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STUDY THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN AND BEHAVIOUR OF HOSTEL STUDENTS IN GREATER NOIDA

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ABSTRACT
The present study examines the expenditure pattern and spending behaviour of hostel students in Greater Noida, with special emphasis on the influence of demographic factors and peer pressure. Using primary data collected from 216 hostel students of Greater Noida of Institutions through a structured questionnaire, the study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design. Two-Way ANOVA was employed to analyze differences in spending behaviour based on gender, education level, and duration of stay in the hostel, while Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was used to identify the underlying dimensions of peer influence on spending decisions. The results of the ANOVA reveal that gender, education level, and duration of hostel stay do not have a statistically significant effect on students' spending behaviour, indicating a largely uniform expenditure pattern across demographic groups. Ranking analysis shows that food and snacks constitute the highest spending priority, followed by transportation, whereas entertainment and recreation receive the lowest priority. The factor analysis, supported by a significant Bartlett's Test and a marginally acceptable KMO value, identifies two key factors of peer influence – direct peer pressure and social/group spending influence – which together explain a substantial proportion of variance in spending behaviour. Perception analysis further indicates that while peer pressure contributes to overspending for many students, a majority actively attempt to control their expenditure. Overall, the study highlights that although demographic factors have limited impact, peer influence and social context play a significant role in shaping the spending behaviour of hostel students, underscoring the need for financial awareness and self-control initiatives among youth.

KEYWORDS: *Peer, Financial, Spending, Perception*

INTRODUCTION
Hostel life is an integral part of the academic experience for a large number of students, especially those pursuing higher education away from their hometowns. Living in a hostel involves managing various day-to-day expenses such as food, accommodation charges, transportation, academic materials, mobile and internet services, clothing, and recreational activities. These expenditures are often met through limited financial resources, including parental support, scholarships, or part-time income, making budgeting an important aspect of student life. Understanding hostel expenditure patterns helps in assessing students' financial behavior and the challenges they face in meeting their daily needs.

Several studies have also pointed out that students' spending behaviour varies based on demographic and situational factors. Students living away from their hometowns tend to spend more due to accommodation and daily living expenses, while local students generally incur lower costs. Gender, place of residence, and background characteristics have been found to significantly influence spending behaviour. While students often spend carefully on academic needs, shopping, and travel, they tend to spend more freely on entertainment and lifestyle activities.

Financial knowledge and self-control play a crucial role in shaping students' budgeting and spending decisions. Research using financial behaviour models emphasizes that students with better financial awareness are more likely to manage money effectively and develop healthier budgeting habits. However, a lack of financial literacy among hostel students remains a major concern. Studies have shown that savings behaviour is strongly influenced by factors such as family income, source of earnings, and mode of transactions, while impulsive buying and poor planning continue to hinder effective saving practices among youth.

Another important dimension affecting students' expenditure is peer pressure. Hostel life encourages close social interaction, shared lifestyles, and group activities, which can influence students' consumption patterns. Peer influence often affects decisions related to clothing, gadgets, food ordering, celebrations, and online shopping. While some students are aware of such influence and attempt to control their spending, others find it difficult to resist peer-driven consumption, leading to overspending.
Despite extensive research on students' spending habits, most studies focus either on financial literacy or general expenditure patterns in isolation. There is limited research that simultaneously examines demographic differences in spending behaviour and the underlying influence of peer pressure, particularly among hostel students.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

The existing literature on expenditure patterns and spending behavior provides valuable insights across various contexts, although specific focus on hotel students remains limited within these studies. Several works highlight the influence of socio-economic factors, policy environments, and individual preferences on expenditure behaviors, which can be extrapolated to understand hotel students' spending patterns. **Hsieh et al**. explore the causal relationships between government expenditure and economic growth, emphasizing the importance of intertemporal interactions and the shape of impulse-response functions. While their focus is on macroeconomic variables within G-7 countries, their methodological approach underscores the significance of analyzing dynamic relationships and causal patterns, which could be relevant when examining the spending behaviors of hotel students in response to economic or policy changes. **Mohanty et al**. examine the economic well-being and spending behavior of households receiving remittances in India, revealing that remittance inflows influence household expenditure patterns. Although their focus is on household-level analysis, the study emphasizes that income sources and economic stability are critical determinants of spending behavior, which could similarly impact hotel students' expenditure decisions, especially in terms of discretionary spending and savings. **Yang et al.** analyze the relationship between education finance policies and higher education access across multiple countries, finding that increased public expenditure per tertiary student is negatively associated with enrollment ratios, whereas overall economic indicators like GDP per capita have positive effects. This suggests that financial policies and economic conditions shape educational access and possibly students' expenditure behaviors related to education and related activities, including those of hotel students pursuing higher education. Studies on tourism expenditure, such as **Disegna et al.** and **Pérez-Rodríguez et al.**, explore how satisfaction levels and market segments influence tourist spending patterns. These works highlight that satisfaction and socio-demographic factors significantly affect expenditure categories, which could be analogous to hotel students' spending behaviors in hospitality settings, especially considering their exposure to tourism environments and service quality perceptions. **Choudhury** investigates household expenditure on higher education in rural Odisha, emphasizing the variability driven by individual, household, and institutional factors. The findings underscore that expenditure decisions are multifaceted and influenced by socio-economic status, which can be extended to understand the determinants of hotel students' spending behaviors, including their preferences and financial constraints. Furthermore, studies by **Kumari** and **Hanushek et al.** focus on public spending on education and school resources, respectively, illustrating that resource allocation and quality inputs are crucial for student achievement. While these studies are centered on educational outcomes, they indirectly suggest that the level and quality of expenditure—whether on education or related activities—can influence student behavior and priorities. In summary, the literature collectively indicates that expenditure patterns and spending behaviors are shaped by economic conditions, policy frameworks, individual preferences, and satisfaction levels. Although direct research on hotel students' expenditure behavior is sparse, insights from household economics, education finance, and tourism expenditure studies provide a foundational understanding of the factors that may influence their spending habits, including the impact of socio-economic background, institutional support, and experiential factors

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To analysing the Expenditure Pattern and Spending Behaviour among the hostel student of IIMT group of Institutions.
- To study the Influence of Peer Pressure on Spending Behaviour among the hotel student of IIMT group of Institutions

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

H_{01}: There is no significant difference in students' spending behaviour based on gender.
H_{02}: There is no significant difference in students' spending behaviour based on education level.
H_{03}: There is no significant interaction effect of gender and education level on students' spending behaviour.
H_{04}: There is no significant difference in students' spending behaviour based on duration of stay in hostel.
H_{05}: There is no significant interaction effect of gender and duration of stay in hostel on students' spending behaviour.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design to examine the expenditure pattern, spending behaviour, and the influence of peer pressure among hostel students in Greater Noida. Primary data were collected from 216 hostel students using a structured questionnaire administered through Google Forms, selected through convenience sampling. The questionnaire comprised three sections covering demographic details, expenditure patterns, and peer pressure influences, measured mainly using a five-point Likert scale. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize respondent characteristics, while Two-Way ANOVA analyzed differences in spending behaviour across demographic groups, and Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) examined underlying dimensions of peer pressure, supported by KMO and Bartlett's tests. The study is cross-sectional, based on data collected at a single point in time, providing a focused analysis of hostel students' spending behaviour and peer influence.

DATA INTERPRETATION

Objective 1: To analysing the Expenditure Pattern and Spending Behaviour among the hostel student of IIMT group of Institutions.

The two-way ANOVA was conducted to analyze the expenditure pattern and spending behaviour of hostel students based on gender and education level.

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Table 1: Spending Score (Two-way ANOVA)

ANOVA - Spending Score					
	Sum of Squares	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**p**
Gender	0.898	1	0.898	3.77	0.055
Education level	0.690	2	0.345	1.45	0.240
Gender ✻ Education level	1.075	2	0.538	2.26	0.110
Residuals	24.304	102	0.238		

Source: *Author Composition*

The results indicate that the effect of gender on spending behaviour is not statistically significant (F=3.77, p=0.055) (F = 3.77, p = 0.055) (F=3.77, p=0.055), although the p-value is close to the 0.05 level, suggesting a minor variation in spending behaviour between male and female students. The analysis further shows that education level has no significant effect on students' spending behaviour (F=1.45, p=0.240) (F = 1.45, p = 0.240) (F=1.45, p=0.240). This indicates that hostel students from different education levels follow a similar expenditure pattern. In addition, the interaction effect of gender and education level was also found to be statistically insignificant (F=2.26, p=0.110) (F = 2.26, p = 0.110) (F=2.26, p=0.110). This means that the combined influence of gender and education level does not meaningfully affect the spending behaviour of hostel students. Overall, the findings suggest that the expenditure pattern and spending behaviour of hostel students are largely uniform, regardless of gender or education level.

A two-way ANOVA was conducted to examine the expenditure pattern and spending behaviour of hostel students based on gender and duration of stay in the hostel.

Table:2 Two-way ANOVA

ANOVA - Spending Score					
	Sum of Squares	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**p**
Gender	0.0396	1	0.0396	0.162	0.689
Duration of Stay in Hostel	0.3533	3	0.1178	0.481	0.696
Gender ✻ Duration of Stay in Hostel	1.4040	3	0.4680	1.912	0.132
Residuals	24.4730	100	0.2447		

Source: *Author Composition*

The results show that gender does not have a significant effect on students' spending behaviour (F=0.162, p=0.689) (F = 0.162, p = 0.689) (F=0.162, p=0.689). This indicates that male and female hostel students exhibit similar spending patterns. Similarly, the duration of stay in the hostel was also found to have no statistically significant influence on spending behaviour (F=0.481, p=0.696) (F = 0.481, p = 0.696) (F=0.481, p=0.696). Students staying in the hostel for different lengths of time tend to spend in a comparable manner. The interaction effect between gender and duration of stay was also not significant (F=1.912, p=0.132) (F = 1.912, p = 0.132) (F=1.912, p=0.132). This suggests that the combined effect of gender and length of hostel stay does not meaningfully affect students' expenditure behaviour. Overall, the findings indicate that the spending behaviour of hostel students remains largely uniform, regardless of their gender or how long they have been staying in the hostel.

Based on the results of both two-way ANOVA analyses, it can be concluded that gender, education level, and duration of stay in the hostel do not have a statistically significant effect on the expenditure pattern and spending behaviour of hostel students. In the first analysis, neither gender nor education level, nor their interaction, showed a significant influence on students' spending behaviour. Although a slight variation was observed in spending across gender, it was not statistically significant. In the second analysis, gender and duration of stay in the hostel also did not show any significant impact on spending behaviour. The interaction effect between gender and duration of stay was likewise insignificant. Overall, the findings suggest that hostel students exhibit a broadly similar spending pattern, irrespective of their gender, level of education, or length of stay in the hostel.

Table:3 Analysis of Hypothesis

Hypothesis Code	Hypothesis Statement	Test Used	Result
H01	There is no significant difference in students' spending behaviour based on gender.	Two-Way ANOVA	**Accepted**
H02	There is no significant difference in students' spending behaviour based on education level.	Two-Way ANOVA	**Accepted**
H03	There is no significant interaction effect of gender and education level on students' spending behaviour.	Two-Way ANOVA	**Accepted**
H04	There is no significant difference in students' spending behaviour based on duration of stay in hostel.	Two-Way ANOVA	**Accepted**
H05	There is no significant interaction effect of gender and duration of stay in hostel on students' spending behaviour.	Two-Way ANOVA	**Accepted**

Source: *Author Composition*

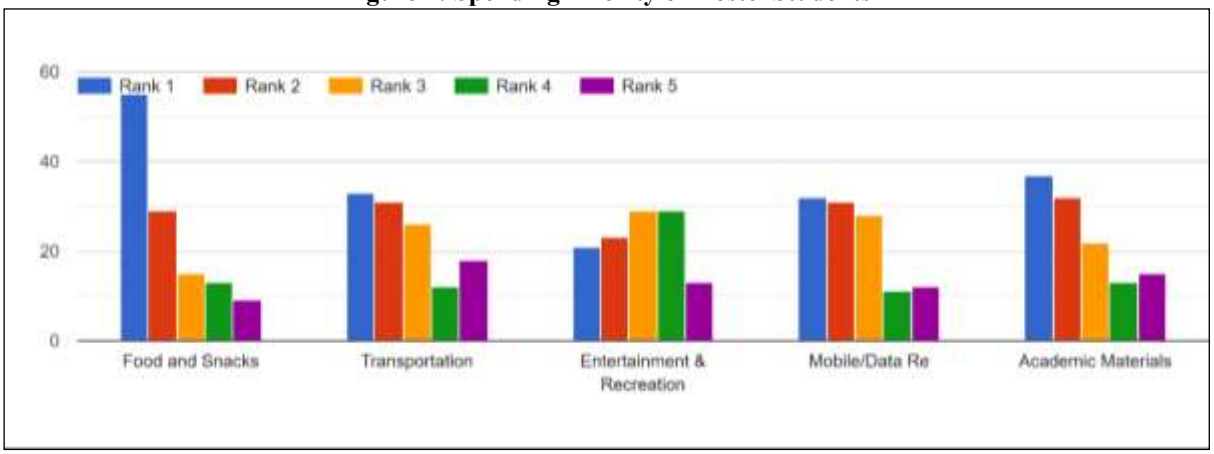
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The acceptance of all five hypotheses indicates that students' spending behaviour remains largely consistent across different groups. The findings show no significant difference in spending patterns based on gender or education level, suggesting that neither factor independently influences how students spend their money. Moreover, the interaction between gender and education level does not affect spending behaviour, indicating similar patterns across male and female students at different educational stages. Likewise, the duration of stay in the hostel has no significant impact on students' spending behaviour, and this effect remains uniform across genders, as no interaction is observed between gender and length of hostel stay. Overall, the results highlight a uniform spending behaviour among students, irrespective of demographic or academic characteristics.

Spending Priority of Hostel Students

The bar graph presents respondents' ranking of expenditure categories across five areas—Food & Snacks, Transportation, Entertainment & Recreation, Mobile/Data Recharge, and Academic Materials—from Rank 1 (highest priority) to Rank 5 (lowest priority).

Figure 1: Spending Priority of Hostel Students



Source: *Author Composition*

Study shows that Food and Snacks is the top spending priority for most people, followed by Academic Materials, while Transportation and Mobile/Data Recharge are moderately ranked. Entertainment & Recreation ranks lowest, indicating that essential needs like food, education, and connectivity are prioritized over leisure expenses.

Based on the ranking analysis, it was found that food and snacks received the top rank, indicating that hostel students spend the largest portion of their money on food-related items. Other expenditure categories received lower ranks in comparison, suggesting that food and daily consumption expenses dominate students' spending behaviour.

Objective-2, Influence of Peer Pressure on Spending Behaviour among the hotel student of IIMT group of Institutions

Factor analysis was employed to identify the latent constructs underlying peer-influenced spending behaviour. Since factor analysis is an exploratory technique, no formal hypothesis was framed for this objective.

Table 4: Factor Statistics

Summary			
Factor	**SS Loadings**	**% of Variance**	**Cumulative %**
1	2.09	34.9	34.9
2	1.90	31.6	66.5

Table 5: Bartlett's Test of Sphericity

χ^2	df	p
Inf	15	<.001

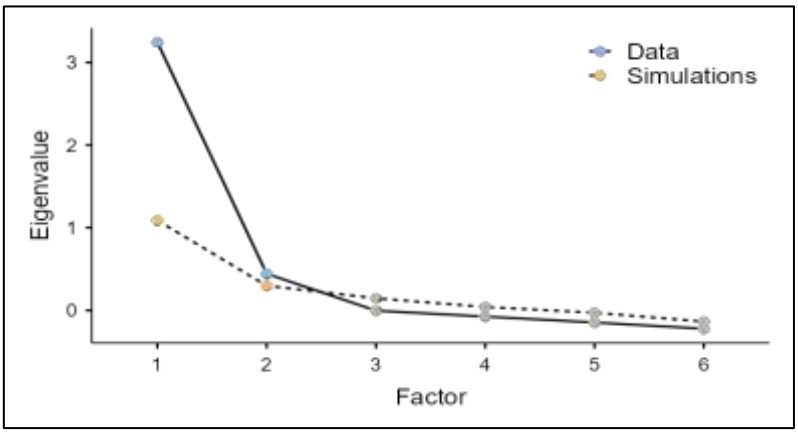
Table 6: KMO Measure of Sampling Adequacy

Particulars	MSA
Overall	0.500
My spending decisions change because of My friend's suggestions, advice, pressure, or opinion	0.500
I tend to buy things similar to what my peers purchase (clothes, gadgets, etc.).	0.500
I feel pressure to match the lifestyle of my hostel friends	0.500
Group celebrations (birthdays, parties, outing) increase my monthly expenditure.	0.500
My roommates' habits influence my daily spending pattern.	0.500
I use online shopping or food apps because my friends suggest or recommend them to me.	0.500

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Table 7: Eigenvalues

Initial Eigenvalues	
Factor	**Eigenvalue**
1	3.24356
2	0.44377
3	-0.00267
4	-0.07419
5	-0.14582
6	-0.22108



Note: *Factor loadings below 0.50 are suppressed. Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis Rotation Method: Varimax*

Table 8: Exploratory Factor Analysis

Factor Loadings			
	Factor		
	1	**2**	**Uniqueness**
I feel pressure to match the lifestyle of my hostel friends	0.997		0.00266
Group celebrations (birthdays, parties, outing) increase my monthly expenditure.	0.997		0.00266
I tend to buy things similar to what my peers purchase (clothes, gadgets, etc.).		0.761	0.47039
My spending decisions change because of My friend's suggestions, advice, pressure, or opinion		0.733	0.48255
"I use online shopping or food apps because my friends suggest or recommend them to me."		0.681	0.50160
My roommates' habits influence my daily spending pattern.		0.511	0.55190

Note: *'Minimum residual' extraction method was used in combination with a 'oblimin' rotation*

KMO test to identify the relation between the question The Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy was 0.50, indicating that the data was not too suitable for factor analysis. But this is minimum border line for acceptance. On the other hand, Bartlett's test: - The Bartlett's test result ($p < 0.001$) confirms that the variables are significantly related, making the data suitable for factor analysis. Since Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was significant ($p < 0.001$) and the KMO value was 0.500, indicating a marginal level of sampling adequacy. Therefore, the factor analysis results should be interpreted with caution. After this we get the initial Eigenvalue table and scree plot graph to understand how many meaningful factors exists. The initial eigenvalue analysis reveals that the first factor is meaningful with a high eigenvalue of 3.24. All other factors have eigenvalues less than 1, suggesting that they are not strong enough to be retained. Therefore, the eigenvalue criterion supports a one-factor solution. The scree plot shows a very high eigenvalue for the first factor, followed by a sharp decline in the second factor. After the first factor, the eigenvalues become very small and almost flat. This clear drop indicates that the first factor explains most of the variance in the data, while the remaining factors contribute very little. After that we look Exploratory Factor Analysis table, this also called factor loading table.

Exploratory Factor Analysis table, show that the first factor, labelled Direct Peer Pressure, consisted of two items reflecting the influence of friends' suggestions and imitation of peers' purchasing behaviour. The two items loading on the first factor exhibited exceptionally high factor loadings (≈ 0.997) with negligible uniqueness values (≈ 0.003), indicating a very strong representation of the underlying construct. The second factor, named Social and Group Spending Influence, comprised items related to lifestyle pressure, group celebrations, roommates'

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habits, and app usage due to peer recommendations. The four items under the second factor showed acceptable to good loadings ranging from 0.511 to 0.761, with moderate uniqueness values (approximately 0.47–0.51), suggesting a reasonable level of explanatory power. In exploratory studies, factor retention is guided not only by statistical criteria but also by interpretability and theoretical support. Therefore, despite marginal eigenvalue results, the two-factor solution was accepted.

The exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was conducted to examine the influence of peer pressure on the spending behaviour of hostel students. Before applying factor analysis, the suitability of the data was tested using Bartlett's Test of Sphericity and the KMO measure of sampling adequacy. Bartlett's Test was found to be highly significant ($p < 0.001$), indicating that the variables are sufficiently correlated and suitable for factor analysis. The overall KMO value of 0.50, although at the minimum acceptable level, confirms that the sample adequacy is just sufficient to proceed with the analysis. The initial eigenvalue results and scree plot indicated that one dominant factor had an eigenvalue greater than 1, suggesting the presence of a strong underlying construct related to peer influence. However, the exploratory factor analysis with oblimin rotation revealed a two-factor solution, which was considered more meaningful and interpretable based on factor loadings and theoretical relevance.

The first factor showed extremely high loadings for items related to lifestyle pressure and group activities, such as feeling pressure to match hostel friends' lifestyles and increased spending due to group celebrations. These items also had very low uniqueness values, indicating that they are strongly explained by the underlying factor. This factor reflects direct peer pressure and social lifestyle influence on students' expenditure.

The second factor consisted of items related to peer-driven spending habits, such as buying similar products as peers, changing spending decisions due to friends' opinions, influence of roommates' habits, and usage of online shopping or food apps based on friends' recommendations. The loadings for this factor ranged from acceptable to good, with moderate uniqueness values, suggesting a reasonable level of explanatory power. This factor represents behavioral imitation and daily spending influence among hostel students.

Together, these two factors explained 66.5% of the total variance, which indicates that peer pressure plays a substantial role in shaping the spending behaviour of hostel students. Even though eigenvalue criteria suggested a single factor, the two-factor solution was retained as it provided clearer interpretation and better alignment with real-life spending behaviour and existing theory.

Perception of Students Regarding Peer Influence and Students' Self-Control Towards Spending

To further support the findings of factor analysis, two additional questions were asked to understand students' perception of peer influence and their ability to control spending.

Table 9: Perception of Students Regarding Peer Influence

S.No	Questions	Yes	No	Some time	Total
1	Peer influence as the main reason for overspending	31.5%	33.3%	35.2%	100%
2	Control over expenditure despite peer pressure	62%	20.4 %	17.6%	100%

Source: *Author Composition*

The results show that students have mixed opinions regarding peer influence as the main reason for overspending. About 35.2% of respondents reported that peer influence *sometimes* leads to overspending, while 31.5% believed that peer influence is a major reason. However, 33.3% respondents disagreed with this view. This indicates that although peer influence plays an important role, it is not the sole reason for overspending among hostel students. When asked about controlling expenditure despite peer pressure, a majority 62% of respondents reported that they actively try to control their spending. However, 20.4% admitted that they are unable to control their expenditure, and 17.6% stated that they can control it only sometimes. This suggests that while many students are aware of peer pressure, not all are successful in managing their spending behaviour.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that gender, education level, and duration of stay in the hostel do not have a statistically significant effect on the spending behaviour of hostel students. Neither gender nor education level, nor their interaction, showed a meaningful influence on expenditure patterns. Similarly, gender and duration of hostel stay, as well as their interaction, were also found to be insignificant. The acceptance of all hypotheses confirms that students' spending behaviour remains largely uniform across different demographic and academic groups. Although minor variations were observed in certain cases, these differences were not statistically strong enough to suggest that personal characteristics such as gender, level of education, or length of hostel stay independently or jointly shape spending behaviour. Overall, hostel students tend to follow similar expenditure patterns regardless of these factors.

However, the ranking and factor analysis provide deeper insights into the nature of students' spending priorities and underlying influences. Food and snacks emerged as the top spending priority, followed by academic materials, indicating that essential needs dominate students' expenditure, while entertainment and recreation receive the lowest priority. The exploratory factor analysis, supported by a significant Bartlett's Test and a marginally acceptable KMO value, revealed that peer influence plays an important role in shaping spending behaviour. Two meaningful factors—direct peer pressure and social/group spending influence—were identified and together explained a substantial proportion of variance in spending

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behaviour. Perception analysis further showed that while peer influence contributes to overspending for many students, it is not the sole determinant, and a majority of students actively attempt to control their expenditure. Thus, while demographic factors show no significant impact, social and peer-related factors emerge as key drivers of hostel students' spending behaviour, highlighting the importance of social context and self-control in financial decision-making.

SUGGESTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Organize peer-led awareness programs, where senior students share real-life experiences about how overspending occurs in hostel life and practical ways to avoid it.
- Encourage student-to-student mentoring, allowing seniors to guide juniors on managing expenses, resisting peer pressure, and developing healthy spending habits.
- Conduct investment awareness sessions to educate students about the importance of saving and reinvestment, highlighting how even a small monthly saving (e.g., ₹1000) can be invested directly in the stock market or mutual funds.
- Introduce basic financial planning workshops that explain long-term benefits of early investing and compounding in simple and practical terms.
- Provide nutrition awareness programs to help students understand the health and financial impact of excessive spending on outside food and snacks.
- Improve hostel mess food quality and ensure affordable, nutritious meal options to reduce dependence on fast food and frequent online food orders.
- Explore subsidized food options or controlled food-ordering facilities within hostels to help students manage both health and expenditure effectively.

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