables such as age and educational attainment are related to language proficiency and overall exam readiness. Using a descriptive research design, the study employed a researcher-made survey administered face-to-face to a stratified, randomly selected sample of participants. Data were analyzed using percentages, weighted means, and Pearson's correlation coefficient. Findings revealed that most examinees were young adults aged 22 to 31, typically new to public service. They demonstrated moderate proficiency in language (mean = 2.92) and literacy (mean = 2.88), with slightly better performance in reading comprehension (3.06) and spelling (2.87). A key finding highlights educational background as a significant factor influencing exam performance. A positive correlation was observed between age, educational attainment, and overall readiness for the CSE. These results suggest that foundational language skills, shaped by academic and life experiences, are salient to CSE success. The study emphasizes the urgent need for a targeted, skills-based intervention program focused on strengthening language and literacy competencies. More than just improving pass rates, such a program can boost examinees' confidence and promote long-term professional growth in public service. By addressing both academic and practical needs, the intervention can serve as a meaningful response to the ongoing challenge of low CSE performance among LGU employees.

*Keywords: Civil Service Examination (CSE), language proficiency, Local Government Unit (LGU) employees, educational attainment, skills-based intervention.*