

Comparative Analysis of Basic Personal Financial Knowledge among UG and PG Students and the Role of Gender in Financial Understanding

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Abstract: *Financial literacy is an essential life skill that enables individuals to make informed financial decisions and manage personal resources effectively. This study examines the basic personal financial knowledge of undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students, with a specific focus on identifying differences based on educational level and gender. The primary objective of the research is to analyze whether significant variation exists in financial knowledge between UG and PG students and to assess the presence of a gender-based barrier in understanding fundamental financial concepts. A quantitative research design was adopted, and data were collected from college students using a structured questionnaire covering key aspects of personal finance. Descriptive statistics and inferential techniques, including independent samples t-tests and regression analysis, were employed to test the stated hypotheses. The findings reveal a statistically significant difference in basic personal financial knowledge between UG and PG students, with PG students demonstrating higher levels of financial understanding. Additionally, the results indicate the existence of a gender gap in financial knowledge, suggesting that male students tend to exhibit better comprehension of basic financial concepts compared to female students. These outcomes highlight the influence of educational advancement and gender on financial literacy levels among students. The study underscores the need for targeted financial literacy programs at the undergraduate level and gender-inclusive financial education initiatives to bridge existing knowledge gaps. Strengthening financial education within academic institutions can contribute to improved financial competence and long-term economic well-being among students.*

Keywords: Financial Literacy, Undergraduate Students, Postgraduate Students, Gender Differences, Personal Financial Knowledge