

Wealth to happiness: A study among retired non-Government employees of Kolkata

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Abstract:

Personal finance is a subject that is related with consumption potential of individual and household. It is driven by both income generation and wealth. It is concerned with income generation, savings and investment of individuals. The subject also involves the analysis of investments and management of liabilities of individuals. Income, expenses, investment and savings of individuals are the wide areas covered by personal finance. The area of financial issues in personal decision making is investigated by researchers because financial matters are related to all aspects of personal and family life. Identification of the characteristics of financial problems and understanding financial wellness is significant areas of research. The study targets non-Government employees in Kolkata who have retired and tries to understand the source of happiness among such people and whether it is dependent on material wealth.

Key Words: consumption, finance, wealth, happiness, satisfaction, contentment

Introduction:

Personal finance is a subject that deals with individuals and household consumption potential. Finance of individuals is the primary area that is explored by Personal finance. A person's generation of income, savings and investment are all studied in this subject. Analysis of patterns of investment and management of liabilities is also included in the study of personal finance. The wide aspects covered by personal finance are analysing the areas of income, understanding the patterns of expenditure, savings and investments of individuals. In this study, a modest attempt has been made to explore the picture with regard to both national and international scenarios to understand whether happiness is dependent upon material wealth for senior citizens who have worked in Non-Government sector. The review of literature represented shows several factors like behavioural, sociological, demographical, and psychological factors have been taken into consideration to understand the behaviour of elderly persons including both retired and non-retired senior citizens.

Literature Review:

National Studies

1. Malvika Chhatwani (2022) in her study analysed the relationship that exists between self-control and happiness experienced by senior citizens during the period of COVID- 19 by collecting information from 934 respondents. As a result of the analysis, a positive relationship between personal control and financial well- being was observed. It was also explored whether the given relationship was determined by big five personality traits. It was observed that the correlation between financial well-being and personal control was positive and significant.
2. Gnanakumar (2021) has conducted study "Life Satisfaction of Elderly People Among Old Age Homes in Bengaluru". The study tried to assess the conditions of the senior citizens in terms of housing conditions, possession of assets and freedom to spend money. The results displayed that that the stress situations of aged grown-ups are related with size of family, status and other disabilities. The senior citizens who are separated from their families as a result of disputes have the difficulty of living alone.

3. Mamta (2013) in her study had assessed and compared the positive capacities, health status, and manifestation of well-being amongst the working and retired persons. The study adopted a set of nine predictor variables such as forgiveness, gratefulness, hope, empathy, life satisfaction, meaning in life, adaptability, and self-efficacy as a part of positive capacities and two criterion variables i.e., health and well-being. A mixture of both men and women working and retired respondents were chosen from the pastoral and civic zone of Haryana and Uttarakhand. An aggregate of 300 respondents were chosen from the age range of 45 to 70. Data collected from the chosen sample were analysed with the help of Mean, Standard deviation, t-test, Pearson Correlation analysis, and Regression analysis using SPSS16.0. The results reflected that, in terms of positive tendencies, beliefs and attitudes, the experiences of the two selected groups were dissimilar in the dimensions of health status and well-being manifestation.

4. Chakraborty (2012) had conducted a study on the social and economic conditions of the elderly women, their position in their families and in the society, educational status, relationship with relatives and neighbours and status in the community. It was executed by collecting data from 250 respondents from senior citizen men and women. This study was conducted in the civic zone of Kolkata, one of the metropolitan cities in India. Though the investigation considered both senior men and women, purposive sampling was used as a tool for choosing the samples followed by a structured questionnaire. The results of the study reflected that no economic crisis was faced by elderly women who had a strong educational background as compared to those who did not have it. It was also observed that women who did not come from strong educational background faced problems in controlling their economic resources like spending, savings and investment.

International Studies

5. Arifin (2018) tried to analyse the factors impacting Financial Knowledge and Financial Attitude with regard to Financial Behaviour in case of the Workforce community of Jakarta. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling and data was collected from the workforce in Jakarta, Indonesia. Data was collected from 450 respondents. In processing the data, Smart PLS3.0 was used. The findings reflected that a person's knowledge regarding finance and their attitude positively impacted their financial conduct

6. Aripin & Puteh(2017) in their research explored the two-fold purpose of the study: (1) the Quality of life that needed to be analysed by financial behaviour as well as relative perception among youthful workers. (2) to examine how financial satisfaction and perception are related to Quality of life. Primary Data had been collected through questionnaires from 260 young workers in Majlis Perbandaran Klang (MPK). The results depicted that there was a significant relationship between quality of life and financial satisfaction.

7. Prawitz & Cohart (2016) have conducted their analysis to understand whether well-being that is related to financial satisfaction relates to the income and savings. Using a survey on online basis, 1039 people including both men and women in the United States were chosen from the national panel of service that composed of 2.5 million individuals, by applying random sample technique. The authors indicated that there was a positive relationship between financial well-being and competency in financial management, savings as well as internal locus of control.

8. Landiyanto, Erlangga Agustino and Ling, Jeffrey and Puspitasari, Mega and Irianti, Septi Eka(2011) in their study concentrated on the subject that relates to happiness in an interesting way to explore a broader concept of wealth. This study analysed whether there exists a positive relationship between individual wealth and happiness. The analysis suggested that in developed countries, advanced situations of reported well-being are observed due to high generation of income.

9. Jordi Quoidbach ElizabethW. Dunn & Moïra Mikolajczak (2010) in their study analysed that money often reduces people's capability to savor everyday positive feelings. In a sample of working grown-ups, wealthier individuals displayed lower savoring capability. It was examined through this study that people exposed to a substantial amount of wealth spent lower time having the enjoyment of eating a chocolate as compared with people who are not exposed to a fortune of wealth.

Research Gap:

The above review clearly suggests that there were many studies on the influence of behavioural finance on senior citizens both at the national and international levels. No comprehensive research work was however found on the influence of financial behaviour on senior citizen's life in India. On this backdrop, the proposed study is an attempt to analyse whether there exists an influence of Wealth and Liquid Financial Assets on the perception of Happiness in case of retired senior citizens who have worked in Private sector organisations.

Objectives:

The objective of this study is to examine whether Happiness of retired senior citizens who have worked in Private sector organisations is dependent on Wealth and Liquid Financial assets possessed by the individuals or not.

Research Design:

The study's blueprint or master plan, or broad outline plan, is what is generally referred to as the Research Design. It describes the study's structure in depth that flows from definition of the purpose, the study's hypotheses to be gathered, the measurement statistical methods employed, and the analysis of the results. It serves as the guide for addressing the objectives and research questions. The objectives and hypothesis, which are presented below, have been framed in accordance with the study's purpose.

Testing of Hypothesis:

The following null hypotheses will be tested to study the first objective:

Ho: There is no significant influence of Wealth and Liquid Financial Assets of retired senior citizen who have worked in private sector organisations and their perception Happiness.

Methodology:

In this study we have collected data from 100 respondents who are retired senior citizens and have worked for private sector companies. We have collected the following information from them:

1. Wealth
2. Liquid Financial Assets.
3. Happiness

We have measured Wealth as well as Liquid Financial Assets in rupees. We have measured Happiness in a scale of 1-10 on the basis of self-assessment. We have considered Happiness as a Dependent Variable and Wealth as well as Liquid Financial Assets as Independent Variable. We have done our analysis on the basis of Multiple Regression and have attempted to analyse the degree of dependence the Independent Variables exert on the Dependent Variable.

Analysis :

REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Regression Statistics

Multiple R	0.831808
R Square	0.691904
Adjusted R Square	0.685551
Standard Error	0.8768
Observations	100

ANOVA

	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>
Regression	2	123.0619	61.53094	53.1724	2.57E-16
Residual	97	112.2481	1.157197		
Total	99	235.31			

	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Lower 95%</i>	<i>Upper 95%</i>	<i>Lower 95.0%</i>	<i>Upper 95.0%</i>
Intercept	4.302072	0.208484	20.635	2.95E-37	3.888289	4.715856	3.888289	4.715856
X Variable 1	0.015065	0.005114	2.945625	0.004035	0.004915	0.025216	0.004915	0.025216
X Variable 2	0.020693	0.008942	2.313994	0.022778	0.002944	0.038441	0.002944	0.038441

Findings:

It has been observed through the analysis that R square has been evaluated as 0.691904 which signifies that approximately 69.19% of the variability of the Dependent Variable is dependent on the Independent Variables. That means that 69.19%of variability of Happiness is dependent on Wealth as well as Liquid Financial Asset. It implies that it is a significant value for analysis. It has been observed that P-Value X1 (Wealth) is 0.004035 which is less than .05 thus it has a

reasonable influence on Dependent variable Y, Happiness. Secondly P-Value of Independent Variable X2 (Liquid Financial Assets) implies a value of 0.022778 which is less than .05 and thus it implies that X2 has a significant effect on Dependent Variable Y, Happiness.

Conclusion:

It has been ascertained through our analysis that all the Independent Variables X1 (Wealth) and X2 (Liquid Financial Asset) have a significant impact on Dependent Variable Y (Happiness). Thus, we can successfully conclude through this study that Null Hypothesis has been rejected and Alternate Hypothesis is accepted.

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