

Title: Testing Demographics as Determinants of Student Performance: A Case at the Philippine Normal University
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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to look into the demographic characteristics of students as explanatory variables of their performance in college and in the LET. Specifically, the following questions were posed and investigated: 1) How are the respondents' college and LET performance correlated with the variables – personal characteristics (age and gender), family characteristics (parental occupation – father and mother, number of siblings, language/s spoken at home), and academic characteristics (type of high school attended, location of high school attended)? 2) Among the personal, family and academic characteristics, which could predict the respondents' performance in college and in the Licensure Examination for Teachers?

Data were processed using the SPSS computer software. The Pearson's correlation was used to determine the correlation between variables, while the stepwise regression analysis was applied to find out which among the variables are significant predictors of college and LET performance.

Only one of the eight (8) variables used in the study was found to be significantly correlated (negatively) with college performance. This was age. The other variables had either negligible or low correlation with college performance. The result of the regression analysis undertaken showed that the first variable to enter the regression was age, which was found to contribute 30.2% of the dependent variable, college performance. The second variable to enter the regression was gender. Age and gender together were found to contribute 39.8% of the variation in the dependent variable. Only the two variables – age and gender – came out as predictors of college performance. The other variables were not found to be predictors of college performance.

Two of the variables included in the study were found to be significantly correlated with LET performance – age (negative correlation) and location of high school attended (positive correlation). The others had either negligible or insignificant low correlation with LET performance. Only one variable – age - was found to be a significant predictor of LET performance. Age was found to explain 27.9% of the sample's LET performance. This implies that more than 70% of the variation in LET performance is explained by other variables not included in the study.