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Assessing the Effects of the Socioeconomic Variables of Design Professionals on Income Quality

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Abstract

Within this study, the effects of Socioeconomic variables of design professionals on the quality of their income were examined with a view towards ascertaining the quality of life of design professionals. Design professionals in the study refers to architects, engineers and industrial designers/artists, while the socioeconomic variables studied here are age, gender, profession, academic qualification, length of professional practice after graduation, length of residency in the study area and familiarity with the study area. All of these variables were studied in relation to how they affect design professionals' income. Since a relationship study was carried out between the variables, it required the use of correlation analyses. A well structured questionnaire was designed to elicit information from the design professionals and these questionnaires were administered online to respondents through the respective professional institutions. Correlation analysis using spear man rho and Pearson moment correlation analyses were carried out, while categorical regression analysis was used to predict the socioeconomic variables with the most influence on design professionals' income. The analyses were carried out using SPSS version 18. The study found that while most design professionals are financially buoyant, their length of professional practice and highest academic qualification portend better income levels, while gender and professional designation have no significant relationship with design professionals' income levels.

Keywords: Correlation analyses, Design Professionals, Environment and behaviour, Income, Socioeconomic variables

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1. Introduction

Studies that involve Socioeconomic Status (SES) are mainly carried out amongst other reasons to ascertain the quality of life and performance of individuals and groups with respect to income status or income quality. Muller and Parcel (1981) describe SES as individual or family ranking based on their access and control over some valued commodities such as power, wealth and social status. Furthermore, Tomul and Polat (2013) define SES as a high quality workforce with equal opportunities and social development of civil awareness and community development. However, in economic terms, it is seen as innovation and the ability to increase a country's economic life and power. Socioeconomic status are usually measured using three factors, these are

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education, income and occupation levels ([Berkman and Macintyre, 1997](#)). While most literature explored have substantial findings on SES and students learning, outcomes and educational performance ([Orr et al., 2011](#), [Opoko et al., 2016; Oladipupo and Ehigbochie, 2017](#)), studies on SES of design professionals were scanty. For example Orr et al. (2011), agree that while SES is a growing concern pertaining educational equity, diversity and policy research, and that there have been persistent studies especially in engineering education, findings on the impact of such studies are scanty and limited. Orr et al (2011), submit that family income, parent education level and occupational prestige remain common indicators especially of students' SES studies, while findings from their study indicate that lower SES students are less likely to attend college after high school institutions. In Fenke et al. (2000) work, financial aid, gender, race/ethnicity and academic major of STEM majors were integrated in the study, and findings reveal that students with higher SES have higher measures of academic achievement. Fenke's work tend to suggest that a correlation exists between SES and access to post secondary education as well as persistence in engineering, however these findings do not suggest better practice. Caldas and Bankston (1997), study showed that a negative correlation exists between individual academic and both individual and school poverty statuses and school poverty was only slightly less correlated than individual poverty status. In developed societies, the school feeding program is used as one of the indicators of poverty statuses and parents income levels ([Adekunle et al., 2016](#)). Orr et al. (2011) made it clear that school poverty status does not necessarily give direct indications of individual student's household SES.

In other related studies that involved gender status Orr et al. (2011) found that female students have had the lowest admission rates compared to male counterparts in engineering professions, which shows that gender is a significant factor in engineering students' enrolments. Opoko et al. (2016) studied nine SES factors that affect students' academic performance in private universities in Nigeria, which include learning environment, students' personal characteristics, learning resources, parents' occupation and gender of students amongst others. Findings from the study indicate that six variables among the nine exhibited high positive correlations in this order: campus environment, students' relationship with staff, cafeteria services, fathers' occupation, and shopping facilities. The study also showed that income status of parents was not significant because most families of students who attend private universities were from upper medium and high income groups, and not from low income groups. In a related study, ([Okioga, 2013](#)) examined the impact of SES on academic performance of students in Universities. The study's outcome revealed that students were unable to afford good residential rooms, catering services and recreational facilities due to their SES and this affected their academic performance adversely. Ushie et al. (2012) also studied the effects of family structures and parental SES on students' academic performance in Lagos Nigeria. Results from the study indicated that students from single-guardian families competed and performed better than students from two-guardian families. In conclusion, Oladipupo and Ehigbochie (2017) explained that most of the studies on SES that were encountered, were analyzed using statistical tools and approaches, and that while this is not sufficient, some hidden and useful patterns from data may be lost that will greatly impact decision making in SES studies that may influence students' performance.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Design

A well structured questionnaire was designed to extract first-hand information, thereby gathering data on the SES of design professionals. The design professionals for the study comprise of architects, engineers and industrial designers/artists. The group was targeted at only professionals who are involved in design practice and are also referred to as experts within their individual fields. The professional bodies of each profession were approached and briefed on the study, and their members email addresses were sought and provided. The questionnaires were then forwarded to each email address that was made available by the professional bodies. Out of the 225 copies of questionnaires that were administered, 200 were correctly filled and returned successfully. Some respondents were also approached physically to be administered the questionnaires, while some declined due to time constraint, others responded swiftly. The questionnaire was designed with time management in mind, since design professionals are always very busy. As such, a typical questionnaire takes an average of between three to five minutes to complete, depending on the speed and ability of the respondent

to comprehend and answer questions. There was no time frame given for administering or receiving the questionnaires, as the respondents were urged to respond and return same upon completion. The filled questionnaires were returned, collated and analyzed within a time frame of 3 months.

2.2. Measures

Since three different design professions were involved in the study (i.e., architects, engineers and industrial designers/artists), it was expedient to know their characteristics and behavioral patterns in other to have a grasp on the groups. Questions were asked on professionals' age, sex, profession, academic qualification as well as income level per month and familiarity with the study area amongst others. The variables within this objective were nominal, ordinal and interval in nature, and because comparative analyses had to be done between these variables, it was imperative to use correlation analyses so as to check the effects of respondents' characteristics on their behavior. Therefore, Spearman rho analysis was carried out on ordinal and nominal variables and Pearson moment correlation was carried out on interval variables. Categorical regression analysis was also carried out so as to predict behavioral patterns in design professionals. The statistical analyses within this study were carried out with a degree of freedom of 95% and 0.05 confidence level.

2.3. Participants

The target group for this study was design professionals, comprising: architects, engineers and, industrial designers/artists. This was done to get only professional assessments of the relationship between income and design professionals SES. The study intended to get opinions of experts and not laypersons, since previous studies have shown that expert opinions were divergent from laypersons ([Brown and Gifford, 2001](#)). Design professionals were sought through permission from their different professional bodies (i.e., NIA- Nigerian Institute of Architects, NSE- Nigerian Society of Engineers and SNA- Society of Nigerian Artists) using individuals email addresses provided by their professional bodies and through physical onsite office locations. 225 participants were targeted for the full-scale study, however, 200 questionnaires were returned for analysis indicating an 88.9% return rate which tends to be high and positive response. 20 respondents from the participants were initially approached and administered questionnaires for the pilot survey. Results from the pilot study indicated similar responses to the full-scale study, indicating a consistency and reliability of the instrument (Refer to Table 1 for demographic data of respondents).

3. Results

In assessing the effects of Socioeconomic characteristics of design professionals on their income levels, 225 copies of questionnaires were administered to design professionals out of which 200 were correctly filled, returned and analyzed. The questionnaire was on the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents, and the questions asked concerning the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents border around respondents' age, gender, professional designation, academic qualifications, income level per month, length of professional practice, length of residency in the study area, and familiarity with the study area/location of practice. The data presentation and analyses of respondents' socioeconomic characteristics are shown, beginning with the age group of respondents to familiarity with study area/location of practice in Table 1. Correlation analysis and regression analysis on socioeconomic characteristics of respondents were also carried out and the data presentations are also shown on Tables 2 and 3 respectively.

Table 1 reveals that 41% of respondents fall within the age group 31-40 years, representing 82 respondents. This could mean that most of the respondents in this study are middle aged design professionals. This could also suggest that there are more middle aged design professionals than other age groups in practice. Second highest ranked is the 41-50 age group with 34% representing 68 respondents within the group. The lowest ranked age group is the above 51 years age group with 10% representing 20 design professionals. This could also suggest that older age groups of design professionals are few in practice.

For the gender distribution of respondents, the table shows that 84% of respondents are males compared to the 16% females who responded. This could be an indication that there are more males than females in the design professions, indicating a male dominated profession. This could also suggest the true picture of gender distribution in real life design practice.

Results from the professional designation of respondents indicate that more responses came in from architects (48%), than engineers (29%) and Industrial designers/artists (23%).

Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents			
Respondents SES	Class	Frequency	Valid Percent
Age Group	Under 20	0	0
	21-30	26	13
	31-40	82	41
	41-50	68	34
	Above 51	20	10
Gender	Male	168	84
	Female	32	16
Professional Designation	Architect	96	48
	Industrial Designer/Artist	58	29
	Engineer	46	23
Highest Academic qualification	OND	3	1.5
	B.Sc/HND	14	7
	Masters	149	74.5
	Ph.D	34	17
Income level per month	Less than N50,000	16	8
	N50,000 – N99,000	10	5
	N100,000 – N149,999	59	29.5
	N150,000 – N199,999	66	33
	N200,000 and Above	48	24
Length of professional practice	Under 5 yrs	22	11
	5-9 yrs	76	38
	10-14 yrs	50	25
	15-19 yrs	24	12
	Above 20 yrs	26	13
Length of residency	Not resident	52	26
	Under 5 yrs	7	3.5
	5-9 yrs	49	24.5
	10-14 yrs	30	15
	Above 15 yrs	61	30.5
Familiarity with study area	Not Familiar	29	14.5
	Less Familiar	25	12.5

Table 1 (Cont.)			
Respondents SES	Class	Frequency	Valid Percent
	Moderately Familiar	34	17
	Familiar	61	30.5
	Very Familiar	51	25.5

Also, the academic qualifications of respondents were investigated and the results indicate that three (3) respondents have Ordinary National Diploma (OND), representing 1.5% of respondents, while 14 respondents representing 7% of design professionals have B.Sc/HND. The analysis further reveals that 74.5% of respondents are master degree holders, while 17% representing 34 respondents have Ph.D degrees. Since 92% of respondents have postgraduate degrees in design professions, this could be an indication that majority of respondents are possibly knowledgeable people due to their academic backgrounds.

Table 1 further shows results of respondents' income per month which indicates that 29.5% representing 59 respondents fall within the N100,000-N149,000 category, while 24% earn N200,000 and above per month. Thirty-three percent (33%) earn between N150,000-149,000 per month, and 8% represents the low income category of less than N50,000 while another 5% earn N50,000-99,000 respectively. This indicates that 86.5% of respondents fall within the medium and high earning categories while 13.5% fall within the low earning categories. This could suggest an indication that most design professionals are financially buoyant. The study assumed that below N50,000 = low income group, N50,000 – N99,000 = medium/middle income group, and N100,000 and above = high income group.

The study also investigated the duration respondents have practiced professionally since after graduation. Results show the percentage distribution of the length of professional practice of design professionals. The results indicate that 38% have been practicing professionally for between 5-9 years, while 11% practiced for less than 5 years. Twenty-five percent (25%) representing 50 design professionals have practiced professionally for between 10-14 years, while 12% practiced for between 15-19 years. Also, another 13% representing 26 design professionals have practiced for over 20 years. The result is an indication that 88% of respondents have practiced professionally for over five years and beyond since after graduation. This could mean that majority of respondents have requisite and adequate professional skills and are knowledgeable from long time practice and experience. The study assumed and therefore considered 5 years and above as long term practice.

Results from Table 1 indicate that 70% of respondents have been residing in Akure the study area for over 5 years. Another 3.5% have lived in Akure for less than 5 years and 26% representing 52 respondents have never lived in Akure before. Also 30.5% representing 61 respondents have lived in Akure for over 15 years.

Respondents' familiarity with the study area/area of practice was also investigated and the results reveal that twenty-nine (29) respondents are not familiar with the study area, while 12.5% of respondents representing 25 design professionals are less familiar with the study area. Another 34 respondents representing 17% of respondents are moderately familiar with the study area, while a combined 56% representing 112 respondents are familiar and very familiar respectively with the study area. This is an indication that more than half of the respondents are familiar with the study area. Furthermore, a combined 27% representing 54 respondents are less familiar and not familiar with the study area.

3.1. Correlation Analysis

3.1.1. Relationships between socio economic variables (correlation analysis)

Relationships usually exist between variables. These relationships could be positive or negative and sometimes, no relationship may exist between two variables. It is expedient to know if relationships exist between the socioeconomic variables studied and also the level of effects that exist between them. It is also important to understand the strength of the relationships within the socio-economic variables of design professionals as used within this study.

3.1.2. Relationship Between Age and Professional Designation

The relationship between age group and professional designation was investigated. The variables involved are interval and nominal in nature, and Pearson moment correlations was used to run the correlation analysis. The analysis revealed that the relationship between both variables is not significant ($r=-0.031, p=0.662$). This could be an indication that professional designation of respondents does not depend on their age, but may depend on other factors not studied here. It appears that age and professional designation have no correlation, which suggests that anyone could be in any profession irrespective of their age, so long that the training and academic qualifications are obtained.

3.1.3. Relationship Between Age and Highest Academic Qualification

The relationship between age group and highest academic qualification was also investigated. The variables involved are interval and ordinal in nature, and Spearman correlations was used for the correlation analysis. The analysis showed that the relationship between both variables is significant ($r=0.259, p=0.000$). Though the relationship is significant, the correlation coefficient ($r=0.259$) indicate that there is a positive but weak relationship between age group and highest academic qualification. This suggests that the higher design professionals advance in age the possibility of earning higher academic qualifications is also high, although not on a corresponding linear scale or basis. This result suggests that anyone from the design professions can achieve the highest academic qualification without age restrictions.

3.1.4. Relationship Between Professional Designation and Highest Academic Qualification

The relationship between professional designation and highest academic qualification of design professionals was sought. Since the variables involved are nominal and ordinal in nature, Spearman rho correlations test was used to run the correlation analysis. The analysis shows that the relationship between both variables is not significant ($r=-0.020, p=0.779$). This suggests that no relationship exists between the professional designation of design professionals and their highest academic qualifications.

3.1.5. Relationship Between Professional Designation and Length of Professional Practice

The relationship between professional designation and length of professional practice after graduation was sought. The variables involved are nominal and interval in nature, and Pearson moment correlations was used to run the correlation analysis. The analysis revealed that the relationship between both variables is not significant ($r=0.029, p=0.683$). This could possibly imply that the professional designation of design professionals does not depend on or affect their length of professional practice.

3.1.6. Relationship Between Length of Residency and Familiarity With the Study Area

The relationship between how long respondents have resided in the study area/location of practice and how familiar respondents are with their study area/location of practice was investigated. The variables involved are interval and ordinal in nature, prompting the use of Spearman correlations to run the correlation analysis. The analysis revealed that the relationship between both variables is significant ($r=0.808, p=0.000$). This is an indication that the more design professionals stay longer in their location of practice, the more they can relate with the people in the area, thereby building relationships that promote access to more clients, hence better job opportunities and better income. Familiarity has been proven to have positive significant relationship ($r=0.808$) with length of residency in the study area.

From the correlation analyses carried out amongst the various variables involved in this study, only two paired variables i.e age of design professionals and highest academic qualifications ($r = 0.259, p = 0.000$), and length of residency in the study area and familiarity with the study area/location of practice ($r = 0.808, p = 0.000$), show significant relationships. The other paired variables did not exhibit or show significant relationship between the variables investigated.

3.2. Relationship Between Income and Other Socioeconomic Variables

There is the need to know if relationships exist between the socio-economic variables studied, and the level of effects that exist between them. Since income is a very important socio-economic variable, it is expedient to understand the relationship between it and the other socioeconomic variables of design professionals as used

within this study. Table 2 shows the correlation coefficients (r) and significant values between income level per month of design professionals and the other socio-economic variables, using Pearson moment correlations analysis. According to Field (2011) a coefficient of +1 indicates a perfect positive relationship, a coefficient of -1 indicates a perfect negative relationship, a coefficient of 0 indicates no linear relationship at all. The correlation coefficient is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect: values of $\pm .1$ represent a small effect, $\pm .3$ is a medium effect and $\pm .5$ is a large effect (Field, 2011).

Table 2 shows the results of the correlation analysis of respondents' socio-economic variables. The table indicates that two (2) variables: gender ($r = -0.043, p = 0.271$) and professional designation ($r = 0.090, p = 0.102$) were not found to be significant with respondents income level per month due to the fact that their significant values were higher than 0.05 (significant level for the analysis). The table also revealed that five (5) other socioeconomic variables: age group ($r = 0.378, p = 0.000$), highest academic qualification of respondents ($r = 0.535, p = 0.000$), length of professional practice after graduation ($r = 0.675, p = 0.000$), length of residency in the study area ($r = 0.176, p = 0.012$), and familiarity with the study area ($r = 0.226, p = 0.001$) were all found to be significant in determining the income level per month of design professionals, since their significant values (p values) are all less than the 0.05 significant level adopted for the study and their correlation coefficients (r) are all positive values. However, the length of professional practice after graduation has the most effect ($r = 0.675$) on income. This could be an indication that the more the number of years spent in professional practice, the more the tendency of design professionals smiling to the banks and the more income generated. This is also an indication that the more design professionals advance in length of practice, the more they are known and the more job referrals they could possibly get, hence more income. Highest academic qualification ($r = 0.535$) is ranked second, and indicates a high positive correlation with income. This suggests that the higher design professionals' educational status, the better jobs they get, hence increased income. The age group of respondents also affected income level per month positively (0.378), although the value has medium effect on design professionals income. But familiarity with the study area ($r = 0.226$), and length of residency in the study area ($r = 0.176$) indicate positive but weak correlations with design professionals income level per month. This means that design professionals' being familiar with the study area and their length of residency in the study area have only little effect on their ability to generate income per month through practice.

Table 2: Result of Correlation Analysis Between Respondents' Income Level Per Month and Other Socioeconomic Variables			
S. No.	Socioeconomic Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Significance (p)
1	Age group	0.378**	0.000
2	Gender	-0.043	0.271
3	Prof. designation	0.090	0.102
4	Highest academic qualification	0.535**	0.000
5	Length of professional practice after graduation	0.675**	0.000
6	Length of Residency in Akure	0.176*	0.012
7	Familiarity with study area	0.226**	0.001

Note: Significant level = 0.05; ** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed); * Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

3.3. Predictors of Better Income for Design Professionals

In order to know the variables that predict better income for design professionals, categorical regression analysis was used for the analysis with income level per month of design professionals as the dependent variable and other socio economic variables as the independent variables. Table 3 below shows the standard coefficient (beta values) from the regression analysis from the highest predictor to the lowest in that order, and their corresponding significant values. Also note that the negative (-ve) value in standard coefficient values or beta values is of null effect on the value where it appears, and does not affect the value in any way.

Results from Table 3 show that length of professional practice after graduation is the highest predictor of income of design professionals ($b = 0.522, p = 0.000$). This is an indication that the longer a design professional practices in terms of number of years, the more the probability of meeting other professionals and clients, hence, better chances of getting more jobs, symbolizing more and better income. This is closely followed by length of residency in the study area or location of practice ($r = -0.436, p = 0.000$). Meaning that the longer a design professional resides in the study area, the more the ability to know other professionals and clients who could possibly bring or attract more jobs and more income. The third predictor of income for design professionals is familiarity with the study area ($r = 0.341, p = 0.000$), signifying that the more familiar a design professional is with the study area, the more likely it is for them to make more and better income. The next predictor of income for design professionals is highest academic qualification ($r = 0.332, p = 0.000$). The study reveals that higher academic qualification for design professionals is capable of predicting the income level of design professionals. The sixth and last predictor of income for design professionals is gender ($r = -0.133, p = 0.015$). The study showed that design professionals' gender (i.e being male or female) is capable of predicting more and better income for design professionals, although, this is the least and lowest factor that is capable of generating income for design professionals, the relationship was found to be weak and of little effects. However, the age ($r = 0.082, p = 0.070$) of design professionals was not found to be significant in predicting design professionals income level per month. This indicates that age of design professionals do not necessarily predict the income of design professionals.

Table 3: Result of Regression Analysis Using Respondents' Income Level Per Month As Dependent Variable and the Other Socioeconomic Variables As Independent Variables			
S. No.	Socioeconomic Variables	Standard Coefficient Value ($b = \text{Beta}$)	Significance (p -Values)
1.	Length of professional practice after graduation	0.522	0.000
2.	Length of Residency in Akure	-0.436	0.000
3.	Familiarity with study area	0.341	0.000
4.	Highest academic qualification	0.332	0.000
5.	Prof. designation	0.178	0.000
6.	Gender	-0.133	0.015
7.	Age group	0.082	0.070

Note: Dependent Variable: Income Level per month; Significant level = 0.05.

Interestingly, the results reveal an R -square value of 0.587. This is an indication that a combination of the six independent variables that were significant in predicting the income level of design professionals' account for 58.7% of variance, which is above half, indicating that other variables that were not studied here account for 41.3% at predicting the income of design professionals. The model summary also indicates a significant F value of 0.000, showing that the R -square value was significant.

4. Findings and Discussions

This study found that there are more middle aged design professionals within the age bracket of 31-40 in design practice than the older age group of 51 years and above. It also revealed that design professions are more male dominated (84% male) than females (16%). These findings on gender distribution in design professionals in terms of few female students' enrolment in engineering courses than males, and few number of women in design profession practice were corroborated by Orr *et al.* (2011), and Omale (2017), respectively. In terms of income of design professionals, the study showed that design professionals appear financially buoyant with 86.5% of respondents earning N100,000 (One hundred thousand) and above per month. While 88% of respondents were found to have practiced professionally for more than 5 years, indicating that design professionals for the study are very knowledgeable on design and professional practice issues due to the long

years in practice. 70% of respondents were found to have lived in the study area for over 5 years which shows that respondents are conversant and familiar with the study area. The findings further reveal that more than half of respondents (56%) are familiar with the study area.

In terms of inter-relationships within socioeconomic variables, the study reveals that age has a weak positive relationship with highest academic qualification ($r=0.259, p=0.000$) of design professionals. This suggests that the more design professionals advance in age, the more the possibility of having higher academic qualifications, though not on a linear scale. Length of residency in study area was also found to have strong and positive correlations with familiarity with the study area ($r=0.808, p=0.000$). This is an indication that the longer design professionals reside in a particular area of practice, the more familiar they are with other professionals and clients within their environment/locality, hence more connections and projects and better income.

Further correlation studies to determine relationships between income of design professionals and other socioeconomic variables within the study, show that five variables had significant relationship with respondents' income, with length of professional practice having the strongest relationship with income ($r=0.675, p=0.000$), indicating that longer practicing design professionals make more income more than professionals who have practiced for a short time. Also, highest academic qualification ($r=0.535, p=0.000$) has a strong relationship with income. Higher academic qualification signifies more knowledge and more knowledge signifies better ways of doing things in practice. This indicates that higher academic qualifications are capable of bringing in more money for design professionals. The study further reveals that age has a medium or moderate effect on income ($r = 0.378, p = 0.000$), while familiarity and length of residency have weak positive relationships ($r = 0.226, p = 0.000$) and ($r = 0.176, p = 0.000$) respectively on income. The study further showed that both gender and professional designation of design professionals do not have significant relationships with income. This is an indication that familiarity with the area/location of practice, and length of residency have little positive effects on design professional's income. Although, this result on familiarity with the study area/area of practice and length of residency in the study area appear surprising, it would appear to common sense that if a design professional is familiar with an area of practice, and has lived in that area for a long period of time, such design professional should have connections and contacts with other professionals in practice, hence have access to more design projects and better income in the long run. While this may be true, this study shows that both familiarity and length of residency have weak but positive relationships with income, which indicates the possibility that it could happen.

However, in predicting the income of design professionals, six variables were found to be significant from design professionals' socioeconomic variables studied: these are; length of professional practice, length of residency in study area, familiarity with study area, highest academic qualification, professional designation and gender of design professionals. While it was surprising to find highest academic qualification and professional designation as low rank variables that predict design professionals income, it was also interesting to find gender as one of the predictors of income for design professionals.

Also, in comparing the correlation results in Table 2 with that of Table 3, it can be clearly seen when the tables are placed side by side, that besides the length of practice being the strongest and highest ranked variable on both tables, the other variables on both sides exhibit disagreements as no two other variable are same ranks on both tables. This clearly shows that length of practice is the variable that has the strongest positive correlation with the income levels of design professionals as shown in this study.

5. Conclusion

This study was able to show that socioeconomic variables of design professionals have effects on their income. Among the variables that were considered within this study, some exhibited strong positive correlations (length of professional practice and highest academic qualification) with the income of design professionals. Others exhibited moderate positive correlations (age), while some others exhibited weak positive correlations (familiarity with the study area and length of residency in the study area). However, (gender and professional designation) exhibited no correlations, indicating no form of relationship with the income of design professionals. On an overall basis, the length of practice of design professionals was found to show the highest positive effects on design professionals' income, hence this has enormous benefits in the quality of life of design professionals. The income of design professionals, like other professionals, is a life wire to good

quality of life, especially when such income is high. Therefore, it is a serious issue of concern to both researchers and design experts as well, and should not be treated with levity.

While scanty literature was found on the SES of design professionals, which was a limitation to this study, the study only investigated the effects of seven SES variables on the income of design professionals. Other authors are encouraged to investigate relationships and effects of other variables that were not studied here, to establish the relationships such impacts have on the income of design professionals.

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