



**LOCUS OF CONTROL, FEAR OF FAILURE, AND
SELF-HANDICAPPING BEHAVIOR AMONG
ACCOUNTANCY STUDENTS**

A Research Project Presented to

School of Professional Psychology

Bahria University Islamabad, E-8 Campus

In Partial Fulfilment of the requirement of the

Degree of Bachelor of Science

BS Psychology

By

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May 2025

BAHRIA SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**BAHRIA UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD CAMPUS (E-8)****APPROVAL SHEET****SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROJECT****Candidate's Names: Rahma Khan****Sania Javaid****Discipline: BS Psychology****Faculty/Department: School of Professional Psychology**

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DECLARATION OF AUTHENTICATION

We certify that the research work presented in this research project, to the best of my knowledge, is our own. All the sources used, and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged. We hereby declare that we have not submitted this material, either in whole or in part, for any other degree at this or any institution.

Signature(s):

Rahma Khan: _____

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Dedication

We would like to dedicate this thesis to each other, as research partners. This journey was made meaningful, manageable, and memorable through our shared effort, mutual encouragement, and unwavering teamwork. Our dedication and collaboration played a vital role in bringing this thesis to life. This thesis is also sincerely dedicated to our families, with a special acknowledgement to our parents. We extend our deepest gratitude to our esteemed supervisor, Ms. Sundas Shakoor, whose exceptional guidance and unwavering support have been indispensable throughout this academic pursuit. Ms. Shakoor's insightful mentorship, combined with her dedication and patience, not only shaped this work but also enriched our learning experience profoundly.

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, we express our deepest gratitude to Allah Almighty, whose endless mercy, guidance, and strength enabled us to complete this research journey. Without His divine support, none of this would have been possible.

We would also like to sincerely acknowledge and appreciate each other as research partners. This thesis is the product of true collaboration, shared vision, and unwavering commitment. While we encountered moments of disagreement and differing opinions, we stood strong, supported one another, and faced every challenge together. This journey has not only strengthened our research but also our partnership.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our respected supervisor, Ms. Sundas Shakoor, for her immaculate guidance, insightful feedback, and constant support. Her dedication, patience, and encouragement played a pivotal role in shaping the quality of this study. We are equally grateful to her esteemed colleagues, Ms. Fariha Hayat and Ms. Kanwal Zahra, for their valuable input and support throughout the project.

A very special thanks goes to Anum Zehra, a friend near and dear to our hearts, whose thoughtful conversations sparked the initial idea behind this research. Her encouragement, along with the meaningful connections she facilitated, played a subtle yet significant role in shaping our study. We also extend sincere appreciation to Sir Adnan Ali Shah, a dedicated member of the management at SBM Islamabad, for his timely facilitation and support during key stages of our research.

To everyone who helped us in any way—thank you. This thesis would not have been possible without you.

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Abbreviations

FOF	Fear of Failure
SHB	Self-Handicapping Behavior
LOC	Locus of Control
IPC	Internal, Powerful Others, Chance
SHS	Self-Handicapping Scale
PFAI-S	Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory, Short Form
ILOC	Internal Locus of Control
ELOC	External Locus of Control

Abstract

The present study examined the relationship between LOC, Fear of Failure, and Self-Handicapping Behavior among accountancy students (N=312) of the age range 18–27 from Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Data was collected using a convenient and purposive sampling technique. Levenson's Internal, Powerful Others, and Chance LOC Scales (IPC), the Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory Short-Form (PFAI-S), and the Self-Handicapping Scale (SHS) were used to assess the study variables. Results showed a positive relationship between LOC, Fear of Failure, and Self-Handicapping Behavior. Fear of Failure significantly predicted Self-Handicapping Behavior. Gender differences were found only on the chance subscale, where women scored higher than men. CA students displayed a higher ILOC, whereas ACCA students reported a higher Fear of Failure and Self-Handicapping Behavior. Additionally, students who had failed more than five times and those facing financial strain exhibited higher levels of Self-Handicapping Behavior. The study has implications for educational settings. In addition to that, limitations and recommendations for future research along with practical implications were also discussed.

Keywords: LOC, Fear of Failure, Self-handicapping behavior, Accountancy Student