



Malaysian Business Management Journal (MBMJ)

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.26480/mbmj.01.2024.50.55>



REVIEW ARTICLE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF CREDIT CARD USAGE AND ITS INFLUENCE ON FINANCIAL LITERACY AMONG CONSUMERS

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ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History:

Received 23 September 2024
 Revised 18 October 2024
 Accepted 05 November 2024
 Available online 15 November 2024

ABSTRACT

Credit cards have evolved from luxury items into key financial instruments that have influenced consumer expenditure patterns and economic dynamics. The study assesses the socio-economic implications of credit cards on financial literacy among consumers in San Pablo, Laguna. This study employed a descriptive analysis and Chi-square test of association to explore the trends in the use of credit cards, financial practices, and the significance of financial literacy in prudent credit card management. The findings of this survey showed that most credit card holders are older, female, and more highly educated, thus indicating its wide use in society. However, despite the convenience and flexibility accorded to them, there is a significant gap in financial literacy manifested by its limited use in online transactions and travel expenses. It is for this reason that the study puts forward the important role of financial education in enhancing budgeting skills, and investment literacy, and hence, making informed decisions by consumers. By filling these gaps in financial literacy, policymakers and financial institutions can empower individuals to maximize these benefits while reducing risks coming out of debt from the use of credit cards and setting them on a more financially stable and well-economic life for Filipino consumers.

KEYWORDS

Credit Card Usage, Socioeconomic position, Financial Literacy, Budgeting, Investment, Savings

1. INTRODUCTION

The involvement of human beings in the financial markets underwent a sea change with the invention of credit cards. Credit cards have travelled a long journey since their introduction during the middle of the last century—from an expensive luxury for the rich to becoming one of the common tools of finance available for the use of large sectors of society. Most of researchers stated that the liberalization of financial sectors in Asia, especially in the Philippines, has witnessed rapid growth in credit card usage, with outstanding loans growing considerably to Php 190.55 billion by the year 2013 and increasing by an average of 7.89% annually since 2008 alone—a clear indication of how this means of payment is fast becoming a preference against traditional methods such as cash, checks, and other similar means (Abdul-Muhmin and Umar, 2007; Atienza, 2014). Credit cards are convenient and versatile for expense management, allowing consumers to purchase goods and services on credit and settle their dues later.

Credit cards are currently a large part of most financial systems. This can be done by easing consumer spending, which fuels economic growth, and at the same time acting like a buffer from cash flow constraints that one faces immediately. These have come with various advantages associated with using credit cards compared to the use of hard cash. These include having easy and convenient payments, instant financing of purchases, and online transactions that are more convenient hence reducing the incidences of constantly visiting the ATM and risks of carrying huge sums of liquid cash to reduce the risk of theft (Cayanan and Ledesma, 2005). It is precisely such features that have transformed credit cards into financial pitfalls. Among these are the high levels of credit card debt, exposure to high interest rates, and poor financial management associated with using them. Thus, access to credit has huge socio-economic implications that

affect both individual financial behavior and broader economic patterns.

Financial literacy refers to the knowledge and ability to make sound and effective financial decisions—a capability bilateral in moving through the complexities of credit card usage. It enables employees to cultivate positive financial habits and manage money-related issues effectively, thereby preparing them for various financial situations (Alarcon et al., 2024). The more knowledgeable a consumer is regarding credit cards, debt, interest rates, and other issues, the more adequately equipped he or she will be to fiddle through debt, interest, and other financial pitfalls. It enables one to make prudent financial decisions that could support the attainment of financial stability and general well-being.

Financial literacy is particularly relevant to responsible credit card use, in that it may be inferred that, once the financial principles are understood, individuals will be in a better position to make effective decisions about their use of credit cards, remain within reasonable debt levels, and enjoy the benefits of credit cards while minimizing the potential risks. More specifically, improved financial literacy will lead to better decisions on spending, borrowing, and managing credit card balances resulting in improved overall financial health. The socio-economic implications of credit card use extend beyond an individual's financial health. Economically, it manifests in consumer spending patterns, debt accumulation, and stability in financial portfolios. Socially, credit cards guide lifestyle choices, mental well-being, and social perceptions about financial success. The interaction of factors associated with credit card usage and financial literacy creates a dynamic that shapes personal and social financial landscapes. To understand this, the study aims to explore the relationship between financial literacy and responsible credit card use among consumers.

Quick Response Code	Access this article online	
	Website: www.mbmj.com.my	DOI: 10.26480/mbmj.01.2024.50.55

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Wide usage of credit cards has been characteristic of modern consumer culture over the past several decades. As a financial tool, credit cards mean convenience and flexibility for consumers to make a purchase without immediate cash outlay. The credit card, as a new method of payment, came to be in the middle of the twentieth century and slowly spread all over the world. Today, millions of people across the world use credit cards for a variety of everyday purposes, from buying groceries and paying bills to online transactions. Their users range from high spenders to individuals who barely use them, with age, income, and geography among several other factors influencing their usage patterns.

In a study, some factors under the theoretical model were assessed, which determine consumer intentions to use credit cards: perceived risk, perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, and social influence (Trinh et al., 2020). The results indicated that perceived risk is a second-order factor that comprises seven dimensions: psychological, financial, performance, privacy, time, social, and security risks. The results show that while perceived usefulness, social influence, and perceived ease of use were found to raise the likelihood of adopting credit cards, perceived risk had a negative impact on usage intention. Moreover, this research establishes that perceived risk, perceived ease of use, and social influence perceived usefulness. The findings suggest that credit card adoption may be encouraged by addressing and decreasing these perceived risks. Improving the ease of use and leveraging social influence could further raise the perceived usefulness and attractiveness of using credit cards.

Financial knowledge is significantly associated with credit card usage among college students in setting credit limits and debt repayment behaviors (Hassan et al., 2021). At the same time, however, the role of risk aversion in credit card usage turns out to be insignificant. Furthermore, remedial messages apparently enhance risky financial behaviors. Income level has a significant impact on credit card usage, with the different income levels eliciting positive responses from the part of the respondents. Financial knowledge interacts positively with income levels, but high incomes weaken such a relationship. Even then, financial stress becomes a matter of concern for low-income earning households. The level of education becomes an effective determinant of credit risk management and thus shows how important financial literacy has been in mitigating financial crises among entrepreneurs and in guiding them into making rational financial decisions.

The impact of confidence in financial knowledge on credit card use and financial satisfaction was tested in the study (Atlas et al., 2019). The outcome was that the more confident people were in their financial knowledge, the more responsible their behavior was with credit cards, contributing positively to overall financial satisfaction. These findings suggest that if one makes individuals overconfident in financial knowledge, then better financial behaviors will be performed in the domain of credit card management and better financial satisfaction. Financial educators and advisors can take from these results ways to deliberate the design of more effective educational programs geared toward strengthening consumers' financial literacy and confidence, which will foster better financial decision-making outcomes.

The correlations of financial literacy with credit card behaviors, applying a composite measure of objective test scores and self-assessed financial knowledge within a varied sample of U.S. adults after sorting them according to five separate age brackets to investigate full repayment of credit card balances, carrying over balances, making minimum payments, and generating fees by late payment or exceeding limits. It was found that subjective financial literacy plays a more dominant role than actual financial knowledge in promoting responsible credit card behavior across all age groups (Allgood and Walstad, 2013). Consideration of both objective and subjective measures gives an all-inclusive understanding of how financial literacy influences credit card behavior, which yields useful insights to tailor financial education.

The study of Dwiastanti investigated how the socioeconomic status of parents affects family financial management education cognitive aspects of financial literacy, and attitudes toward financial literacy (Dwiastanti, 2015). This study also investigates how family financial management education and higher education influence these areas. The results indicate that the socio-economic status of parents is directly relevant to financial management education within families. Second, this study discovers that

both financial education from families and higher education have positive effects on cognitive aspects and attitudes relevant to financial literacy. Moreover, this research shows that parents' socio-economic status indirectly influences attitudes towards financial literacy through family financial education.

The research aimed to investigate how users of credit cards cope with debt literacy and drew on the views of six experienced informants about debt management in the specific context of credit cards (Alwi et al., 2022). This thematic analysis identifies four key themes categorizing positive and negative influences central to literacy in managing credit card debt. On the positive front, these were increased awareness through exposure to credit card activities and strong marketing by providers, and past experiences that had sharpened debt management skills. The negative factors included ignorance of features of credit cards and costs, and economic factors such as inflation, which negatively affect the management of credit cards. The study elaborated on how these factors determined the financial behaviors of credit card users toward debt handling.

The socioeconomic factors were known for impacting financial literacy, relating to income, education, demographics, and technological advancement. Literature has proved that higher incomes and formal employment increase the chances of access to financial services. According to a study, all these areas were studied (Mishra et al., 2024). Education emerges as a key determinant that raises awareness about finance matters and encourages participation in financial products. It is demographic variables like age, gender, and ethnicity that have a share in the differentials of financial access, while technological innovations like mobile banking cover the gaps from urban to rural areas.

Technological innovation is moving financial inclusion in new and, especially, digital banking and mobile money solutions that raise their potential for increased accessibility across different sections of society. This paper further identifies the limitations related to the existing literature in such areas as the long-term effects of digital financial services and how cultural norms or government policies are influencing financial inclusivity (Kumar, 2009).

The problems that occur with credit cards include overspending, high-interest debt, and a general failure to understand the terms. The use of credit cards is surrounded by risks and benefits, with more prominent risks for less financially literate people. Increasing financial literacy is, therefore, basic in reducing such risk factors and helping people start using credit cards responsibly (Kumar et al., 2023; Kumar et al., 2023). Future studies should orient themselves toward designing and testing educational interventions by which financial literacy and, consequently, consumers' financial well-being can be improved effectively. It should include providing financial education through schooling, workshops in the community, and making knowledge from institutions of finance as clear and open as possible. Only in this way can the combined efforts of educational institutions, government, and financial organizations path society on a much more financially literate path paved by cooperation.

3. METHODS

The study used descriptive quantitative analysis to examine the socio-economic impact of credit card usage on financial literacy among consumers. It provided insights into patterns, trends, and relationships within the collected data. The Chi-Square test of association was used to analyse the relationship between credit card usage, financial literacy, and socioeconomic characteristics, determining if there is a significant association.

This study aimed to understand the socio-economic implications of credit card usage in San Pablo City, Laguna, among individuals aged 18 and above, using convenience sampling to select participants from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and educational levels. The survey questionnaire consists of three parts: socioeconomic characteristics (age, gender, marital status, education, income), credit card usage, and budgeting, investing, and saving aspects of financial literacy.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

The demographic profile of the respondents presents a clear description of the sample population, showing the distribution by age, gender, civil status, educational attainment, and income as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Profile of Respondents		
	N	%
Age		
25-34	7	31.8%
35-44	3	13.6%
45-55	1	4.5%
55 and above	11	50.0%
Gender		
Female	17	77.3%
Male	5	22.70%
Civil Status		
Married	14	63.6%
Single	8	36.4%
Educational Attainment		
College	18	81.8%
Masters Degree	4	18.2%
Income		
15k-20k	9	40.9%
20,001-30k	4	18.2%
30,001 - 40k	3	13.6%
40,001 and up	6	27.3%

The distribution of the age considers that there was a diversified range of respondents; however, it had a notable concentration in the 55-year-old and above category, comprising half of the sample population. Specifically, 50% of the respondents are 55 years old and above, 31.8% between 25-34 years old, 13.6% between 35-44 years old, and 4.5% between 45-54 years old. This could mean that it is a mature audience represented through the survey and thus denotes the population with more life experience, and therefore, with more stable socio-economic conditions. Gender-wise, it has a high percentage of female dominate responses at 77.3%, while male respondents account for 22.7%. There is a resultant factor for views and responses affecting what the survey is aimed at due to the imbalance in gender since this can condition experience and views on many issues.

The status regarding civil status shows that 63.6% are married, while 36.4% are single. Most of the married people may influence how they perceive the issue of financial stability, household structure, and any other associated socio-economic issues. One can deduce that family-oriented viewpoints might form a large part of the survey responses. This points toward the good educational attainments of the respondents, including 81.8% being holders of college degrees and 18.2% having master's degrees. Again, this could possibly place them at a higher level of financial awareness, hence influencing the responses in areas that are intended to be the focuses of the survey.

The distribution of income indicates that most respondents fall within different income ranges: 40.9% earning between 15,000 and 20,000, 27.3% earning 40,001 and above, 18.2% earning between 20,001 and 30,000, and 13.6% earning between 30,001 and 40,000. The fact that there are respondents in all income categories creates a basis for fair analysis of how their income might affect their views as put across by these topics.

Table 2 presents the credit card usage of the respondents.

Table 2: Credit Card Usage		
	N	%
Type of Credit Card		
Visa	11	50.0%
Master Card	6	27.3%
Visa/Mastercard	5	22.7%
Frequency of Transaction		
0-1	21	95.5%
2 to 3	1	4.5%
Online Shopping		
No	16	72.7%
Yes	6	27.3%
Used for Traveling		
No	18	81.8%
Yes	4	18.2%
Satisfaction on Credit Card Use		
Yes	22	100.0%
Frequencies of Credit Card Ownership		
Yes	21	95.5%
No	1	4.5%
Credit Card Purchase		
Grocery Shopping	2	9.1%
Emergency Exp.	5	22.7%
Online/Groceries	1	4.5%
Dining Out	1	4.5%
Groceries/Emergency	1	4.5%
Appliances/Emergency	1	4.5%
Groceries Shopping	4	18.2%
Online Shopping/Groceries	2	9.1%
Gadgets	1	4.5%
Online Shopping/Emergency	1	4.5%
Groceries/Dining/ Emergency	1	4.5%
Online/Grocery/	1	4.5%

Table 2 (Cont.): Credit Card Usage		
Groceries/Travel	1	4.5 %
Credit Card Payment (pay off your credit card balance in full each month)		
Yes	10	45.5 %
No	10	45.5 %
Sometimes	2	9.1 %
Frequencies of Checking credit card statement		
Weekly	11	50.0 %
Monthly	9	40.9 %
Rarely	1	4.5 %
Never	1	4.5 %
With Credit Card Debt		
No	16	72.7 %
Yes	6	27.3 %
Reason for opening new account		
Low interest rates	1	4.5 %
Low interest rates	10	45.5 %
Rewards Program	2	9.1 %
Brand loyalty	1	4.5 %
Rewards programs	1	4.5 %
Introductory offers	3	13.6 %
Rewards Program	1	4.5 %
Others	3	13.6 %
Uses Budgeting Tool		
No	17	77.3 %
Yes	5	22.7 %
Have a positive Impact on Personal Finances		
Yes	15	68.2 %
Not sure	2	9.1 %
No	5	22.7 %

The results of the survey give information on the usage pattern, the level of satisfaction attained, and how people manage their finances using credit cards. This implies that the most held are Visa cards, accounting for 50.0%, MasterCard at 27.3%, and a combination of Visa and MasterCard at 22.7%. On the frequency of transactions, 95.5% of the respondents use their credit cards 0-1 times per month, while only 4.5% of the respondents use their cards 2-3 times per month. The results of the survey indicate some important trends that relate to credit cards and financial management among the respondents. The dominance of Visa could be indicative of a general preference for this brand—probably reflecting wider acceptance or more attractive reward programs. The low frequency of transactions could mean most of them tend to use their credit cards seldomly, probably to avoid debt or through lack of financial literacy on how to manage credit.

In online purchases, 72.7% do not use their credit cards for this, while 27.3 percent do so. Also, 81.8% do not use credit cards for travel-related expenses, and only 18.2 percent do. Notwithstanding these variable usage patterns, all the respondents, 100 percent, showed satisfaction with their usage of credit cards. On ownership, 95.5 percent of the respondent's own credit cards, while 4.5 percent do not. This may be out of concern for online security, alternative payment forms, or limited traveling by the respondents. Observe the 100 percent satisfaction rate, which indicates general happiness about those using credit cards. High ownership rates are indicators of the penetration rate of credit cards in this demographic group.

It principally covers emergency expenses at 22.7% and grocery items at 18.2%. Other uses, which are relatively few, include online shopping, dining out, and gadgets. These credit card holders were asked how they pay for their purchases: 45.5% regularly pay the balance in full, the same percentage who do not, and 9.1% who sometimes pay their balance in full. The frequency of reviewing credit card statements ranges from 50.0% doing so on a weekly basis, 40.9% monthly, and smaller percentages not checking their statements rarely or never.

The most frequent use case is emergency expenses, and many simply suggest that respondents use credit cards more for unplanned rather than normal expenses. This may mean an area for improvement in terms of the

financial planning and budgeting skills of users. There is a split between Payers and Non-Payers, pointing to some mixed strategy towards management of credit. This is a good sign because many of the respondents continuously check their statements, indicating awareness and monitoring of their financial activities.

Having no credit-card-related debt, according to the responses, is borne out by 72.7%, while 27.3% do bear such debt. A view expressed by 45.5% of the respondents for opening new accounts is low interest, introductory offers by 13.6%, rewards programs by 9.1%, brand loyalty/small rewards, and other reasons comprising small percentages. Almost one-third of the respondents had credit card debt, and therefore there was a dire need for financial literacy measures so that accumulation of high-interest debt could be avoided. How low interest rates and rewards programs have driven opening new accounts underscores the need for competitive benefits from credit card companies if they are to attract and retain customers

The responses in this regard show that most of the respondents do not use any budgetary tool, which stood at 77.3 percent, while 22.7 percent use a tool. Lastly, the effects of using credit cards on their personal finances are positive, which 68.2 percent of the respondents indicated; the other 22.7 percent indicated no positive impact; and lastly, 9.1 percent said they were unsure. These tools can drastically help in managing one's finances and reduce debt, so it is of concern that the budgeting tools have very little usage among the respondents. Financially, most respondents reported a positive impact, so even with some challenges, credit cards can be a good financial tool when used responsibly. The results of the survey, therefore, show that while there is generic satisfaction with the use of credit cards, improved financial literacy and better management techniques might still improve the financial well-being of the users. Consumers can be further educated on the benefits of budgeting tools, the importance of paying off balances in full, and how to shop online safely to further improve their financial health and satisfaction with credit card use.

The results of the financial literacy across the three assessed areas—savings, budgeting, and investing—are presented in the table below.

Table 3: Financial Literacy of the Respondents		
	Mean	Verbal Interpretation
Savings		
1. I believe that saving money is necessary.	4.73	Very High
2. I save a portion of my income regularly	3.45	High
3. I can save deposits having a low income.	3.32	Moderate
4. I put up my savings in a savings account, property, pension house, or in the collective investment scheme.	3.50	High
5. I put my investment and savings in banks because I always trust financial institutions	3.27	Moderate
6. I am prepared to risk some of my own money when saving or making an investment.	3.36	Moderate
7. I truly see the importance in making savings.	4.41	Very High
Composite Mean	3.72	High
Budgeting		
1. I am aware of my monthly income and expenditures	4.00	High
2. I have a budget that I stick to.	3.59	High
3. I set aside money each month for savings and future needs.	3.41	High
4. I try to save something and spend the rest of the money on the everyday needs.	3.73	High
5. I spend money on the everyday needs and do not save anything.	2.14	Low
6. I spend all the money on everyday needs and do not save anything.	1.91	Low
7. I am certain that if there is an emergency, I could access up to three months' worth of my household income.	3.36	Moderate
Composite Mean	3.16	Moderate
Investing		
1. I invest an amount of money that exceeds my living expenses.	2.82	Moderate
2. I invest in insurance companies	2.50	Low
3. I invest in real estate.	2.27	Low
4. I invest in shares of stocks and bonds.	2.09	Low
5. My current investment portfolio is diversified to balance the risks.	2.32	Low
6. I consider the interest or the earnings before I invest.	2.68	Moderate
7. I ask for suggestions from the experts before I invest.	2.86	Moderate
8. I believe that investing an amount of money that exceeds your monthly living is bad.	2.68	Moderate
Composite Mean	2.53	Low

For savings, the statement "I believe that saving money is necessary" had a very high mean score of 4.73, showing a very strong belief by the respondents of the need to save money. The statement also had a very high mean score of 4.41, showcasing a very high recognition of the need to make savings. It was found that high mean scores in regular savings and availing of savings accounts or investment schemes were 3.45 and 3.50, respectively. The rest, which were saving even if income is low and trust in financial institutions, were moderate with mean scores of 3.32 and 3.27. This gives a composite mean in the dimension of savings of 3.72, which is likewise high. The high composite mean of savings shows that all things considered, the respondents appreciate the essence of saving money and practice saving behaviors. This becomes a very good indicator of a financially literate population, where one of the integral practices in financial literacy is saving regularly and having trust in financial institutions to ensure financial stability and growth.

For budgeting, the high awareness of the respondents about their monthly income and expenditure is seen to have a mean score of 4.00. They are committed to budgeting and putting aside money for saving and meeting other needs in the future, as manifested by mean responses ranging from 3.41 to 3.73. A low mean set of responses, from 2.14 and 1.91, serves to point out the below-average tendency to spend money for everyday needs without saving for the future. Confidence in having access to funds in case

of emergency ranked moderately high at 3.36. The composite mean for budgeting was 3.16, which is considered moderate. Survey respondents also report relatively strong skills related to budgeting—high awareness of income and expenditures, and adherence to budgeting practices. However, the moderate composite mean suggests a need for improvement in ensuring financial preparedness for emergencies and reducing the propensity to spend all income on daily needs.

For investing, the results indicate moderate levels of investing with a mean score of 2.82 relating to investing an amount more than living expenses. Specific investments in insurance, real estate, and stock/bond investments are low with mean scores of only 2.50, 2.27, and 2.09 respectively. Diversification of investment portfolios and consideration of interest or earnings before investing are also low, with 2.32 and 2.68 mean scores, respectively. The moderate rating, standing at 2.86, is seeking expert advice before investing. The investing composite mean is 2.53, which is interpreted as low. It is observed that the mean scores for various investment activities are low, thus there is need for education and creating awareness in this respect. Some of the important strategies overlooked by respondents include diversification of investment portfolios and expert advice. Improvement in investment literacy will enable respondents to make informed decisions, balance risks, and reap better financial outcomes.

Table 4: Association of Socio-Economic factors and Credit Card Usage					
	Age	Gender	Civil Status	Educational Attainment	Income
Mode of Application	0.327	0.801	0.022	0.289	0.479
Type of Credit Card	0.071	0.287	0.137	0.99	0.057
Credit Card Ownership	0.523	0.036	0.176	0.629	0.679
Frequency of Transaction	0.79	0.857	0.439	0.629	0.183
Number of Credit Card	0.283	0.555	0.113	0.163	0.002
Credit Card Purchase	0.182	0.768	0.225	0.151	0.495
Credit Card Payment	0.687	0.434	0.822	0.783	0.623
Checking Credit Card Statement	0.297	0.804	0.01	0.07	0.552
With Credit Card Debt	0.183	0.655	0.416	0.91	0.421
Reason in Opening Account	0.852	0.001	0.607	0.943	0.338
Uses Budgeting Tool	0.208	0.675	0.021	0.905	0.203
Positive Impact on Personal Finances	0.906	0.644	0.833	0.447	0.639

A chi-square test was performed for the association of credit card use with socioeconomic factors as shown in Table 4. The tests associate credit card usage with age, sex, civil status, educational attainment, and income. The significance level or alpha is 0.05.

The analysis showed significant relations between some credit card usage behaviors with socioeconomic factors. On the mode of application, there was a significant relation with the civil status at $p = 0.022$, indicating that civil status does affect the way one applies for credit cards. There were no significant relations between the mode of application and age, gender, educational attainment, or income (Obaid et al., 2023). On the other hand, there is a significant relationship between gender and credit card ownership, with $p = 0.036$. This means that gender does affect whether a person owns a credit card or not. Other socio-economic variables—age, civil status, educational attainment, and income—did not have significant relationships with credit card ownership.

It showed that the number of credit cards owned was significantly influenced by income, with $p = 0.002$, indicating trends for people having different income levels to own different numbers of credit cards. There were no significant relationships between the number of credit cards and age, gender, civil status, or educational attainment. The frequency of reviewing credit card statements was strongly related to civil status ($p = 0.01$), indicating that civil status influences the frequency of examining bank statements. Other socioeconomic variables, such as age, sex, and education level, and income did not reveal any significant relationship with this behavior.

Finally, the results showed that there is a significant effect of gender on the reasons for opening a credit card account at $p = 0.001$. There are, therefore, different reasons why men and women open credit card accounts. On the other hand, no significant relationships were found relating to the age, civil status, educational level, and income connected with the reasons for opening an account. The use of budgeting tools was significantly related to civil status: $p = 0.021$, suggesting that the latter influences whether a person applies the tools for budgeting. Other socioeconomic factors, like age, gender, educational attainment, and income level, did not show any significant relationship to the use of budgeting tools.

Table 5: Association of Socio-Economic factors and Financial Literacy

	Age	Gender	Civil Status	Educational Attainment	Income
Savings	0.545	0.922	0.556	0.893	0.169
Budgeting	0.27	0.797	0.778	0.622	0.298
Investing	0.099	0.022	0.164	0.866	0.613

On the aspect of financial literacy as shown in Table 5, it was found to have a significant relationship with investing behavior at $p = 0.022$. This means that differences in investment behaviors take place between men and women. Age, civil status, educational attainment, and income did not relate significantly with investing. These findings highlight to areas in which use of credit cards and financial literacy are correlated with socioeconomic factors. In this regard, the analysis was able to establish civil status, gender, and income as important influencers of many aspects of credit card use and financial behaviors. This would mean that interventions and education programs could be targeted to address these socioeconomic disparities in promoting financial literacy and responsible credit card use across demographic groups.

5. CONCLUSION

This research focused on the socio-economic implications of the usage of credit cards and their influence on the financial literacy level of consumers. It was found that credit cards are very widely applied, mostly by older people and higher-educated women, implying their important role in modern financial habits. While the users expressed general satisfaction with credit cards, in terms of both convenience and flexibility, a still visible gap in financial literacy is reflected in low frequencies of usage both for online and travel-related expense.

It has been established that financial literacy can play a very significant role in responsible credit card management. For example, with increasing levels of financial literacy, the likelihood for prudent financial practices

goes quite high; hence, individuals will be likely to regularly review their statements and pay their full balance. However, this goes to establish a need for focused programs on financial education regarding budgeting skills, investment literacy, and general improvement of financial decision-making. Such gaps can be addressed to empower beneficiaries in the use of credit cards, lower associated risks of debt accumulation, and contribute toward higher levels of financial stability and well-being.

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