

**2017**



**The Institute of  
Chartered Accountants  
of Bangladesh**

**A Study  
on  
The difficulties faced by Articled  
Students of ICAB**





The Institute of  
Chartered Accountants  
of Bangladesh



Inspiring Excellence

**Course Name: BUS400**

**A Study  
on**

**The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB**

**Prepared for:**

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**Student ID: 13104070**

**BBS, BRAC University**

**Date of Submission: 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

## Letter of Transmittal

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Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

Saif Hossain

Senior Lecturer, BRAC Business School

BRAC University

66, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212,

Bangladesh.

**Subject: Submission of Internship Report on “The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB”**

Dear Sir,

With great gratification, I would like to submit my internship report on “**The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB**”. I have discovered this study was very interesting, beneficial and insightful. After completing the three months intern period I have tried to prepare an effective and credible report in which I combined my experience, research and theoretical knowledge.

The internship program has provided me the opportunity to work with the articled students and managers of Rahman Rahman Huq, a Chartered Accountancy firm, which gave me valuable insights about the life in a chartered accountancy firm/organization. This really helped me significantly to enhance my practical knowledge.

This task has also given me the opportunity to explore the challenges faced by articled students of ICAB working in Rahman Rahman Huq.

I, therefore, convey my thanks to you for your kind cooperation, supervision and advice in conducting and preparing this report. I have completed the whole program with great enthusiasm. I appreciate you will assess my report considering the limitations of the study.

Sincerely yours,

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Faiaz Rahman Abedin

Student ID: 13104070

BBS, BRAC University

## Letter of Approval

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This is to certify that Faiaz Rahman Abedin, Student ID.13104070, a student of BRAC University of BRAC Business School has completed the internship report titled “**The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB**”, under my supervision. His internship placement was at Rahman Rahman Huq, a Chartered Accountancy firm. I am pleased to state that he has worked hard in preparing this report and he has been able to present a good picture of his research on ICAB. The data and findings presented in the report seem to be authentic.

I wish him every success in life.

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Saif Hossain

Senior Lecturer

BRAC Business School

BRAC University

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Suniti Ahmed

ACA, Manager

Audit & Consultancy

Rahman Rahman Huq

## Acknowledgement

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It is indeed a great pleasure and honor on mine to have the opportunity to submit this report after three months of practical orientation on Rahman Rahman Huq, a Chartered Accountancy firm, by the blessings of Allah- The Most Gracious and Merciful.

I convey my deepest appreciations to my academic supervisor Saif Hossain, Senior Lecturer, of BRAC Business School, BRAC University for his continuous guidance and whole-hearted supervision and supporting me in preparing this internship report. I thank him for being a constant source of inspiration.

I would like to convey my utmost appreciation to Mr.Ali Ashfaq FCA, Partner, Rahman Rahman Huq, for his sincere guidance and supervision. My successful completion of internship program in Rahman Rahman Huq would not have been possible without his help.

My sincere gratitude goes to Ms.Suniti Ahmed, ACA, Manager, Rahman Rahman Huq, for reviewing the whole report so carefully and for giving me valuable advices and suggestions to complete the whole thing in a right manner. Last but not the least; I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the in-charge and seniors of Rahman Rahman Huq for their continuous support and valuable suggestions, cooperation and assistance in the preparation of this report.

I would like to thank my organization, BRAC University for giving me the opportunity of self-development through practical experience.

Finally I would like to show my gratitude towards my family members and friends, whose endless encouragement, support and, inspirations have guided me always and helped me to become who I am today.

## Executive Summary

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The research was done to analyze the challenges faced by articled students of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB). There were several variables taken into account while doing the analysis. Variables like study materials, exam leave, allowance, etc. were analyzed. To conduct the research, a questionnaire was prepared. The questionnaire was answered by articled students of different Chartered Accountant firms. The number respondents were 60. After completion of data collection, the analysis was done where different findings came up. The students expressed their opinion on the questions which were a mix of open ended and close ended questions. The questions were answered by both male and female students, students at different exam levels and different years of their articleship contract. The findings showed the level of satisfaction among students about the variables and opinions on different topics. Based on the findings, recommendations were given.

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## The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB

### Chapter 1: Introduction

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#### 1.1 – Origin of the Report

Chartered Accountants are an extraordinary group of people. They can bring a difference by the way they work as they are determined, motivated, and talented. This profession is always in demand, both nationally and internationally.

A chartered accountancy student is open to an endless scope of exciting career opportunities in every sector of business and finance. Chartered Accountants are Bangladesh's foremost business experts, providing vital strategic guidance expertise and consulting in business, public practice, government and education.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is the National Professional Accounting Body in Bangladesh, established under the Bangladesh Chartered Accountants Order, 1973 (President's Order No. 2 of 1973) for the purpose of regulating the profession of accountants and for matters connected therewith. (THE INSTITUTE - A BRIEF OUTLINE, 2017)

The total number of Members of the Institute is 1583 as of 01 July 2016 of whom 1419 are residing in Bangladesh and 164 in abroad. There are 973 Fellows and 610 Associates enrolled with the Institute. Out of 1583 members, 366 are practicing as public accountants and the rest 1217 are either serving in various key positions in public and private organizations, both at home and abroad, and self employed running their own business. However, up to December 2016, total number of members is 1610 which includes 102 female members. (THE INSTITUTE - A BRIEF OUTLINE, 2017)

There are some steps to follow in order to study chartered accountancy under ICAB guidelines. At first, the student has to join a CA firm and get registered with ICAB. Articleship starts from the date of enrollment. At the time of registration, a student has to enter in a tri-party contract. Three parties are student, CA firm and ICAB. Joining a CA firm incurs no cost for the student.



Exams are held two times a year during June and December. There are a total of 3 levels, Knowledge level, Application level and Advanced level. Knowledge and Application level comprises of 7 subjects each while, Advanced level has just 4 subjects.

Students from different educational background can join a CA firm, like, after completing A-levels / H.S.C, BBA/Hons., or Master's Degree. Other Professional Degree students can also join CA firms for experience like ACCA students, but they are not considered as an articled student under ICAB. Most of the students come from Dhaka University and National University, whereas, other Private University students are comparatively less in ratio.

By studying chartered accountancy students can have a greater ability to scrutinize and interpret business problems and develop dynamic solutions.

However, some challenges are faced by Articled Students of ICAB (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh) which is discussed in this paper.

## 1.2 – Objectives of the Study

The paper reviewed the “The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB (**Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh**)”. It critically examined the difficulties faced by the students of the chartered accountancy profession such as- articleship time period, convenience of class timings, quality of lectures, study manuals, exam leave, pay scale, etc.

## 1.3 – Scope

The study focused on the assessment of the “The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB (**Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh**)”. The respondents of this study consisted of 60 students from different year levels as an articled student in a chartered accountancy firm, educational background, age range and gender. There were 15 questions in the survey questionnaire and included variables which are related to the The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB, such as- articleship time period, convenience of class timings, quality of lectures, study manuals, exam leave, pay scale, etc. As most of the registered articled students working in a chartered accountancy firm usually works at different clients’

office, hence getting primary data from the students through survey in this short time was a bit difficult.

#### **1.4 – Limitations**

This study was limited to the assessment of the “The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh)” only. The assessment is done during the end of April 2017. There were limitations when writing this report.

The time period for conducting the research and writing the report was 4 months. If more time was available, further analysis could have been done.

Second, the population in the study was rather small as there were only 60 students, who do not represent the majority of the students in a huge institution like ICAB.

#### **1.5 – Significance of the study**

The result and findings of the study will be beneficial and can be used by the ICAB council members, students and future researcher. This research will be beneficial for ICAB as it can get an idea of the students’ perceptions and challenges they face. ICAB can improve any shortcomings that have been highlighted in the paper.

To the students, they will know the challenges faced by most of the students, and can inform the ICAB council members what needs to be improvised.

Result of the study could also be a basis for further research in the same topic, as such will be a source of additional information.

## Chapter 2: Literature Review

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### 2.1 Review of Related Literatures

Accounting plays a vital role in the collection of tax of countries because of its establishment of policies and procedures. On the other hand, it also takes into account the legal and fiscal policies of the country. However, this process is often hindered due to poor quality bookkeeping or in many cases fraudulent activities. (SĂLIȘTEANU & OROS, 2015)

Accounting also plays a key role at the micro economic level of an economy. The policies and practices of accounting help to manage businesses in countries to run. Therefore, it can be deduced that, in the economic development of every country, accounting has its major contribution. (SĂLIȘTEANU & OROS, 2015)

At the macro level, accountants with their knowledge of accounting standards can help the government of countries to make sustainable economic planning by providing their expertise in different fields. (SĂLIȘTEANU & OROS, 2015)

Being the auditors of different companies, accountants have in-depth knowledge about the financial statements of the company. They provide reasonable assurance about the accuracy of financial statements which is a help to the external users. Hence, if there was absence of auditing and financial reporting, it would be difficult for banks to feel secure while giving loans. The stakeholders can rely on the quality of work that the accountants provide and take decisions based on those assurances. (Reddy, 2006)

From the micro-economic point of view, accounting standards help to analyze the financial condition of companies and provide assurance about the accuracy of the financial statements. It also helps to analyze the risk profile of companies which is highly beneficial for the external users of the company. From the macro-economic point of view, the information supplied serves a twofold function. First, by enabling the identification of most productive use of economic resources, it establishes the basis for assessment of potential rewards and

risks. Second, it acts as an supporting mechanism for control over the effective utilization of resources. (Reddy, 2006)

The number of women Chartered Accountants in Bangladesh is significantly low. However, in the past few years, number of women who have come into this profession has shown been on the rise. (Siddiqui, 2014)

Even in the profession of Chartered Accountants, gender discrimination exists. However, over the years this has significantly decreased as the profession has gone forward. But, still today, male are appreciated more frequently for their work and they receive higher amount of salary. (Siddiqui, 2014)

## **2.2 Previous study**

Since this research paper concentrates on the “The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh)”, there was no evidence of previous study on ICAB students.

## Chapter 3: Research Methodology

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### 3.1 Methods of research used:

The study was conducted in order to assess the challenges faced by the articled students of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh. To carry out the study, primary research method was used to collect data. The designed questionnaire was answered by students of different Chartered Accountant firms.

### 3.2 Research design

Descriptive research design was followed to analyze the “The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB” and the questionnaire was set accordingly. It helped to interpret the data collected from the respondents.

The sample size is considerably small only consisting of 60 ICAB students.

## Chapter 4: Analysis

### 4.1 Introduction

This part includes the analysis of the survey, “The difficulties faced by Articled Students of ICAB (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh)”.

### 4.2 Respondent Profile

In the respondent profile, demographic factors such as gender, age range and education background of the respondents have been included.

#### Gender:

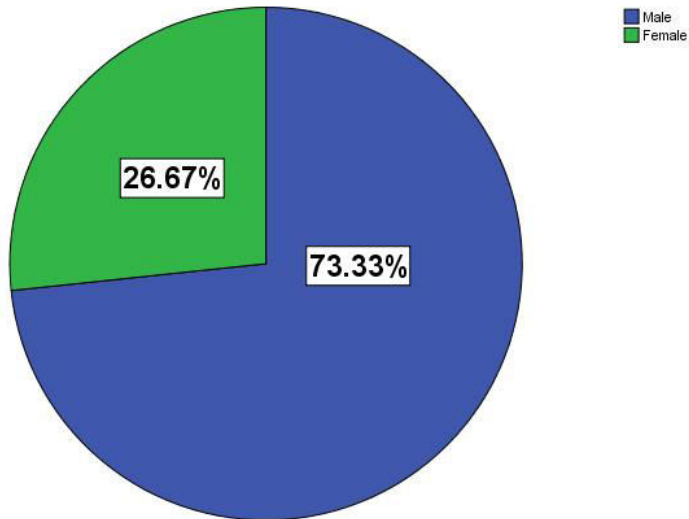
Out of the 60 respondents who are registered as articled students under different firms, 44 were male and 16 were female. Although the sample size is small, it is still quite evident that the number of female students is significantly lower than male students in this profession.

#### Please indicate your gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	44	73.3	73.3	73.3
	Female	16	26.7	26.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		Please indicate your gender
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		1.27
Median		1.00
Std. Deviation		.446
Minimum		1
Maximum		2

**Please indicate your gender**



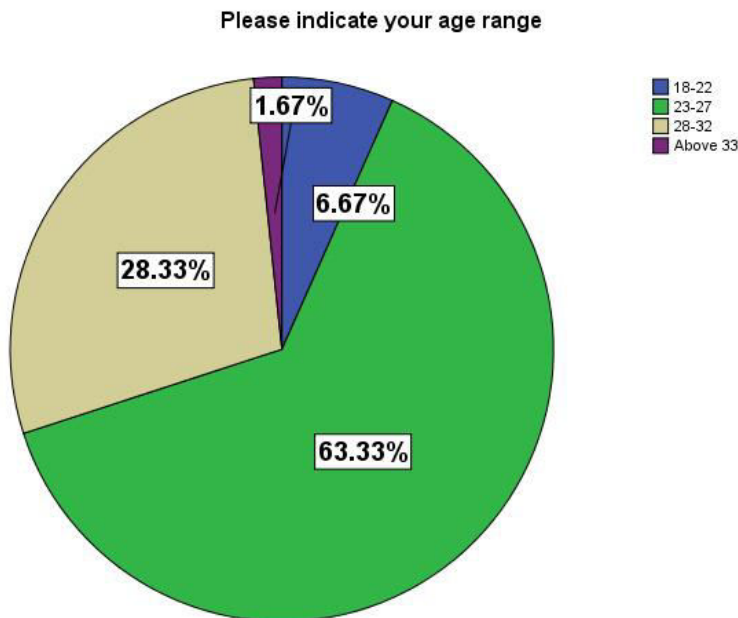
**Age Range:**

As the minimum requirement to be registered as an articled student is to at least complete S.S.C or A-level, the minimum age was taken to be 18. Out of the 60 respondents, 4 of the students were between the ranges of 18-22. 38 students were between the ranges of 23-27. 17 students were between the age ranges of 28-32. And 1 student was above 33.

**Please indicate your age range**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-22	4	6.7	6.7	6.7
	23-27	38	63.3	63.3	70.0
	28-32	17	28.3	28.3	98.3
	Above 33	1	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		Please indicate your age range
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		3.25
Median		3.00
Std. Deviation		.600
Minimum		2
Maximum		5



### **Educational Background**

Out of the 60 respondents, only 1 of them joined as an articled student after completion of A-level/ H.S.C. Almost an equal majority of 46.7% and 43.3% of the students joined after completion of graduation or completion of post-graduation. Another rest 8.3 percent joined after completion of other professional degrees. Therefore it can be deduced that students prefer to first graduation or even post-graduation and then start their careers towards being a Chartered Accountant.

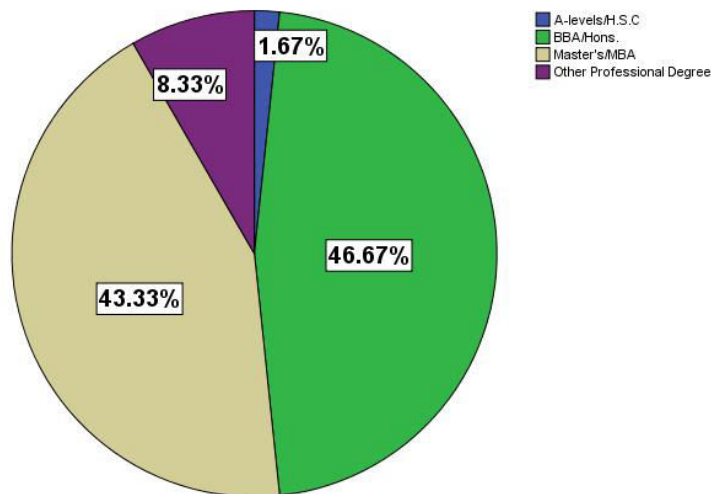


**What was your educational background till you started your articleship period?**

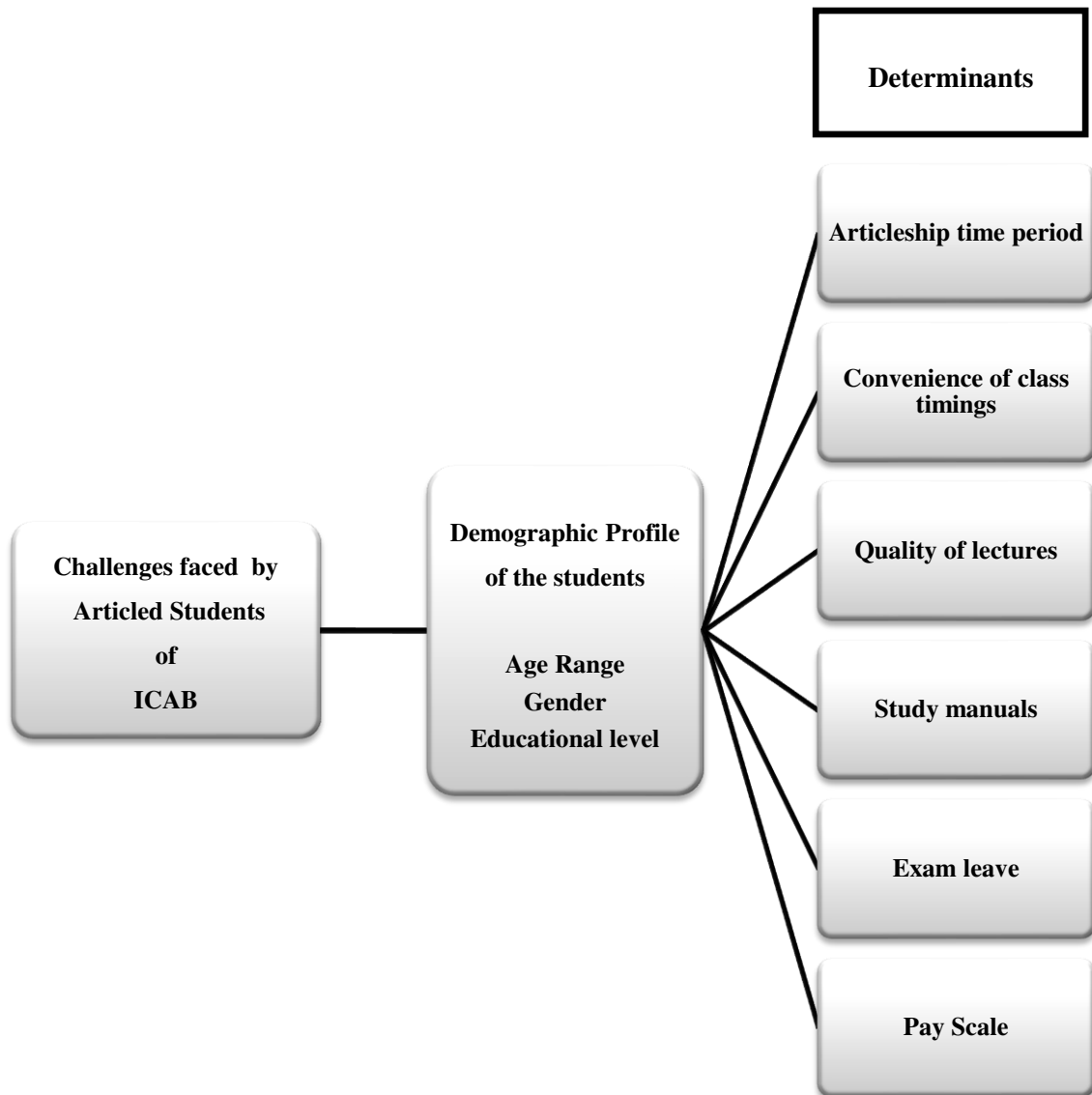
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A-levels/H.S.C	1	1.7	1.7	1.7
	BBA/Hons.	28	46.7	46.7	48.3
	Master's/MBA	26	43.3	43.3	91.7
	Other Professional Degree	5	8.3	8.3	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		What was your educational background till you started your articleship period?
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		2.58
Median		3.00
Std. Deviation		.671
Minimum		1
Maximum		4

**What was your educational background till you started your articleship period?**



## Paradigm of the study



### 4.3 Statistical Analysis

#### Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
How long have you been registered as an articled student in a Chartered Accountant firm?	60	1	5	3.10	1.386
In which level of CA examinations are you currently in?	60	1	3	1.48	.624
Are the class timings convenient for the students?	60	1	2	1.17	.376
Are you satisfied with the quality of lectures?	60	1	2	1.55	.502
How satisfied are you with the study materials?	60	1	4	2.58	.787
How satisfied are you with the amount of examples used in the study materials?	60	1	5	3.20	1.038
Do the study manuals have enough practice questions?	60	1	2	1.68	.469

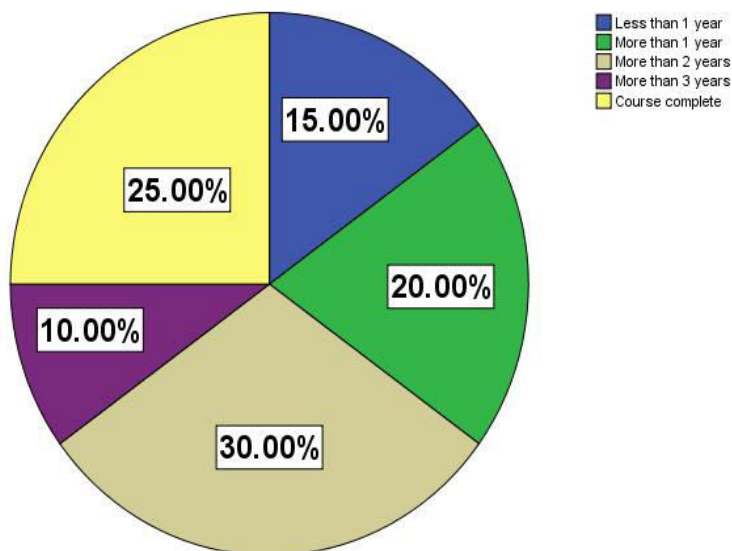
According to you, are the study materials enough to pass the CA examinations?	60	1	2	1.77	.427
Do you get exam leave as per ICAB's guidelines?	60	1	2	1.35	.481
How satisfied are you with the number of days given as exam leave to the students?	60	2	5	2.85	.936
On emergency requirement, do you have to attend office during exam leave?	60	1	3	2.13	.791
Are you getting the minimum amount of allowance set by ICAB	60	1	2	1.12	.324
Please indicate your gender	60	1	2	1.27	.446
Please indicate your age range	60	2	5	3.25	.600
What was your educational background till you started your articleship period?	60	1	4	2.58	.671
Valid N (listwise)	60				

**How long have you been registered as an articled student in a Chartered Accountant firm?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 1 year	9	15.0	15.0	15.0
	More than 1 year	12	20.0	20.0	35.0
	More than 2 years	18	30.0	30.0	65.0
	More than 3 years	6	10.0	10.0	75.0
	Course complete	15	25.0	25.0	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		How long have you been registered as an articled student in a Chartered Accountant firm?
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		3.10
Median		3.00
Std. Deviation		1.386
Minimum		1
Maximum		5

**How long have you been registered as an articled student in a Chartered Accountant firm?**



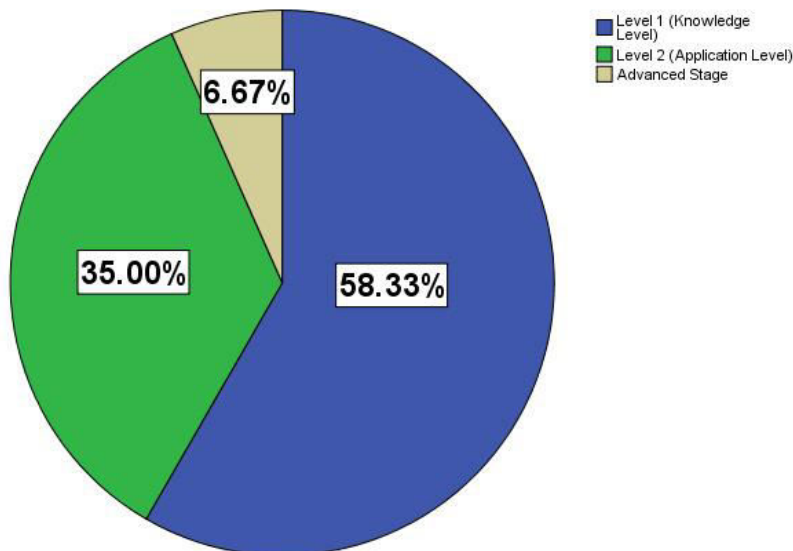
Out of the 60 spontaneous respondents, 30% have been registered as articled students for more than 2 years. 15% percent were less than 1 year. The other 25%, 20% and 10% were a mix of students who are course completed, registered for more than 1 year and

**In which level of CA examinations are you currently in?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Level 1 (Knowledge Level)	35	58.3	58.3	58.3
	Level 2 (Application Level)	21	35.0	35.0	93.3
	Advanced Stage	4	6.7	6.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		In which level of CA examinations are you currently in?
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		1.48
Median		1.00
Std. Deviation		.624
Minimum		1
Maximum		3

**In which level of CA examinations are you currently in?**



Although the respondents were a good mix of students in terms of years registered as articled students, a staggering 58.33% are still in Level-1 examinations. 35% are in Level-2 and 6.67% are in the advanced stage. Therefore, it is still quite evident that Chartered Accountant exams are challenging to pass.

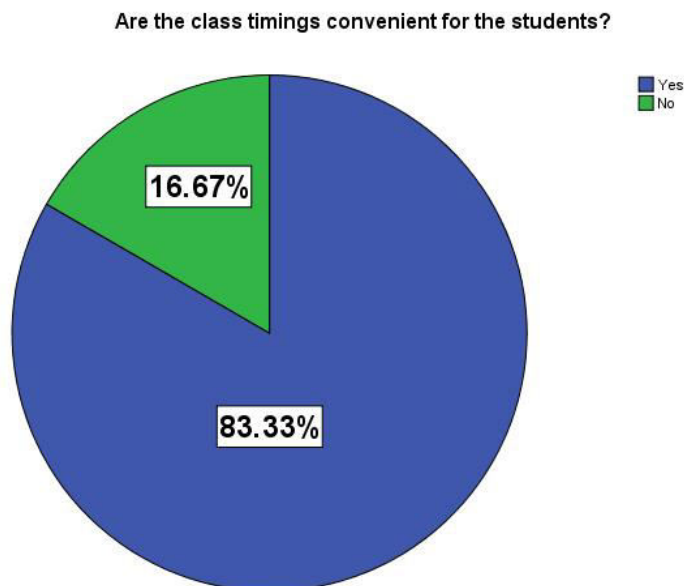
**What is your opinion about the time period of Articleship for ICAB students?**

When asked about the time period of articleship, majority of the students expressed their satisfaction about the 3 years time period by saying that this is the time to get trained and learn.

**Are the class timings convenient for the students?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	50	83.3	83.3	83.3
	No	10	16.7	16.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		Are the class timings convenient for the students?
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		1.17
Median		1.00
Std. Deviation		.376
Minimum		1
Maximum		2

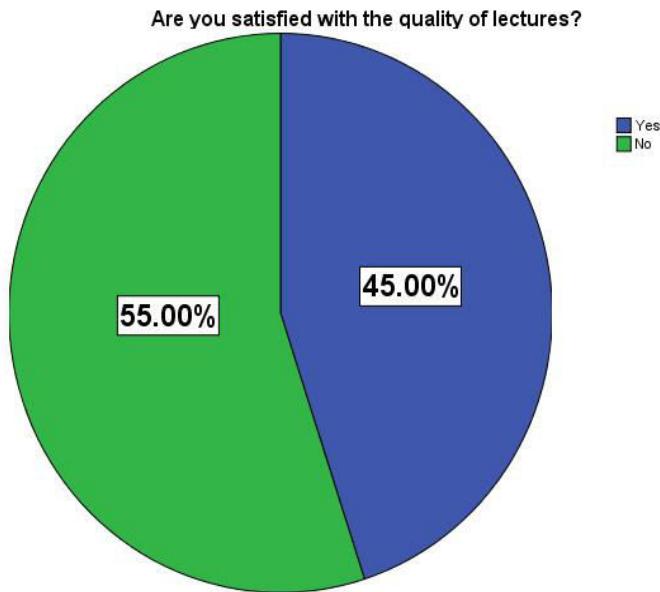


83.33% of the students expressed their satisfaction towards the class timing showing that there is no issue related to class timing. Although 16.67% of the respondents were not satisfied, it might not be a cause of concern for ICAB.

**Are you satisfied with the quality of lectures?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	27	45.0	45.0	45.0
	No	33	55.0	55.0	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		Are you satisfied with the quality of lectures?	
N	Valid	60	
	Missing	0	
Mean		1.55	
Median		2.00	
Std. Deviation		.502	
Minimum		1	
Maximum		2	



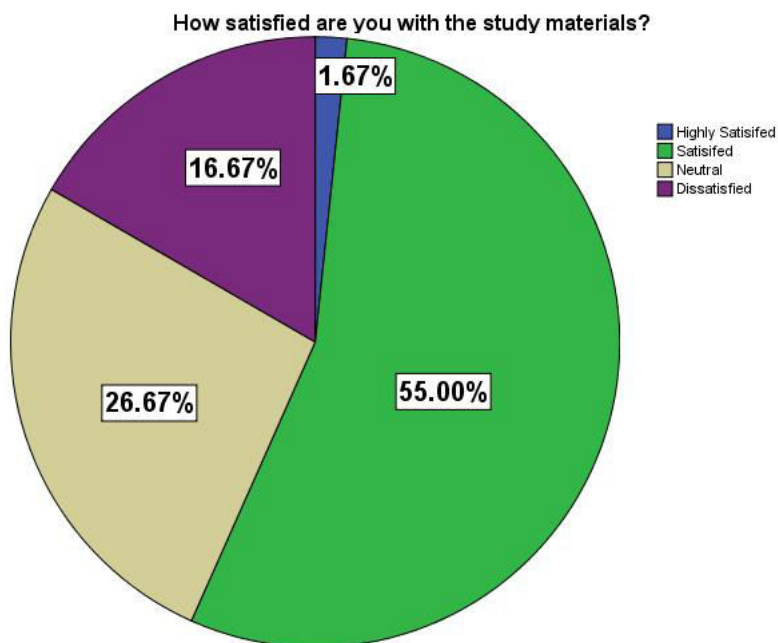
From the results of the response by the respondents, it can be seen that there is a large chunk of students (55%) who are dissatisfied with the quality of lectures. All classes are taken at ICAB academic campus mostly by qualified Chartered Accountants.



### How satisfied are you with the study materials?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly Satisfied	1	1.7	1.7	1.7
	Satisfied	33	55.0	55.0	56.7
	Neutral	16	26.7	26.7	83.3
	Dissatisfied	10	16.7	16.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		How satisfied are you with the study materials?
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		2.58
Median		2.00
Std. Deviation		.787
Minimum		1
Maximum		4



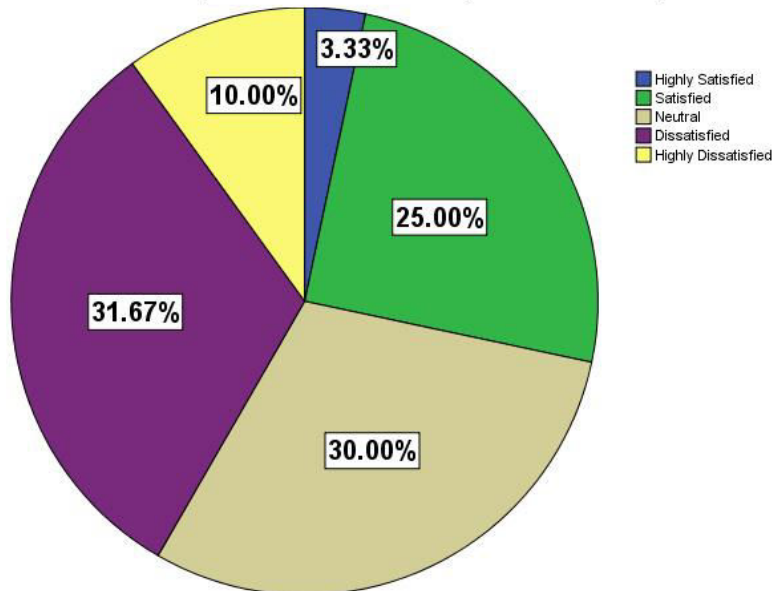
55% of the students are satisfied with overall quality of the study materials. However, a total of 33% of the students are either neutral or dissatisfied with the quality of the study materials. This can be explained with the findings of the next two questions.

### How satisfied are you with the amount of examples used in the study materials?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly Satisfied	2	3.3	3.3	3.3
	Satisfied	15	25.0	25.0	28.3
	Neutral	18	30.0	30.0	58.3
	Dissatisfied	19	31.7	31.7	90.0
	Highly Dissatisfied	6	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		How satisfied are you with the amount of examples used in the study materials?
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		3.20
Median		3.00
Std. Deviation		1.038
Minimum		1
Maximum		5

How satisfied are you with the amount of examples used in the study materials?



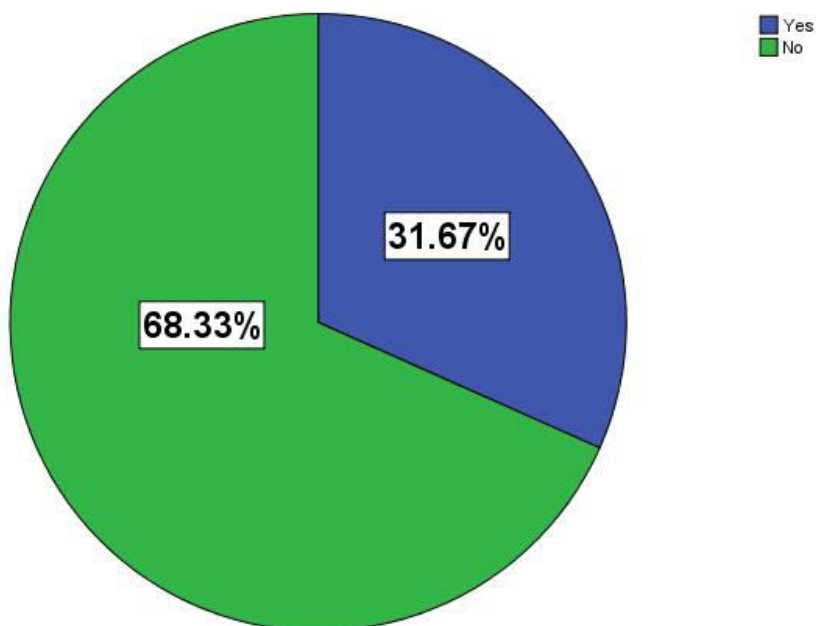
More than 60% of the students are either neutral or dissatisfied with the number of examples used in the study manuals of ICAB. 25% of the students are satisfied and the number of students who are highly satisfied is negligible.

**Do the study manuals have enough practice questions?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	19	31.7	31.7	31.7
	No	41	68.3	68.3	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		Do the study manuals have enough practice questions?	
N	Valid	60	
	Missing	0	
Mean		1.68	
Median		2.00	
Std. Deviation		.469	
Minimum		1	
Maximum		2	

**Do the study manuals have enough practice questions?**



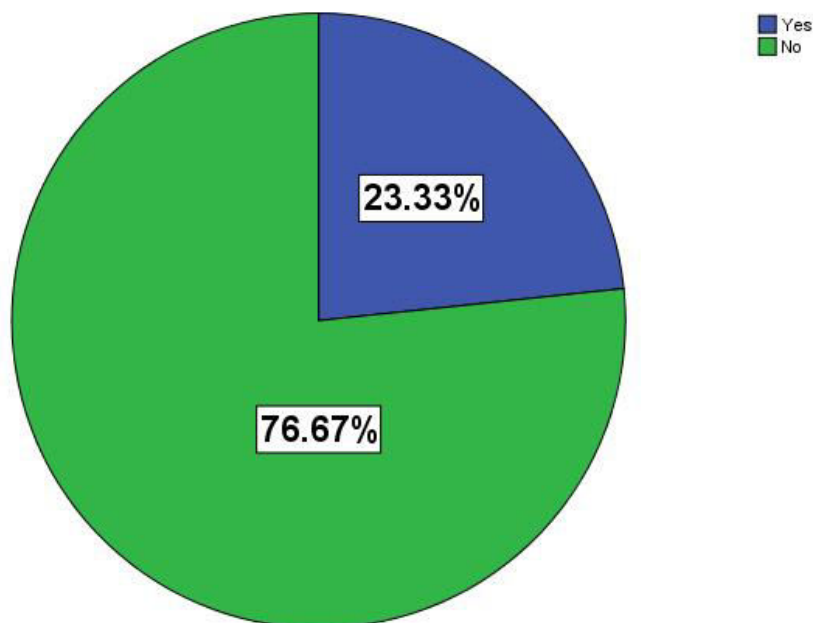
An astounding 68.33% of the students think that the number of the practice questions given in the study manuals is not enough. This is a very key finding and should be focused on.

**According to you, are the study materials enough to pass the CA examinations?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	23.3	23.3	23.3
	No	46	76.7	76.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		According to you, are the study materials enough to pass the CA examinations?
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		1.77
Median		2.00
Std. Deviation		.427
Minimum		1
Maximum		2

**According to you, are the study materials enough to pass the CA examinations?**



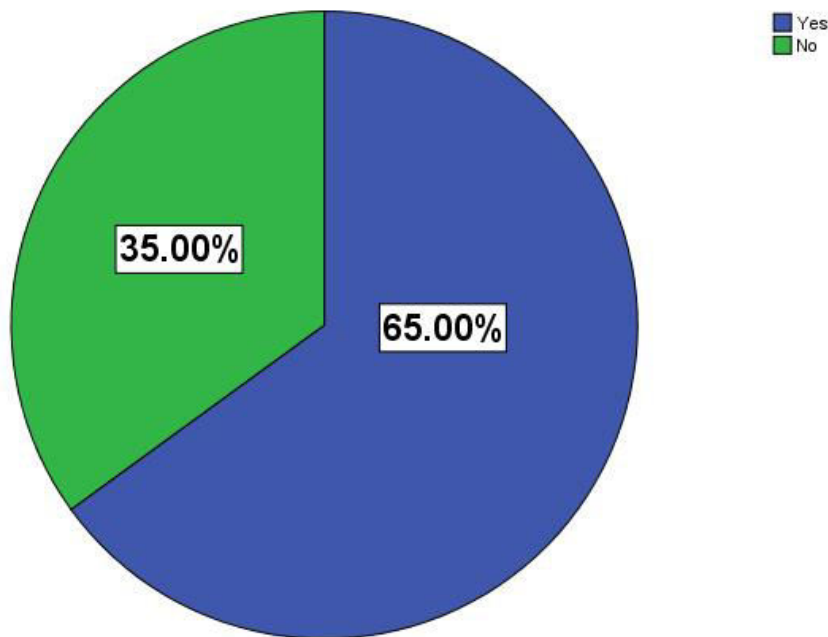
Again it can be seen dissatisfaction towards to the study manuals is high as 76.67% of the students think that the study manuals alone are not enough to pass the exams. This means that the students have to study beyond the manuals to pass the examinations.

**Do you get exam leave as per ICAB's guidelines?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	39	65.0	65.0	65.0
	No	21	35.0	35.0	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		Do you get exam leave as per ICAB's guidelines?	
N	Valid	60	
	Missing	0	
Mean		1.35	
Median		1.00	
Std. Deviation		.481	
Minimum		1	
Maximum		2	

**Do you get exam leave as per ICAB's guidelines?**



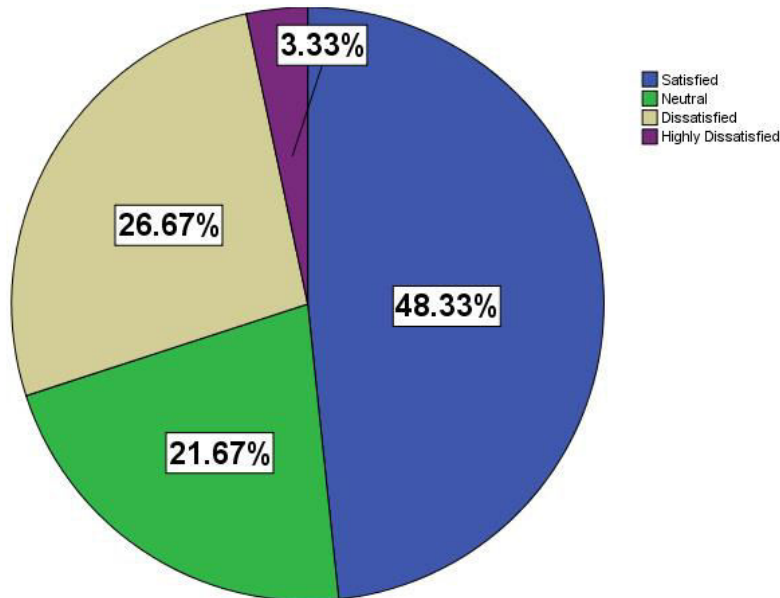
65% of the students have said that they get exam leave as per ICAB guidelines. However, there are firms who do not give exam leave as per guidelines and therefore 35% of the students have given negative response to this question.

**How satisfied are you with the number of days given as exam leave to the students?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Satisfied	29	48.3	48.3	48.3
	Neutral	13	21.7	21.7	70.0
	Dissatisfied	16	26.7	26.7	96.7
	Highly Dissatisfied	2	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		How satisfied are you with the number of days given as exam leave to the students?
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		2.85
Median		3.00
Std. Deviation		.936
Minimum		2
Maximum		5

How satisfied are you with the number of days given as exam leave to the students?



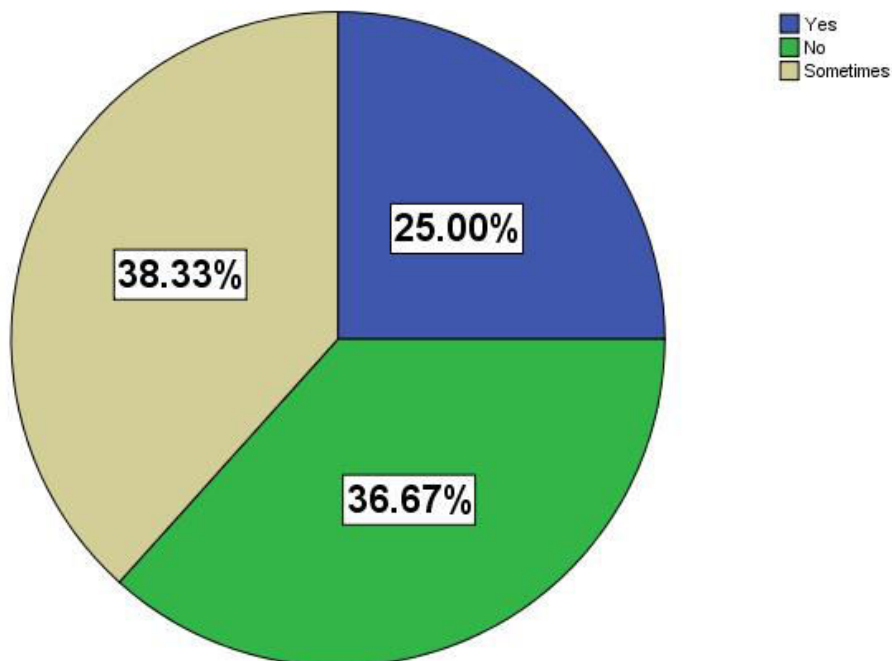
48.33% of the students are satisfied with the number of days given as exam leave. This shows that if the firms follow the guideline by ICAB, the students are happy with the Amount of days given as exam leave.

**On emergency requirement, do you have to attend office during exam leave?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	15	25.0	25.0	25.0
	No	22	36.7	36.7	61.7
	Sometimes	23	38.3	38.3	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		On emergency requirement, do you have to attend office during exam leave?	
N	Valid	60	
	Missing	0	
Mean		2.13	
Median		2.00	
Std. Deviation		.791	
Minimum		1	
Maximum		3	

**On emergency requirement, do you have to attend office during exam leave?**



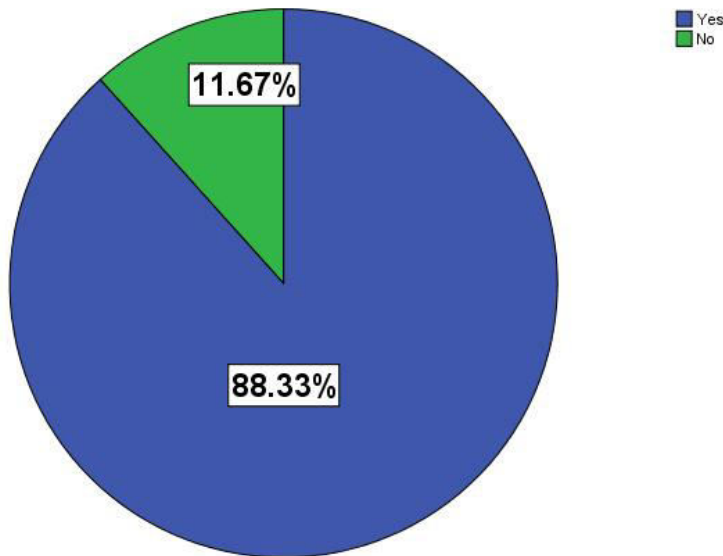
25% of the students have said that they have to come to office even during exam leave. 38.33% have said that they sometimes have to attend office during exam leave. And 36.67% have said that they do not have to attend office during exam leave.

**Are you getting the minimum amount of allowance set by ICAB?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	53	88.3	88.3	88.3
	No	7	11.7	11.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

		Are you getting the minimum amount of allowance set by ICAB
N	Valid	60
	Missing	0
Mean		1.12
Median		1.00
Std. Deviation		.324
Minimum		1
Maximum		2

**Are you getting the minimum amount of allowance set by ICAB**



A significant 88.33% of the students have said that they get allowance as per ICAB guidelines.

**What is your opinion about the pay scale followed by Chartered Accountancy firm?**

When asked about the pay scale followed by the Chartered Accountant firms, 100% of the students showed their dissatisfaction towards the pay scale. The minimum amount set by

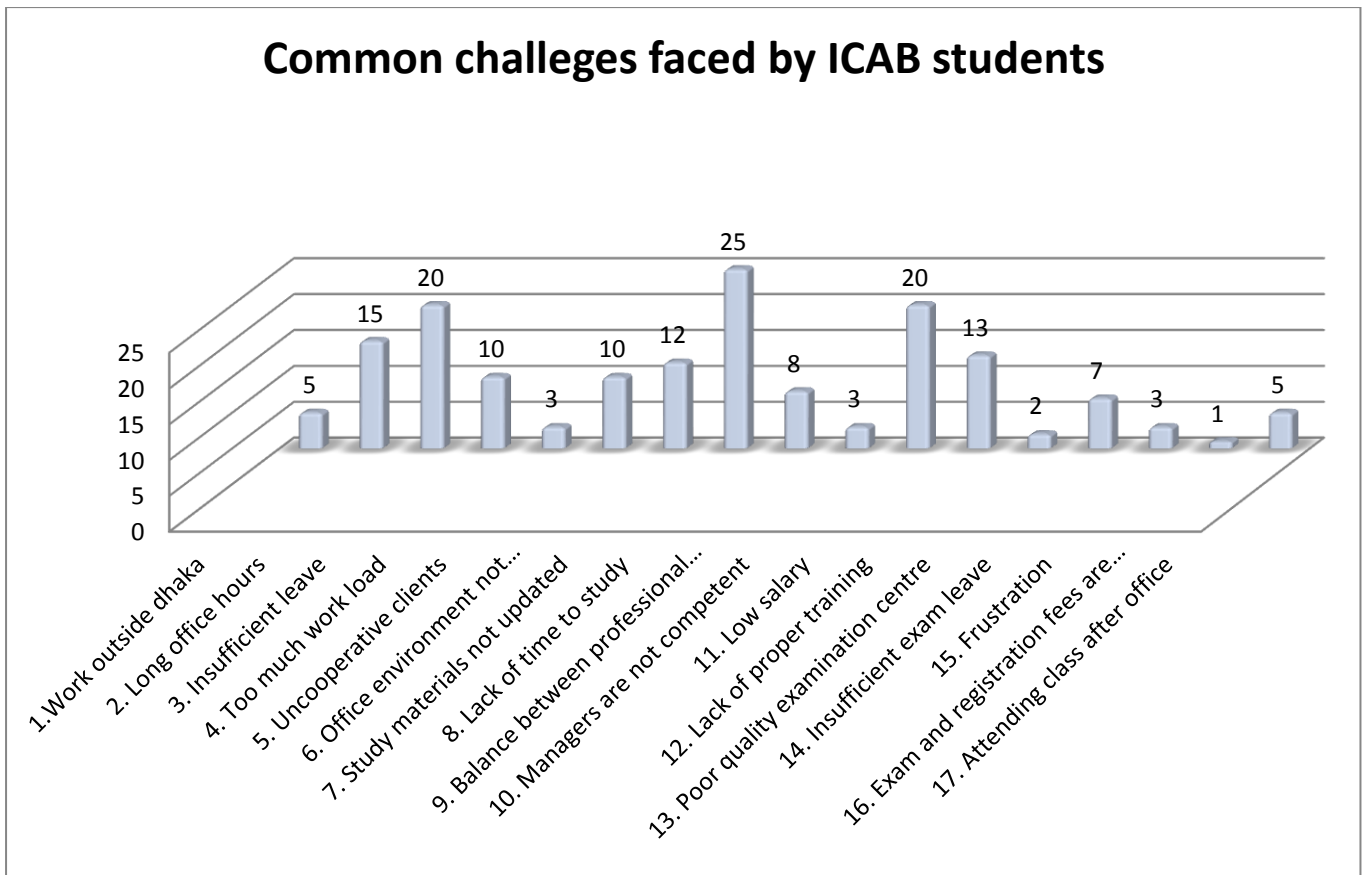


ICAB for the students is BDT 3000 per months. As a result the students said it is impossible to survive in Dhaka city with this pay scale.

**According to you what are the top 3 challenges that articled students of ICAB students face during their articleship period? Please share any additional comments of concerns on this subject.**

There were many challenges that came up from this research. However, the Top 3 challenges that the students highlighted were:

- 1) Lack of time to study
- 2) Low allowance
- 3) Insufficient study leave for exams



## 4.5 Cronbach's Alpha

### Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	60	100.0
	Excluded(a)	0	.0
	Total	60	100.0

a) Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

### Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.437	15

The result of cronbach's alpha is .437 which clearly shows that the questionnaire survey was not reliable. As cronbach's alpha needs to be .7 for it be considered as a reliable survey. However, a low cronbach's alpha value could be due to several reasons, like, less number of questions, poor interrelatedness between test questions or lower number of respondents. If a further research is carried out considering the shortcomings then it might give a more reliable result.

## Chapter 5: Findings

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From the analysis of the primary data collected, it was evident that the number of male students is significantly higher in the profession than the number of female students. Most of the students join this profession after completion their graduation or post-graduation. The 3 years' time period of articleship seems to be good for the students as majority of the students agreed with the time period. More than half of the students were dissatisfied with the quality of lectures. However, the students are satisfied with the study materials as a whole. On the contrary, the students were dissatisfied with the amount of practice questions and examples used in the study manuals. Many of the students think that the study manuals alone are not enough to pass the exams. Most of the students said they get leave as per ICAB guidelines and almost 50% of them were satisfied with the amount of days given as exam leave. But the other half was not satisfied with the number of days given as exam leave. Majority of the students also said they get allowance as per ICAB guidelines, but they were highly dissatisfied with the amount of money given as allowance. Finally, when asked about the top 3 challenges faced, the answers that came most frequently were:

- 1) Lack of time to study
- 2) Low allowance
- 3) Insufficient study leave for exams

## Chapter 6: Conclusion & Recommendations

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- i) From the findings it can be seen that there is dissatisfaction among the students about the quality of lectures delivered in the classes even though the classes are mostly taken by qualified Chartered Accountants. To resolve this issue, ICAB can provide training to lecturers who take the classes to further improve their quality as lecturers.
- ii) Another key issue from the findings was that the students are not satisfied with the amount of examples and practice questions given in the study manuals. Furthermore, the students even think that the study manuals are not enough to pass the exams. Therefore, ICAB should look into this matter carefully and make improvements to the study manuals so that the study manuals are more enriched.
- iii) There are firms who do not give exam leave to students as per ICAB guidelines. Hence, ICAB should make sure that the students are given exam leave as per ICAB guidelines so that they get the time to study for the exams.
- iv) When asked about the top 3 challenges that students face during articleship period, the challenge that came up the most was the amount of money given as allowance to the students. Although, the firms pay allowance as per ICAB guidelines, the students are highly dissatisfied with the amount. They mostly complain that with the amount paid by Chartered Accountant firms, it is impossible to survive in Dhaka city. Therefore, keeping the inflation in mind, ICAB should revise the minimum allowance that will be given to students.
- v) The other challenges that were highlighted are mostly due to the nature of the job. As articulated students have to attend full time office during this period, they face a lot of challenges related to study. To overcome those challenges, the students have to make better use of time and other resources so that they can pass the examinations and become Chartered Accountants.

In conclusion it can be said CA students have to work hard, have determination and sacrifice in some stages of life but success of becoming a CA is fruitful for lifetime.

## Chapter 7: References

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## Appendix

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Good day madam/sir!

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this important survey on professional accounting students. This survey should only take 4-5 minutes to complete.

**Be assured that all answers you provide will be kept in the strictest confidentiality.**

**1. How long have you been registered as an articled student in a Chartered Accountant firm?**

- a) Less than 1 year
- b) More than 1 year
- c) More than 2 years
- d) More than 3 years
- e) Course complete

**2. In which level of CA examinations are you currently in?**

- a) Level 1 (Knowledge Level)
- b) Level 2 (Application Level)
- c) Level 3 (Advanced Stage)

**3. What is your opinion about the time period of Articleship for ICAB students?**

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**4. Are the class timings convenient for the students?**

a) Yes

b) No

(if no, what is your preferred timing?)

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**5. Are you satisfied with the quality of lectures?**

a) Yes

b) No (if no, what changes would you like to suggest?)

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**6. How satisfied are you with the study materials?**

a) Highly satisfied

b) Satisfied

c) Neutral

d) Dissatisfied

e) Highly dissatisfied

**7. How satisfied are you with the amount of examples used in the study manuals?**

a) Highly satisfied

b) Satisfied

c) Neutral

d) Dissatisfied

e) Highly dissatisfied



**8. Do the study manuals have sufficient practice questions?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**9. According to you, are the study manuals enough to pass the CA examinations?**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**10. Do you get exam leave as per ICAB's guidelines?**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**11. How satisfied are you with the number of days given as exam leave to the students?**

- a. Highly satisfied
- b. Satisfied
- c. Neutral
- d. Dissatisfied
- e. Highly dissatisfied

**12. On emergency requirement, do you have to attend office during exam leave?**

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Sometimes





**13. Are you getting the minimum amount of allowance set by ICAB?**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**14. What is your opinion about the pay scale followed by Chartered Accountant firms?**

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**15. According to you what are the top 3 challenges that articled students of ICAB students face during their articleship period? Please share any additional comments of concerns on this subject.**

**Name (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your gender**

- a) Male
- b) Female



**Please indicate your age range.**

- a) Below 18
- b) 18-22
- c) 23-27
- d) 28-32
- e) Above 33

**What was your educational background till you started your Articleship period?**

- a) A-levels / H.S.C
- b) BBA/Hons.
- c) Master's/MBA
- d) Other Professional Degree

**Email Address (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_