FINANCE INDIA © Indian Institute of Finance Vol. XXXIX No. 1, March 2025 Pages – 205 – 220

Financial Literacy and Wellness in South India : The Mediating Role of Self-Efficacy

P.A. MARY AUXILIA* KABALY P. SUBRAMANIAN** M.N. PRABADEVI*** V. RENGARAJAN****

Abstract

The growing importance of financial literacy in shaping personal financial decisions and improving overall well-being is becoming more widely acknowledged in our changing economic landscape. Knowing financial management's behavioural and psychological aspects has grown crucial as financial decision-making. The study explores the relationship between people's overall financial well-being and financial literacy, or financial knowledge and comprehension, and whether this relationship is mediated by their financial self-efficacy or confidence in managing financial activities. Utilizing Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), the research examines direct and indirect relationships between wellbeing, self-efficacy, and financial literacy by analysing survey data from Indian participants. According to the results, financial self-efficacy partially mediates the association between financial literacy & financial well-being, emphasizing psychological empowerment's importance in attaining financial well-being and foster confidence in financial well-being and foster confidence in financial well-being.

JEL Code : D14, G53, I31, O33 Keywords : Financial Literacy; Self Efficacy; SEM; Empowerment; Behavioral Finance; Decision Making; Well Being; India

I. Introduction

GLOBAL ECONOMIC INSTABILITY has led to the emergence of intricate financial products, presenting individuals with new challenges that demand adept financial decision-making skills (Philippas and Avdoulas, 2020; Huy, 2018). Academia and policymakers, recognizing the escalating importance

Submitted January 2025; Accepted March 2025

^{*} Assistant Professor, Loyola Institute of Business Administration, No 1, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600034 INDIA

^{**} Professor and Acting Dean, Arab Open University, Faculty of Business Studies, Building No 994, Way No 92, Al Maabilah, Seeb, Muscat Governorate, P.O.Box 1596, P.C Muscat 130, SULTANATE OF OMAN

^{***} Associate Professor, SRM University Vdapalani, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Faculty of Management, Vadapalani Campus, C block, #1, 100 Feet Road, Vadapalani, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600026, INDIA

^{****} Assistant Professor, Arab Open University, Faculty of Business Studies, Building No 994, Way No 92, Al Maabilah, Seeb, Muscat Governorate, P.O.Box 1596, P.C Muscat 130, SULTANATE OF OMAN

References

Abrantes-Braga, Maria Gabriela and Daniel Veludo-de-Oliveira, (2019), "Financial preparedness and credit access: Evidence from a natural disaster", *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 141, pp. 298-315

AFI, (2021), "Digital financial literacy: A policy guide for financial inclusion", Alliance for Financial Inclusion, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Alexander, A., P. Flood, and J. Harding, (2016), "Digital literacy: Towards an integrated model", *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, Vol. 32, No. 1, pp. 1-11

Amiri, A., A.S. Yazdi and M. Sayani, (2018), "Investigating the role of mediator of knowledge sharing and purposeful organizational forgetting and the relationship between information literacy among employees of Kerman University of Medical Sciences.", *International Academic Journal of Accounting and Financial Management*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 113-119

Asadbakhti, N., and A.M. Malgharni, (2014), "Impact of Information Asymmetry on Investment Cost with Considering the Company Size and Financial Leverage in Corporations of Accepted in Tehran Stock Exchange", *International Academic Journal of Business Management*, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 127-135

Brown, J. R., (2005), "Venture capital and firm performance over the longrun: Evidence from high-tech IPOs in the United States.", *The Journal of Entrepreneurial Finance and Business Ventures*, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 1-33

Bruggen, L., P.J. Taylor and J. Gathergood, (2017), "Financial well-being: A conceptual framework", *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, Vol. 38, No. 2, pp. 206-223

Chen, H., and R. P. Volpe, (2001), "An analysis of personal financial literacy among college students.", *Financial Services Review*, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 207-228

Chowdhry, V., and R.K. Dholakia, (2020), "Financial literacy, financial resilience, and financial well-being: A conceptual model.", *Advances in Consumer Research*, Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 188-192

Chu, W., and M. Li, (2017), "The impact of financial literacy on financial behavior: Evidence from China.", *Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Logistics*, Vol. 29, No. 5, pp. 1044-1060

Dewi, V. I., E. Febrian, N. Effendi, M. Anwar, and S.R. Nidar, (2020), "Financial literacy and its variables: The evidence from Indonesia.", *Economics & Sociology*, Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 133-154

Duan, C., W.N. Soh, T.S. Ong and N.A. Rahim, (2024), "Strategies for Safeguarding Financial Stability: Integrating Government Intervention, Financial Freedom, and Information Management Systems for Resilient Economies", *Journal of Internet Services and Information Security*, Vol. 14, No. 4, pp. 181-194

Faramarzi, M., and H. Ashrafi, (2016), "Effect of restatement of financial information on the growth rate of financing in companies listed in Tehran Stock Exchange", *International Academic Journal of Economics*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 50-63

Frijns J. M., M.A.M. van Rooij and A. van der Heijden, (2014), "Financial literacy and stock market games: A review of the literature", *Journal of Economic Psychology*, Vol. 40, pp. 101-114

George, Panos. A., and D. Wilson, (2020), "The role of financial literacy in the digital age: Exploring the links between financial knowledge and online financial behaviors.", *Journal of Economic Psychology*, Vol. 81

© Indian Institute of Finance

Gerardi, K., (2010), "Financial literacy and subprime mortgage delinquency: Evidence from a survey matched to administrative data", Diane Publishing, Pennsylvania, USA

Ghadiri, M., (2016), "To Study the Relationship between Financial Flexibility with Investment and auditor tenure.", *International Academic Journal of Business Management*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 90-99

Haines. J.C., J. Godley, P. Hawe and A. Shiell, (2009). "Socioeconomic disadvantage within a neighborhood, perceived financial security and self-rated health", *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 69, No. 4, pp. 559-565

Hallegatte, S., J. Rentschler, and J. Rozenberg, (2017), "*Chronicity and resilience in economic systems: Assessing the role of adaptive management*", Working Paper WR-31805, World Bank Policy Research, Washington, USA, pp.1-224.

Hidajat, T., (2018), "Financial literacy, Ponzi and pyramid scheme in Indonesia", Jurnal Dinamika Manajemen, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 198-205

Hung, A. A., A.M. Parker, and J. K. Yoong, (2009), "Defining and measuring financial literacy", Working Paper WR-708, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, USA, pp. 1-28

Huy, D.T.N., (2018), "The Risk Level of Viet Nam Commercial Electric Industry under Financial Leverage during and after the Global Crisis 2009-2011", International Academic Journal of Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 109-121

Kammeyer-Mueller, J. D., T. A. Judge, and H. Liao, (2009), "The role of core self-evaluations in the coping process.", *Journal of Applied Psychology*, Vol. 94, No. 4, pp. 1442-1457

Khan, S. A. R., M.S. Sial, and M. Ali, (2017), "Financial literacy and its impact on financial behavior: A study of Pakistani investors", *Journal of Economics and Behavioral Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 109-120

Khan, S.N., (2015), "The effects of financial literacy education on financial well-being: A meta-analysis.", *Journal of Economic Psychology*, Vol. 47, pp. 100-116

Latif, A. Z., and A.S. Agrab, (2022), "Study of Global Financial Crises and their Effects on Accounting Systems", *International Academic Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 21-26

Lusardi, A., and O.S. Mitchell, (2010), "Financial literacy and retirement planning: New evidence from the Rand American Life Panel.", *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*, Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 358-380

Lynch, A. W., and S. Tan, (2010), "Multiple risky assets, transaction costs, and return predictability: Allocation rules and implications for U.S. investors", *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, Vol. 45, No. 4, pp. 1015-1053.

Micheal C. Hagerty., and Ruut Veenhoven, (2003), "Happiness is in the bank: Positive effects of financial security on psychological and physical well-being", *Journal of Happiness Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 7-21

Mohammed Noor, M.F.A. Rashid and N.H. Yusoff, (2020), "Financial literacy and financial self-efficacy among young adults in Malaysia", *International Journal* of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences, Vol. 10, No. 6, pp. 137-148

© Indian Institute of Finance

Nejad, A., and P. Javid, (2018), "Impact of financial literacy on financial wellbeing: A mediational role of financial self-efficacy", *International Journal of Business and Management*, Vol. 13, No. 9, pp. 286-293

Netemeyer. R.G., A.Y. Goudie, and M.D. McAlexander, (2018), "Financial distress and debt: Consumer experiences and psychological consequences", *Journal of Consumer Psychology*, Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 148-161

Oleiwi, A.A., (2022), "The Impact of Financial Technology on Promoting the Financial Inclusion of Banks in Arab Countries", *International Academic Journal of Economics*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 39-48

Philippas. D., and C. Avdoulas, (2020), "The impact of financial literacy on financial decisions and well-being: A literature review", *Journal of Economic Surveys*, Vol. 34, No. 3, pp. 853-885

Prabadevi, M.N., P.A. Mary Auxilia, K.P. Subramanian and V. Rengarajan, (2024), "Strategies for Leveraging Digital Libraries to Improve Financial Literacy among Rural Entrepreneurial Women", *Indian Journal of Information Sources and Services*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 28-33

Priyadharshini, P., (2015), "The impact of financial awareness on financial well-being of employees.", *International Journal of Management*, Vol. 6, No. 7, pp. 3049-3055

Rabet, F., and S.A. Mousavi, (2017), "Performance evaluation of contracting corporations from two dimensions of consumer affairs and financial affairs (Case study: Shiraz municipality)", *International Academic Journal of Innovative Research*, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 14-19

Ruberton, P.M., Gladstone, J and Lyubomirsky, S., (2016), "How your bank balance buys happiness: The importance of cash on hand to life satisfaction", *Emotion*, Vol. 16, No.5, pp. 575-580

Sarah Chancellor. C., and S. Lyubomirsky, (2011), "Happiness and financial satisfaction: A longitudinal study of saving and spending", *Journal of Happiness Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 4, pp. 683-705

Sendhil Mullainathan, and Eldar Shafir., (2015), "Scarcity: The psychological influence of having not enough", Henry Holt and Company, New York, USA

Van Rooij, M., Lusardi, A., and R. Alessie, (2011), "Financial literacy and stock market participation.", *Journal of Financial economics*, Vol. 101, No. 2, pp. 449-472

Xiao, J. J., Chen, C., and C. Tang, (2014), "Consumer financial literacy and financial behavior in China.", *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*, Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 1-18

© Indian Institute of Finance