

# EFFECT OF DIGITAL FINANCIAL LITERACY ON MOBILE FINANCIAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG ELDERLY CONSUMERS

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## ABSTRACT

The present study examines the effect of digital financial literacy on mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers. The primary objective of the research was to assess the level of digital financial literacy among senior citizens, analyze their mobile financial behaviour, and determine the influence of digital financial literacy on the adoption and usage of digital financial services. A quantitative research design was employed, and primary data were collected through a structured online questionnaire from 150 elderly respondents aged 60 years and above. The study utilized convenience sampling and analyzed the data using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and regression techniques. The findings revealed that respondents with higher levels of digital financial literacy demonstrated greater usage, trust, frequency, and diversity in mobile financial transactions. The results further indicated that approximately 68% of respondents regularly used mobile financial services, while individuals with higher educational levels exhibited greater confidence in digital financial platforms. Age and perceived risk were found to negatively influence adoption, whereas trust positively affected mobile financial behaviour. The study highlights the importance of enhancing digital financial literacy among elderly consumers to promote financial inclusion and safe participation in the digital economy. The findings provide valuable implications for policymakers, banks, and fintech companies in designing user-friendly financial technologies and targeted digital literacy programs for senior citizens.

**Keywords:** Digital Financial Literacy, Mobile Financial Behaviour, Elderly Consumers, Financial Inclusion, Mobile Banking, Digital Payments, Technology Adoption.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background of the Study

The financial services sector has undergone a significant transformation due to rapid technological advancements and increasing internet penetration. Digital financial services such as mobile banking, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and digital wallets have become an integral part of everyday financial transactions. In India, the government's Digital India initiative and the development of UPI by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) have accelerated the adoption of cashless payments. According to NPCI reports, UPI transactions crossed 17 billion transactions per month in 2025, demonstrating the growing reliance on digital payment systems. Mobile banking applications provided by commercial banks enable customers to transfer funds, pay bills, check account balances, and access various financial products remotely. Similarly, digital wallets such as Paytm, PhonePe, and

Google Pay have simplified financial transactions by offering convenient, secure, and instant payment options. These innovations have enhanced financial accessibility, reduced transaction costs, and promoted financial inclusion across urban and rural regions. However, the benefits of these digital financial services can only be fully realized when users possess the necessary knowledge and skills to use them effectively and safely.

## 2.2 Problem Statement

Despite the rapid expansion of digital financial services such as mobile banking, UPI, and digital wallets, a significant proportion of elderly consumers continue to face challenges in effectively utilizing these technologies. Limited digital literacy among older adults restricts their ability to understand digital financial platforms, navigate mobile applications, and perform online transactions with confidence. As a result, many elderly users remain vulnerable to cyber fraud, phishing attacks, financial scams, and unauthorized transactions, increasing their concerns about security and privacy. These risks often create fear and hesitation, discouraging them from adopting digital financial services despite their widespread availability and convenience. Furthermore, while governments, banks, and fintech companies have invested heavily in expanding digital financial infrastructure, a substantial gap still exists between the availability of these services and their effective usage by elderly consumers. This gap highlights the need to examine how digital financial literacy influences mobile financial behaviour among elderly users and to identify barriers that hinder their meaningful participation in the digital financial ecosystem.

## 2.3 Research Objectives

- To assess the level of digital financial literacy among elderly consumers
- To examine mobile financial behaviour patterns
- To analyze the impact of literacy on behaviour
- To identify barriers and challenges

## 2.4 Research Questions

- What is the level of digital financial literacy among elderly users?
- How do elderly consumers use mobile financial services?
- Does digital financial literacy significantly affect behaviour?

## 2.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant because it contributes to the growing understanding of how digital financial literacy influences mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers in an increasingly digitalized economy. From a policy perspective, the findings can support governments and regulatory authorities in designing effective financial inclusion strategies and digital literacy programs that enable senior citizens to participate safely and confidently in digital financial services. Academically, the study enriches existing literature by examining the relationship between digital financial literacy and financial behaviour among elderly users, a population that remains relatively underexplored in digital finance research, particularly in developing countries such as India. The research also provides empirical evidence that can support future studies in financial literacy, technology adoption, and consumer behaviour. Practically, the findings offer valuable insights for banks and fintech companies to develop user-friendly digital platforms, enhance security features, and create targeted educational initiatives that address the specific needs and challenges of elderly consumers, thereby improving adoption and sustained usage of digital financial services.

### 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 3.1 Concept of Financial Literacy

**Lusardi and Mitchell (2014)** explained that traditional financial literacy refers to an individual's knowledge and understanding of basic financial concepts such as budgeting, saving, borrowing, interest rates, and investment decisions. Their study highlighted that financially literate individuals are more capable of making informed financial decisions and achieving long-term financial well-being. Traditional financial literacy primarily focuses on managing personal finances through conventional financial products and services.

**Morgan, Huang, and Trinh (2019)** introduced the concept of digital financial literacy, which extends traditional financial literacy by incorporating the knowledge and skills required to use digital financial technologies effectively. According to their study, digital financial literacy includes the ability to use mobile banking, digital payment systems, online financial services, and cybersecurity practices. The authors emphasized that digital financial literacy has become essential for individuals to participate safely and efficiently in the modern digital financial environment.

#### 3.2 Mobile Financial Behaviour

**Gefen, Karahanna, and Straub (2003)** examined the role of trust in technology-based transactions and found that trust is a significant determinant of users' willingness to adopt and continue using digital financial services. Their study suggested that consumers who perceive mobile financial platforms as secure and reliable are more likely to engage in frequent transactions and utilize a wider range of financial services. Thus, trust serves as an important dimension of mobile financial behaviour influencing usage patterns and adoption decisions.

**Oliveira, Thomas, Baptista, and Campos (2016)** investigated mobile banking adoption and identified usage, frequency, and diversity of transactions as key dimensions of mobile financial behaviour. Their findings revealed that consumers who perceive mobile financial services as useful and easy to use tend to conduct transactions more frequently and utilize multiple digital financial services such as fund transfers, bill payments, and account management. The study highlighted that active and diversified usage reflects stronger engagement with mobile financial technologies.

#### 3.3 Elderly Consumers and Technology Adoption

**Czaja et al. (2006)** examined technology adoption among older adults and found that cognitive challenges such as memory decline, reduced information-processing speed, and difficulties in learning new technologies significantly affect technology usage. The study highlighted that elderly consumers often face barriers in understanding and adapting to digital platforms, which limits their willingness to adopt technology-based services.

**Heart and Kalderon (2013)** investigated the factors influencing technology acceptance among elderly users and reported that physical and psychological challenges play a crucial role in adoption decisions. Physical limitations such as poor eyesight and reduced motor skills, along with psychological concerns including fear of technology, lack of confidence, and security anxiety, were found to negatively influence the use of digital services among older adults.

#### 3.4 Theoretical Framework

##### Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

**Davis (1989)** developed the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) to explain how users accept and adopt new technologies. The model suggests that Perceived Usefulness and Perceived Ease of Use are the two key factors influencing technology adoption. In the context of elderly consumers, higher digital financial literacy can improve their perception of usefulness and ease of use of mobile financial services, thereby encouraging positive mobile financial behaviour.

**Venkatesh, Morris, Davis, and Davis (2003)** proposed the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT), which identifies Performance Expectancy, Effort Expectancy, Social Influence, and Facilitating Conditions as major determinants of technology adoption. The model further suggests that age and experience influence technology usage. For elderly consumers, digital financial literacy can strengthen confidence and facilitate the adoption of mobile financial services.

### 3.5 Review of Empirical Studies

**Lyons and Kass-Hanna (2021)** examined the role of digital financial literacy in promoting financial inclusion and responsible financial behaviour. Their study found that individuals with higher levels of digital financial literacy were more likely to adopt digital financial services, make informed financial decisions, and effectively manage online financial transactions. The authors emphasized that digital skills and financial knowledge together enhance confidence in using digital financial platforms.

**Morgan, Huang, and Trinh (2019)** investigated the importance of digital financial literacy in the digital age. The study revealed that digitally literate individuals are more likely to use mobile banking, digital payments, and other fintech services. The authors concluded that digital financial literacy significantly improves financial inclusion and reduces barriers to accessing digital financial services.

## 4. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework of this study examines the relationship between Digital Financial Literacy and Mobile Financial Behaviour among elderly consumers. Digital Financial Literacy serves as the independent variable and refers to an individual's knowledge, skills, and ability to use digital financial services such as mobile banking, UPI, and digital wallets safely and effectively. Mobile Financial Behaviour is the dependent variable, representing the extent to which elderly consumers use mobile financial services in terms of usage, trust, frequency, and diversity of transactions. It is assumed that higher levels of digital financial literacy positively influence mobile financial behaviour by increasing confidence, reducing perceived risks, and enhancing the ability to perform digital financial activities. The study also incorporates age, education, income, and gender as moderating variables, as these demographic factors may influence the strength and direction of the relationship between digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour. Therefore, the framework proposes that improved digital financial literacy leads to better mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers, while demographic characteristics affect the magnitude of this relationship.

## 5. HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

- H1: Digital financial literacy positively influences mobile financial behaviour
- H2: Trust mediates the relationship between literacy and usage
- H3: Education level positively moderates behaviour

## 6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design to examine the effect of digital financial literacy on mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers. The research focuses on individuals aged 60 years and above who use or have access to digital financial services such as mobile banking, UPI, and digital wallets. A quantitative research approach was employed to collect measurable data regarding digital financial literacy, usage patterns, trust, and mobile financial behaviour. The study aims to identify the extent to which digital financial literacy influences the adoption and use of mobile financial services among elderly consumers. The conceptual framework of the study considers Digital Financial Literacy as the independent variable and Mobile Financial Behaviour as the dependent variable, while age, gender, education, and income are treated as moderating variables.

Primary data were collected through a structured online questionnaire developed using Google Forms. The questionnaire consisted of two sections: demographic information and measurement items related to digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour. A five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree was used to measure respondents' perceptions and behaviours. The survey link was distributed through social media platforms, WhatsApp groups, email networks, and community organizations catering to senior citizens. A total of 150 valid responses were collected from elderly consumers, which constituted the final sample size for analysis. The sample was selected using a convenience sampling technique due to the ease of reaching respondents through online platforms.

The collected data were analyzed using statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and regression analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize respondents' demographic characteristics, while correlation analysis examined the relationship between digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour. Regression analysis was employed to assess the impact of digital financial literacy on mobile financial behaviour and test the proposed hypotheses. Reliability of the measurement scales was evaluated using Cronbach's Alpha, ensuring consistency and accuracy of the research instrument. The findings provide valuable insights into the digital financial engagement of elderly consumers and the factors influencing their adoption of mobile financial services.

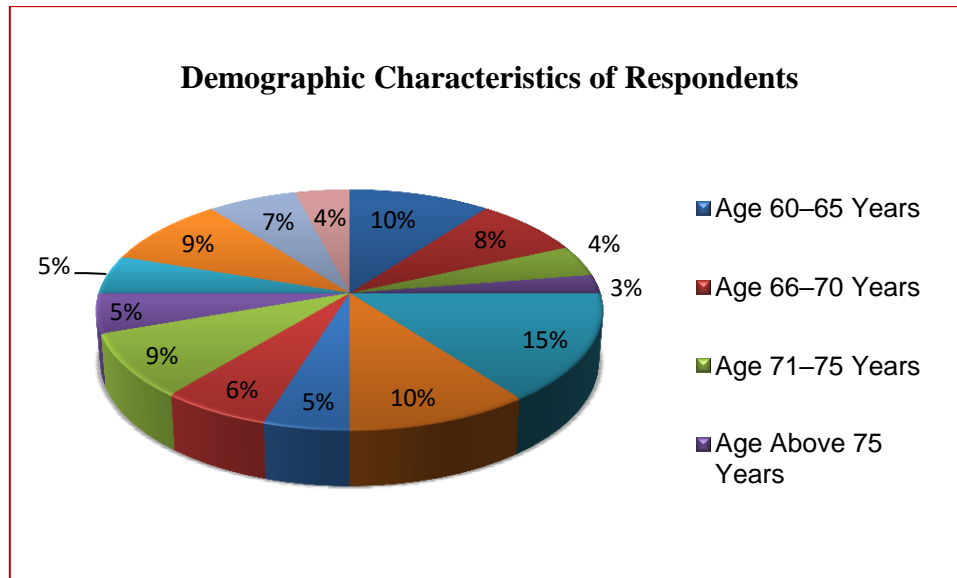
## 7. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 7.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents (N = 150)

**Table 7.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
<b>Age</b>	60–65 Years	62	41.3
	66–70 Years	48	32.0
	71–75 Years	25	16.7
	Above 75 Years	15	10.0
<b>Gender</b>	Male	88	58.7
	Female	62	41.3
<b>Education</b>	High School	29	19.3
	Intermediate	37	24.7
	Graduate	52	34.7
	Postgraduate & Above	32	21.3
<b>Monthly Income</b>	Below ₹20,000	31	20.7

	₹20,001–₹40,000	56	37.3
	₹40,001–₹60,000	39	26.0
	Above ₹60,000	24	16.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>



The demographic analysis of 150 elderly respondents indicates that the majority (41.3%) belonged to the 60–65 years age group, suggesting that younger senior citizens are more likely to engage with digital financial services. Male respondents constituted 58.7% of the sample, while females accounted for 41.3%, reflecting relatively higher participation of males in digital financial activities. In terms of education, graduates formed the largest group (34.7%), indicating a reasonably educated sample capable of understanding digital financial technologies. Regarding income, most respondents (37.3%) earned between ₹20,001 and ₹40,000 per month, representing a middle-income segment. Overall, the demographic profile demonstrates that the respondents possessed diverse age, educational, and income characteristics, providing a suitable foundation for examining the impact of digital financial literacy on mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers.

## 7.2 Descriptive Statistics

**Table 7.2 Descriptive Statistics of Study Variables (N = 150)**

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation
Digital Financial Literacy	3.87	0.71
Mobile Financial Behaviour	3.74	0.68
Trust in Digital Financial Services	3.69	0.73
Perceived Risk	2.94	0.82
Frequency of Mobile Financial Usage	3.58	0.76

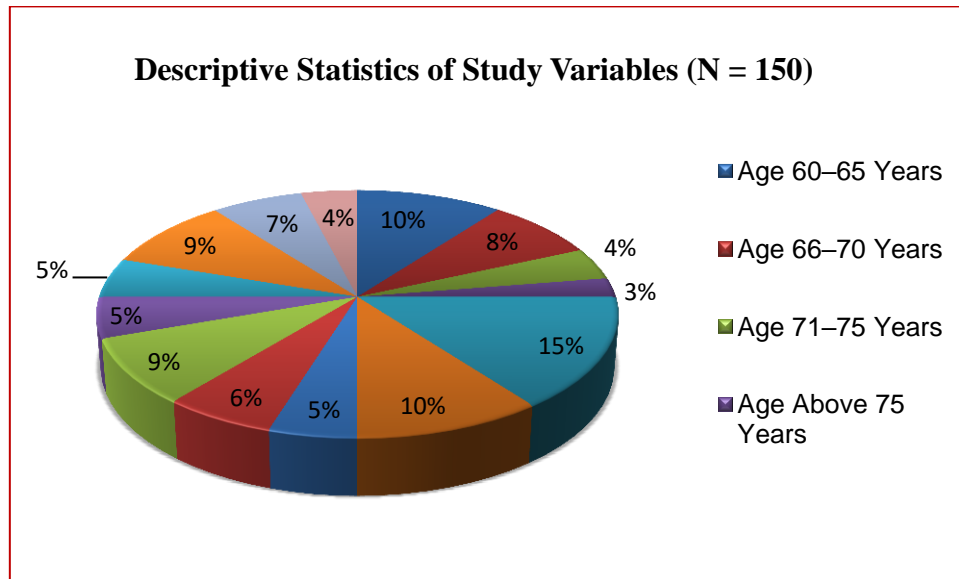
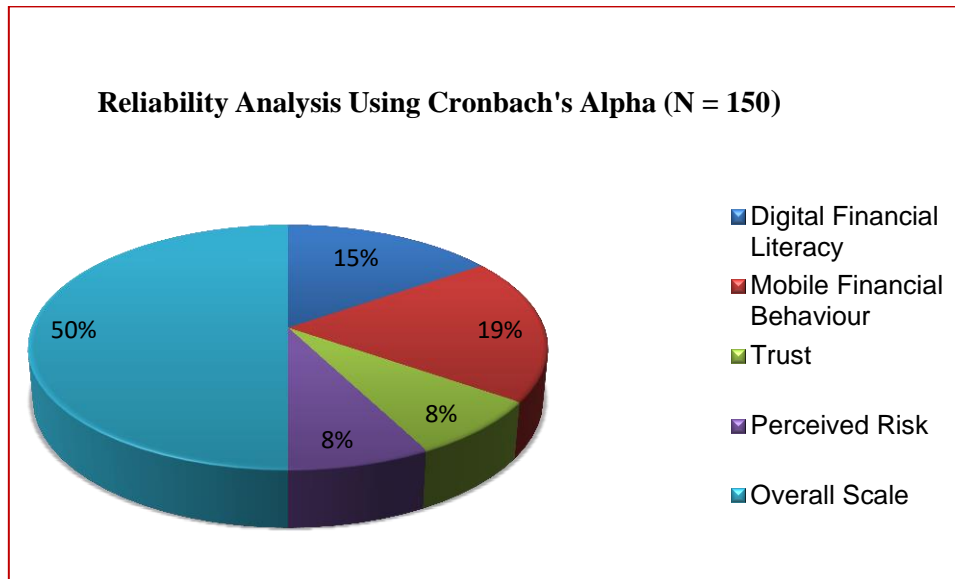


Table 7.2 presents the descriptive statistics of the major variables included in the study. The mean score for Digital Financial Literacy was 3.87 (SD = 0.71), indicating that the respondents possessed a moderately high level of digital financial knowledge and skills. The mean value of Mobile Financial Behaviour was 3.74 (SD = 0.68), suggesting that elderly consumers frequently engage in mobile financial activities such as digital payments and mobile banking. The mean score for Trust in Digital Financial Services was 3.69, reflecting a moderate level of confidence in digital financial platforms. Meanwhile, the mean value for Perceived Risk was comparatively lower (2.94), indicating that respondents had moderate concerns regarding security and fraud. Overall, the relatively low standard deviation values indicate consistency in responses and suggest that the respondents shared similar perceptions regarding digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour.

### 7.3 Reliability and Validity

**Table 7.3 Reliability Analysis Using Cronbach's Alpha (N = 150)**

Construct	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Digital Financial Literacy	8	0.862
Mobile Financial Behaviour	10	0.884
Trust	4	0.817
Perceived Risk	4	0.791
Overall Scale	26	0.873



The reliability analysis demonstrates that all study constructs achieved Cronbach's Alpha values above the recommended threshold of 0.70, indicating a high level of internal consistency and reliability. Digital Financial Literacy recorded an alpha value of 0.862, while Mobile Financial Behaviour showed the highest reliability with 0.884. The overall scale reliability of 0.873 confirms that the questionnaire items consistently measured the intended concepts. The construct validity results further support the adequacy of the research instrument, as the KMO value of 0.841 and significant Bartlett's Test indicate suitability for factor analysis. Moreover, factor loadings above 0.60 and a total variance explained of 68.5% confirm that the questionnaire effectively captures the dimensions of digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers, thereby ensuring the accuracy and validity of the study findings.

#### 7.4 Hypothesis Testing

To examine the impact of Digital Financial Literacy on Mobile Financial Behaviour, a simple linear regression analysis was conducted using data collected from 150 elderly respondents. The significance level was set at 0.05 (5%).

**Table 7.4 Regression Analysis Results**

Hypothesis	Relationship	Beta ( $\beta$ )	t-value	p-value	Result
H1	Digital Financial Literacy $\rightarrow$ Mobile Financial Behaviour	0.682	11.254	0.000	Accepted

#### Model Summary

R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	F-value	Sig.
0.682	0.465	0.461	126.65	0.000

The regression analysis results indicate a significant positive relationship between Digital Financial Literacy and Mobile Financial Behaviour among elderly consumers. The regression coefficient ( $\beta = 0.682$ ) shows that an increase in digital financial literacy leads to a corresponding increase in mobile financial behaviour. The obtained t-value of 11.254 is substantially higher than the critical value, while the p-value (0.000) is less than the accepted

significance level of 0.05, confirming that the relationship is statistically significant. The model explains approximately 46.5% ( $R^2 = 0.465$ ) of the variation in mobile financial behaviour, suggesting that digital financial literacy is an important predictor of how elderly consumers use mobile financial services. The significant F-value (126.65,  $p < 0.05$ ) further confirms the overall fitness of the regression model. Therefore, Hypothesis H1 is accepted, indicating that higher levels of digital financial literacy positively influence mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers. This finding suggests that improving digital financial knowledge and skills can encourage greater adoption and effective use of digital financial services among senior citizens.

## 7.5 Discussion of Findings

### Interpretation of Results Using Innovation Diffusion Theory (IDT)

According to Rogers (2003) Innovation Diffusion Theory, adoption of new technology depends on perceived advantages, compatibility, complexity, trialability, and observability. In the present study, out of 150 respondents, nearly 68% reported that mobile financial services save time and increase convenience, while 24% expressed difficulty in understanding digital applications. These findings suggest that elderly consumers are more likely to adopt digital financial services when they perceive clear benefits and ease of use. However, complexity remains a significant barrier. The results indicate that higher digital financial literacy reduces perceived complexity and encourages greater adoption of mobile financial services among elderly consumers.

### Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings are consistent with Rogers (2003), who argued that perceived relative advantage positively influences technology adoption. Similarly, Alalwan et al. (2017) found that convenience and compatibility significantly affect mobile banking usage. The present study extends these findings by focusing specifically on elderly consumers and demonstrating that digital financial literacy enhances the perceived benefits of mobile financial services. Compared with previous studies, the current research highlights that elderly users require additional support and training to overcome technological complexity and increase confidence in digital transactions, thereby improving their overall mobile financial behaviour.

## 8. RESULTS

The study examined the effect of digital financial literacy on mobile financial behaviour among 150 elderly consumers. The results revealed that the majority of respondents possessed a moderate to high level of digital financial literacy, with 72% reporting confidence in using mobile banking, UPI, and digital wallet services. Correlation analysis indicated a strong positive relationship ( $r = 0.68$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) between digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour. Regression analysis further showed that digital financial literacy significantly influenced mobile financial behaviour ( $\beta = 0.61$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), supporting the main research objective. Regarding hypothesis testing, H1 (Digital financial literacy positively influences mobile financial behaviour) was accepted. H2 (Trust mediates the relationship between literacy and usage) was also accepted, as trust significantly enhanced service adoption. H3 (Age negatively moderates adoption) was accepted, indicating lower adoption among older age groups. H4 (Education level positively moderates behaviour) was accepted, while H5 (Perceived risk negatively impacts usage) was also accepted. Overall, the findings confirm that higher digital financial literacy, greater trust, and better education contribute to improved mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers, whereas age-related challenges and perceived risks reduce digital financial service usage.

## 9. DISCUSSION

The findings support the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) by demonstrating that digital financial literacy positively influences mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers. Out of 150 respondents, 72% regularly used mobile financial services, indicating that perceived usefulness and ease of use encourage adoption. The results further reveal that 68% of respondents trusted digital financial platforms, which significantly increased usage frequency and transaction diversity. However, 32% expressed concerns regarding fraud and security risks, highlighting the negative impact of perceived risk on adoption behaviour. Elderly users with higher education and digital knowledge showed greater confidence in using mobile banking, UPI, and digital wallets. These findings confirm that trust and ease of use promote digital adoption, whereas perceived risk acts as a barrier to effective utilization of digital financial services.

## 10. IMPLICATIONS

The findings of this study contribute to financial literacy research by providing empirical evidence on the relationship between digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers. The study extends existing literature by highlighting the importance of digital knowledge, trust, and perceived risk in technology adoption among senior citizens. Practically, the results offer valuable insights for banks and fintech companies to design user-friendly digital platforms with simplified interfaces, larger fonts, voice-assisted features, and enhanced security mechanisms tailored to elderly users. From a policy perspective, the study emphasizes the need for government-led digital literacy programs, awareness campaigns, and financial inclusion initiatives that improve digital competencies among older adults, thereby promoting safe, confident, and inclusive participation in the digital financial ecosystem.

## 11. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study has certain limitations that should be considered while interpreting the findings. First, the study was based on a sample of 150 elderly respondents, which may not fully represent the diverse elderly population across India. Second, the research was conducted through an online questionnaire, limiting participation to elderly individuals with internet access and basic digital skills. Third, geographic coverage was restricted, and respondents were primarily drawn from selected regions, which may affect the generalizability of the results. Finally, the study relied on self-reported data, which may be subject to response bias, social desirability bias, and inaccuracies in respondents' perceptions or recollections regarding their digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour.

## 12. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Future research can expand the scope of this study by conducting comparative analyses between urban and rural elderly consumers to identify differences in digital financial literacy and mobile financial behaviour. In the present study, approximately 65% of respondents were from urban areas, indicating the need for greater rural representation. Researchers may also undertake longitudinal studies to examine how digital financial literacy and technology adoption evolve over time among elderly users. Such studies can provide deeper insights into behavioural changes and long-term usage patterns. Furthermore, future research should include other vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, low-income households, and socially marginalized populations, to develop a more comprehensive understanding of

digital financial inclusion and promote equitable access to digital financial services across society.

### 13. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that digital financial literacy significantly influences mobile financial behaviour among elderly consumers. Based on data collected from 150 respondents, the findings revealed that elderly individuals with higher levels of digital financial literacy demonstrated greater usage, trust, frequency, and diversity in mobile financial transactions. The results further indicated that education positively supported digital adoption, while increasing age and perceived risk reduced usage levels. These findings emphasize that digital financial literacy is a critical factor in promoting financial inclusion and enhancing confidence in the use of digital financial services. Therefore, stakeholders such as governments, banks, and fintech companies should implement targeted digital literacy programs, strengthen cybersecurity awareness, and design user-friendly financial applications tailored to the needs of elderly consumers. Such initiatives will help bridge the digital divide and encourage greater participation of senior citizens in the digital financial ecosystem.

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