

**RULES TO REALITY: ACCOUNTANT'S ADAPTABILITY TO
CONTEMPORARY REGULATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

The ever-evolving setting of accounting regulations presents challenges and opportunities for certified public accountants to adapt and stay ahead in their area of specialization. Ensuring effectiveness in accounting practice and efficiency in the delivery of accounting services as prescribed in the mandated accounting regulations play a crucial role for accountants in their professional practice. Hence, this study was conducted to phenomenologically investigate the accountants' adaptability to contemporary regulations in the City of Roxas. Specific questions were designed to explore the effect and influence of contemporary regulations on the accountant's adaptability as well as the challenges faced by accountants in adapting to contemporary regulations. Three accountants were purposively selected using the framework of Creswell on phenomenological research design. A researcher-made semi-structured interview questionnaire duly validated was used to obtain the participant's perception. The findings revealed three themes: adaptable effect drawn from quality and interaction; adaptable influence stemmed from adaptation and adoption; and, adaptable challenges based on cognition and practice. The study recommends the creation of a program to strengthen the need to adapt to modern regulations especially in the students' formative years and a training-workshop designed to professors on contemporary regulations and its implications to accounting practice. Future research is further recommended to explore the concepts of adaptability vis-a-vis contemporary regulations in the accounting practice.

Keywords: *adaptability, contemporary regulation, accountant, phenomenology*

1. Introduction

The researchers are eager to determine the intricate interplay between regulatory frameworks and the day-to-day realities faced by accountants. By examining how accountants adapt, interpret, and implement regulatory changes, we can gain valuable insights into the mechanisms driving professional behavior and organizational responses within the accounting profession. Specifically, the study aims to answer the following questions:

- a. What effect will contemporary regulations have on the adaptability of an accountant?
- b. How do contemporary regulations influence an accountant's adaptability?
- c. What are the challenges faced by accountants in adapting to contemporary regulations?
- d. Are there emerging perspectives on the constants being investigated?

In this study, researchers drew out the changing regulatory environment for accountants in Roxas City, Capiz. The exogenous variable is comprised of influences, effects, and challenges faced by respondents over new regulations. The endogenous variable relied on perceived influences, effects, and challenges to draw out adaptability from emerging perspectives among respondents.

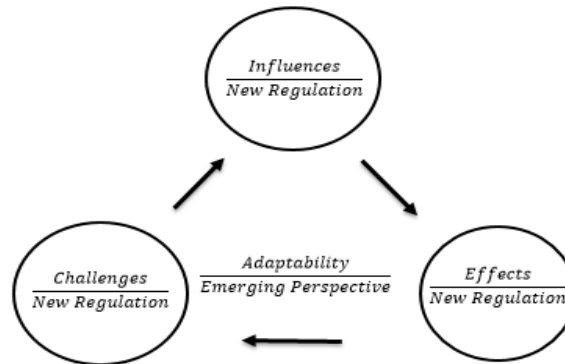


Figure 1. Proposed paradigm of the study.

2. Literature Review

The present study shows similarities as regards influences on the new regulations in the studies reviewed by (Kabir & Rahman, 2016; Doupnik & Perera, 2019); (Kabir & Rahman, 2016; Doupnik & Perera, 2019); Garcia and Fernandez (2020); Agrawal and Singh (2024); (Coglianese, 2019); (Coglianese, 2017) and (Reyes & Gutierrez, 2019; Manalo & Cruz, 2018).

As regards the perceived challenges of the new regulations, the research made by Hoogendoorn (2015); Brouwer et al. (2018); Gonzalez and Martinez (2022), and Richins et al. (2017).

The research of Park and Kim (2021); Smith and Jones (2018); Simnett and Huggins (2014); Huang and Wang (2023) and De Leon and Soriano (2020) laid out the perceived effects of the new regulations.

The inputs come from the local setting – (Reyes & Gutierrez, 2019; Manalo & Cruz, 2018); David et al., (2018); Linsangan and Javier (2022); Mendoza and Aguilar (2023); Manalo and Siarango (2019); (Cudia & Cruz, 2018) and De Leon and Soriano (2020) – have provided valuable ideas valuable to the present study.

3. Research Method

This qualitative study will employ a phenomenological approach to explore the lived experiences of accountants as they navigate and adapt to evolving regulations in the accounting field.

The research participants in this research endeavor were the three (3) selected accountants located here in Roxas City. Participants will be recruited through purposive sampling, targeting accountants who have recently experienced the process of adapting to new accounting regulations, such as the implementation of ASC 842 (lease accounting) or ASC 606 (revenue recognition).

A researcher-made, semi-structured questionnaire is to be used as a research instrument. To obtain the participant's perceptions, an in-depth interview with open-ended questions was prepared. The interviews will be guided by an interview protocol designed to elicit detailed descriptions of the participants' lived experiences, including their thoughts, feelings, challenges, and coping strategies throughout the adaptation process.

In this research study, the data analysis was based on the field texts of the interview (audio/video) recordings. The recorded interviews were transcribed to generate phenomenal anchors and referents (de Castro & de Guzman, 2010). The bracketing process, description, and abstracting essences from the field texts comprised the analysis and interpretation of data.

4. Results and Discussion

Table 1. Theme and subtheme on the effect on accountant's adaptability

Theme	Subtheme	Codes	Frequency
Adaptable Effect	Quality	Compliance	P1, P2
		Continuous Learning	P1, P2
		Regulatory Knowledge	P1, P2
		Best Practices	P1, P3

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Interaction	Collaboration	P2,P3
	Communication	P2, P3

Legend: P – Participant

Table 2. Theme and subtheme on the influence on accountant's adaptability

Theme	Subtheme	Codes	Frequency
Adaptable Influence	Adaptation	Changes	P2, P3
		Adaptation	P2, P3
	Adoption	Education Training	P2,P3 P2 P3

Legend: P – Participant

Table 3. Theme and subtheme on the challenges on accountant's adaptability

Theme	Subtheme	Codes	Frequency
Adaptable Challenges	Cognition	Understanding	P3
		Interpretation	P3
		Awareness	P3
		Readiness	P3
		Teaching	P1,P2, P3
		Learning Enhancement	P1,P2, P3
	Practice	Financial Integrity	P2

Legend: P – Participant

As shown in the tables above, these are the results:

- The adaptable effect maintains high standards in accounting practices despite changing circumstances, ensuring accuracy, reliability, and compliance with regulations.
- The adaptable influence showed how each person's experiences have changed over time.
- The adaptable challenges focus on the struggles of accountants with the technical complexities and ambiguity of new regulations, highlighting the cognitive challenges involved in understanding and applying these changes.

Continuous learning and being updated to the mandates from the Board of Accountancy (BoA) greatly impacts an accountant's adaptability. Positive effects include improved transparency and accountability, which may foster adaptive practices. Negative effects, such as increased complexity or compliance burdens, can challenge adaptability unless addressed through training and organizational support. Adapting to new reporting requirements, compliance measures, and technological advancements requires ongoing skill development and flexibility. Moreover, navigating ethical dilemmas and maintaining integrity amidst regulatory pressures can also test adaptability.

5. Conclusion and Implications

The findings of the study are summarized as follows:

- The effects on accountant's adaptability to contemporary changes were thematized by analyzing their important statements, using themes and categories based on their real-life experiences. Thus, the theme adaptable effect emerged.
- The influence of an accountant's adaptability to contemporary regulations was thematized through the examination of their significant remarks, employing themes and classifications derived from their actual life encounters. Thus, the theme adaptable influence emerged.
- The challenges on accountant's adaptability to contemporary regulations were thematized through the examination of their significant remarks, employing themes and classifications derived from their actual life encounters. Thus, the theme adaptable challenges emerged.

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- d. The emerging perspective of accountant's adaptability to contemporary regulations was described in the simulacrum titled 'simulacrum of the cycle of adaptation' — a cycle with three factors needed to determine the accountant's adaptability to contemporary changes.

Based on the research findings of the interview, the conclusions drawn from this research endeavor, the researchers have provided the following recommendations:

- a. Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion (CPC) must create a program that educates students about the necessity of being updated to contemporary regulations, for this serves as their preparatory to integrate with the accounting process.
- b. The College of Business, Management, and Accountancy must strengthen its foundational knowledge about contemporary changes. Provide training or seminars to the teachers and students to help address their issues in adapting to new regulations.
- c. The teachers must study the updated regulations before teaching them to form a better understanding of the contemporary regulations.
- d. The students, especially BS Accountancy students, must strive hard to be updated from the mandates from the Board of Accountancy (BoA) to incline their learnings and practices to the newly mandated regulations.

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