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SAVING BEHAVIOR OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN BAHRAIN AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES: MODERATING ROLE OF DEPENDENTS

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Abstract

This study examined the determinants of saving behavior among Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and the moderating effect of residing dependents. Specifically, it investigated the relationship between financial knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) and saving behavior. The study involved 42 OFWs with dependents aged 0–24 residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Results revealed that financial knowledge and attitude had no significant relationship with saving behavior, while financial practices were presented to have a statistically strong positive relationship, indicating that OFWs who engage in sound financial practices may exhibit stronger saving behavior. Moreover, the number of residing dependents did not significantly moderate the relationship between financial KAP and saving behavior, suggesting that saving behavior remains consistent regardless of the number of residing dependents. It is recommended that OFWs participate in financial literacy programs, financial organizations develop comprehensive financial support initiatives, and future research explore other potential determinants such as spending habits, investment behavior, and overall financial well-being.

Keywords: Overseas Filipino Workers; Saving Behavior; Financial Knowledge; Financial Attitude, Financial Practice, Dependents

1. Introduction

1.1. Problem and Background of the Study

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are considered the modern-day heroes of the Philippines and to their families. As of 2024, there are approximately 2.16 million OFWs worldwide (Mapa, 2024), sending back money to provide for those who depend on them. OFWs have significantly contributed to the well-being of their loved ones, as families who rely on them have a better standard of living since their household necessities, education, and extended families are supported.

Throughout time, OFWs have chosen to bring their dependents with them or raise them overseas. Living abroad gives these dependents access to better opportunities, such as quality basic and/or higher education, employment security, and economic stability. However, these opportunities may come with higher living expenses compared to the Philippines. Expenses such as housing and rent, transportation, education, and living necessities can quickly add up. This kind of situation poses a challenge for OFWs, making it difficult for them to prioritize or even begin saving money.

The choice of raising dependents abroad would demand more financial resilience and discipline. Such financial burden can grow even further as OFWs would need to directly support the living expenses of their dependents abroad, potentially limiting their ability to have a consistent and positive saving behavior. According to Amparo (2022), poor saving behavior among OFWs is commonly connected to having dependents who rely on them financially from the Philippines.

These financial challenges show the importance of the Financial Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) among OFWs. An individual's Financial KAP includes the understanding of financial concepts, attitudes towards money management, and actions taken regarding their finances. Having positive financial KAP towards saving money is linked to financial satisfaction and a sense of security for one's future (Espiritu, 2025). Meanwhile, a relatively low financial KAP would lead to financial strain and could eventually hinder an OFW's ability to make sound financial decisions. Through this research, insights into the relationship between the Financial Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) of Overseas Filipino Workers and the number of dependents physically present with them abroad was determined. The study focused on the OFWs in Bahrain who are living with dependents, specifically children up to 24 years old who are residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain under a dependent visa in accordance with Bahraini immigration law(Goverment of Bahrain, 2024).

The results of this study may serve as a meaningful contribution to programs that aim to develop the financial literacy of OFWs, specifically those with family obligations, and guide OFWs in making strategic financial decisions while managing dependents to secure financial stability abroad. Moreover, this study may provide valuable information for financial organizations in constructing interventions that address the financial challenges faced by OFWs. These insights can develop the long-term financial stability and responsible savings behavior among OFW households overseas.

1.2. Review of Related Literature

Saving Behavior

Saving behavior refers to a person's approach to thinking about future needs and deciding how to manage their money to meet them (Perangin-angin et al., 2022). These behaviors may contribute to ensuring financial stability and achieving long-term financial goals.

According to Uy et al. (2024), Filipinos prioritize saving for the family's basic needs and their retirement over making investments. Similarly, Sorita et al., (2023) found that OFWs keep track of their budget and savings plan by avoiding unnecessary expenses and participating in financial programs such as the PAG-IBIG fund services. Through careful management of their earnings, OFWs were found to be able to build financial security for their family and themselves.

A study by Maison et al. (2019) stated that having more money does not necessarily mean they have more savings. In relation to that, saving may not be dependent on the amount of money they have, but rather on how they view their financial situation. It also mentioned that those people with a strong dedication to increasing their savings would save more than those with a high income but a low desire to save.

Dependents

Dependents are defined as the number of children or financially dependent household members and are frequently treated as an independent variable in journal articles about saving behavior. For instance, Luncido and Tan-Cruz (2020) used Tobit regression and found that each additional young dependent significantly reduces annual family savings, with estimated decreases ranging from ₱757.09 to ₱4,284.20 per year, holding other factors 5 constant. These figures show how dependent-related obligations can severely constrain the ability to save. Similarly, Flores (2012) included dependents in their profiling of remittance-receiving households and observed that households with dependents allocate more income to basic needs such as education and healthcare and less to savings, while 43.44% of the respondents save their remittance money or a portion of it in banks. These findings emphasize how the number of dependents can reduce allocation for savings, making dependents a crucial independent variable in OFW financial behavior.

KAP and Dependents

The presence of dependents can impact an individual's financial KAP by influencing how income is handled. The financial demands of dependents may restrict the ability to apply certain financial strategies, making practical knowledge even more critical for effective resource management (Murata, 2024).

Financial attitude is also influenced by the presence of dependents. Positive financial attitudes, such as prioritizing household stability and longterm security, can encourage responsible decision-making despite financial pressures (Yogasnumurti et al., 2021).

Financial practice is the stage where financial knowledge is translated into actions and strategies for managing resources effectively. The number of dependents can influence how these practices are implemented. Larger households require more detailed financial planning to ensure that all needs are met without overspending. However, Kartikasari and Muflikhati (2016) that family size has a significantly negative effect on family financial management, 6 suggesting that the more family members there are, the harder it becomes to manage resources effectively.

KAP and Saving Behavior

The financial KAP and behavior of an individual are studied as variables that may determine a person's saving behavior. However, the three attributes may not have the same significance to an individual's saving behavior.

According to studies, financial knowledge is related positively to the likelihood of practicing saving behavior. Individuals with a greater understanding of financial concepts are more likely to save regularly and manage their finances effectively (Despard et al., 2020; Namate, 2020; Kim and Yuh, 2018). These findings support the idea that increased financial knowledge can encourage better financial decisions, including building savings. However, a recent study by Murata, (2024) found that participation in programs that develop financial knowledge of OFWs doesn't guarantee improvement in their saving behavior due to the lack of statistical significance (p-values of 0.632 and 0.088). The results may indicate that the financial literacy programs were not sufficiently tailored to the complexity of financial knowledge's role in determining one's saving behavior. This also suggests that developing the knowledge of financial concepts alone may not be enough to improve saving practices, as other variables may play crucial roles in determining saving behavior.

Meanwhile, according to some studies, financial attitude has a significant and positive relationship with saving behavior, suggesting that having more positive attitudes would result in a greater likelihood of saving money regularly (Susanti and Khaddafi, 2024; Yogasnumurti et al., 2021; Yuliarto et al., 2024). 7 Yet, research by Ismail, et al., (2020) found that financial attitude does not have a significant effect on saving behavior, indicating that an individual's attitude toward money does not necessarily influence their saving behaviors.

Financial practice has been shown to have a direct and positive relationship with saving behavior (Susanti and Khaddafi, 2024; Ismail, et al., (2020). This suggests that individuals who actively manage their finances are more likely to save money for future use rather than spend it immediately, especially when their resources are limited.

Saving Behavior and Dependents

Saving behavior is a variable that dependents may influence. With dependents, priorities shift, leading to more disciplined personal financial practices and greater responsibility. A study conducted by Haider (2018) shows that saving motives were greatly influenced by their children who are studying, regardless of their income levels. Individuals may have different knowledge in handling finances, which affects their saving behavior. Another research study by Parilla and Abadilla (2023) shows that the greater the number of dependents they have, the more likely they are to save. However, a study by Lugauer et al., (2019) revealed that having more dependent children in the household would lead to a reduced saving rate.

In the context of migrant workers, Saguin (2020) found that most Filipino migrant workers allocate a significant portion of their income to supporting dependent family members rather than to personal savings, indicating that financial obligations from OFWs' dependents may also negatively affect their saving behavior.

1.3. Research Gap

An inconsistency was found in a study by Parilla and Abadilla (2023), showing that dependents reduce the saving ability of OFWs, which contradicts the study of Manapol et al. (2022), which shows that dependents increase the motivation to save. OFWs are highly engaged in saving and investing. However, it leaves an unaddressed gap wherein they only focus on short-term savings rather than considering how dependents may influence long-term financial savings, which may influence the financial security of the next generation. Furthermore, most studies do not explore the behavioral aspect of saving practices, which is critical in understanding how dependents may affect saving practices. Moreover, limited attention has been given to cultural expectations on financial decision-making, overlooking their potential which may be able to influence the savings KAP of OFWs. Considering these cultural factors may provide a deeper understanding of the motivations behind an OFW's saving practices.

1.4. Statement of the Problem

The research delves into the relationship between the financial knowledge, attitude, and behavior of OFWs and their saving behavior with the number of dependents as the moderating variable. Each variable of the financial KAP is treated independently which may collectively influence the saving behavior. The framework also consists of the number of dependents as the moderating variable which may strengthen or weaken the relationship between the financial KAP of OFWs and their saving behavior.

1. How is the perceived level of financial attributes of OFWs described in terms of:
    1.1. knowledge;
    1.2. attitude; and
    1.3. practice?
2. What is the level of perceived saving behavior of the OFW respondents?
3. Is there a significant relationship between the perceived level of financial knowledge, attitude, and practice with savings behavior among OFWs?
4. Does the number of dependents significantly moderate the relationships between financial KAP (knowledge, attitude, and practice) and the saving behavior of OFWs?

2. Methodology

2.1 Research Design

This quantitative research employed a descriptive correlational research design to examine the relationship between financial KAP and savings behavior of OFWs in the Kingdom of Bahrain. A descriptive correlational design seeks to describe a relationship among variables, without attempting to infer a causal relationship. (Devi, 2023). In the context of this research, the designs were used to describe and examine the existence of the relationship between OFWs' financial KAP and saving behavior, without manipulating any variables and inferring causality. The descriptive approach was used to measure and quantify the number of dependents, financial KAP, and savings behavior of OFWs. Meanwhile, a correlational approach was applied to the quantitative data to analyze the relationship of the identified factors to the savings behavior. Additionally, a moderation design was used to determine the moderating effects of the number of dependents on the relationship between the financial KAP and the saving behavior of the respondents.

2.2 Data Collection Instrument and Procedures

A survey questionnaire was constructed as a data gathering instrument to draw answers to the problems. The questionnaire consists of questions to determine the profile of the respondents in terms of the number of dependents 13 and the average monthly income range. It also includes items that measured the perceived level of financial knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP), which was adapted from Banthia & Dey (2022), whereas the respondents perceived level of saving was adapted from Parilla & Abadilla (2023).

The link was sent directly to the identified respondents, who were given sufficient time to accomplish it. After submission, responses were automatically recorded and organized by the Google Forms system, ensuring efficiency and accuracy in data collection. The researchers then consolidated and reviewed the data for analysis. The questionnaire used a 4-point Likert scale (4 – Strongly Agree and 1 – Strongly Disagree) to gauge responses.

Research Locale and Participants

This quantitative research was conducted in the Kingdom of Bahrain, an independent island state situated in the Middle East. OFWs were selected as the respondents of this study through a combination of purposive and convenience sampling methods. Table 1 presents the profile of this study's respondents. Purposive sampling was applied because the study specifically focuses on OFWs with dependents residing with them in Bahrain, as they provide the most relevant insights into financial KAP and saving behaviors shaped by family obligations.

Table 1. Profile of respondents

Variable	Category	Counts	Proportion
Number of Dependents (Age 0-24. Financially dependent, Residing in Bahrain)	1	13	30.95%
	2	14	33.33%
	3	11	26.19%
	4	3	7.14%
	6	1	2.38%
Income Range	Less than 200 BHD	3	7.14%
	200 BHD - 500 BHD	12	28.57%
	501 BHD - 800 BHD	12	28.57%
	More than 800 BHD	15	35.71%

Meanwhile, convenience sampling was used due to the lack of an exact population frame from which a sample could be extracted. With this, the researchers were able to survey 42 OFWs as respondents, the majority of whom belonged to the income range of more than 800 BHD and had two dependents.

2.3 Treatment of the Data

The data gathered in this study were statistically analyzed to answer the research problems. JASP was used to run the data to generate the tables. Descriptive statistics were used, specifically the mean, in identifying the perceived levels of financial KAP and savings behavior of OFW respondents. To determine the relationship between financial KAP and savings behavior. Spearman's rho correlation coefficient was employed, as this was suitable for variables that are ordinal data. Additionally, moderation analysis was conducted to test the effect of the number of dependents on the relationship between financial KAP and savings behavior.

To interpret the respondents' answers, the study employed a four-point Likert scale to measure the perceived levels of financial knowledge, attitude, practices (KAP), and savings behavior. The Likert scale allows subjective perceptions to be converted into measurable data, allowing for the computation of mean scores that reflect the overall tendencies of the group. Each scale point corresponds to a specific range of mean values with its equivalent verbal interpretation and descriptive equivalent, as presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Scale and Interpretation of Responses

Interval Scale	Financial Knowledge	Financial Attitude	Financial Practice	Saving Behavior
3.50 – 4.00	Very Knowledgeable	Excellent Attitude	Excellent Practice	Excellent Behavior
2.50 – 3.49	Knowledgeable	Good Attitude	Good Practice	Good Behavior
1.50 – 2.49	Moderately Knowledgeable	Fair Attitude	Fair Practice	Fair Behavior
1.00 – 1.49	Slightly Knowledgeable	Poor Attitude	Poor Practice	Poor Behavior

2.4 Ethical Considerations

The researchers ensured that ethical standards were maintained throughout the study. Potential participants were asked whether they would like to partake in the research. Participants were contacted either through social media platforms or a trusted network. Informed consent was obtained through the first page of the questionnaire, which clearly outlines the purpose of the study and voluntary participation. To uphold anonymity, participants were allowed to choose whether to indicate their names in the survey form. Moreover, the collected data was shared exclusively among researchers, research advisors, and panelists, ensuring ethical and strict data management practices to safeguard the confidentiality and anonymity of participants for the sole purpose of academic research.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1 Discussions

Level of Financial Knowledge of OFWs with Dependents

Table 3 presents the financial knowledge of OFWs with dependents residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain. According to the results of this study, the OFWs are knowledgeable about their finances (3.47). This finding implies that OFWs have a solid understanding of different financial concepts and terms while providing for their dependents.

Table 3. Financial Knowledge of OFWs

Items	Mean	Interpretation
1. I'm confident with basic numerical calculations without any mistakes	3.40	Knowledgeable
2. I can calculate simple interest correctly.	3.45	Knowledgeable
3. I know how to calculate compound interest.	3.12	Knowledgeable
4. I know that a high level of risk will involve a high return	3.40	Knowledgeable
5. I know high inflation leads to an increase in the cost of living.	3.67	Very Knowledgeable
6. I know that the value of money changes over time.	3.69	Very Knowledgeable
7. I am confident in using various electronic transactions (e.g., online banking, remittance apps).	3.52	Very Knowledgeable
Overall Financial Knowledge	3.47	Knowledgeable

Interval Scale: 3.50 to 4.00: Very Knowledgeable; 2.50 to 3.49 Knowledgeable; 1.50 to 2.49: Moderately Knowledgeable; 1.00 to 1.49 Slightly Knowledgeable

In addition, the OFWs exhibit a very knowledgeable degree in finance, with knowledge of the value of money changing over time (3.69). Similarly, they are also very knowledgeable about the fact that high inflation leads to an increase in the cost of living (3.67). These results suggest that OFWs with dependents have a strong knowledge about the time value of money and its effect on their ability to sustain themselves abroad.

Meanwhile, while the respondents are deemed knowledgeable, they have the least knowledge regarding compound interest computation (3.12) as compared to the other items in the table presented. This implies that OFWs with dependents have less confidence in their financial knowledge when it comes to complex financial computations such as compound interest.

The overall description of OFW's financial knowledge agrees with the results of the study among Filipino athletes who were found to be highly literate in terms of their finances (Calayag & Malig, 2025). Conversely, the findings negate the conclusions of Rostamkalaei and Riding (2020), who found that immigrants in Canada are less likely to show high levels of financial knowledge. Additionally, the conclusion of Chen and Lemieux (2018) contradicts this present paper's results, wherein Chinese migrant workers displayed low levels of financial knowledge. This implies that different nationalities possess varying levels of financial knowledge.

In summary, OFWs with dependents are knowledgeable in terms of their level of knowledge about their finances. The respondents are considered knowledgeable in areas concerning the time value of money, the effects of inflation, and the computation of financial concepts.

Level of Financial Attitude of OFWs with Dependents

Table 4 presents the financial attitude of OFWs with dependents. According to the data, OFWs possess a good attitude toward financial management (3.46). This shows that the respondents have a positive attitude towards handling their finances while providing for their dependents. A positive financial attitude signifies an individual's awareness of the value of sound financial management, along with a conscious effort to make informed, disciplined, and responsible financial decisions.

Table 4. Financial Attitude of OFWs

Items	Mean	Interpretation
1. I make efforts to stay informed about financial planning.	3.43	Good Attitude
2. I value being aware of my personal financial situation.	3.64	Excellent Attitude
3. I recognize the importance of understanding various financial products.	3.64	Excellent Attitude
4. I consider it important to learn about different investment opportunities.	3.55	Excellent Attitude
5. I stay informed about investment activities.	3.29	Good Attitude
6. I am confident about managing my financial matters.	3.43	Good Attitude
7. I understand the role of agents or brokers in investing.	3.24	Good Attitude
Overall Financial Attitude	3.46	Good Attitude

Interval Scale: 3.50 to 4.00: Excellent Attitude; 2.50 to 3.49 Good Attitude; 1.50 to 2.49: Fair Attitude; 1.00 to 1.49: Poor Attitude

Furthermore, OFWs consider placing the highest emphasis on maintaining awareness about their financial status (3.64). Additionally, the respondents demonstrate openness in exploring various investment options (3.55). With these results, OFWs recognize the importance of being financially aware, particularly in monitoring their financial status and searching for diverse investment opportunities.

In contrast, while OFWs demonstrate a generally positive financial attitude, the respondents display a relatively less favorable outlook toward the functions and responsibilities of agents or brokers in the investment process (3.24). This suggests that although they acknowledge the role of formal financial intermediaries in facilitating investments, they may not hold strong confidence or trust in engaging with them.

The overall description of OFWs' financial attitude aligns with the findings of Susilowati and Latifah (2020), revealing that students have good perceptions towards financial management. However, it contrasts with the results of Poblacion and Manigo (2022), who found that the financial attitude of Filipino employees tends to be only moderately favorable.

In conclusion, the findings indicate that OFWs with dependents generally exhibit a positive financial attitude, reflecting their responsibility and awareness in managing their resources. Their strong emphasis on financial awareness and the willingness to explore investment opportunities highlight their commitment to securing financial stability for themselves and their families. Overall, these results suggest that OFWs are proactive and mindful in making informed financial decisions that support both their present needs and future goals.

Level of Financial Practice of OFWs with Dependents

Table 5 shows the level of financial practices according to the respondents. The data revealed that OFWs display good practices toward their finances (3.34). This suggests that the respondents are able to apply favorable financial actions in supporting their household needs and financial stability.

Furthermore, the OFWs present excellent practice in terms of checking their affordability to make a purchasing decision (3.55). Additionally, the respondents' financial practice is also appropriate regarding on-time payments of bills (3.48). This implies that OFWs exhibit highly favorable financial practices in terms of purchasing evaluation and payment of financial obligations.

However, while the respondents practice good financial actions in general, they have the least favorable practice in meeting what is beyond their essential needs (3.19). Similarly, it is also revealed that the respondents' financial practices are the least convenient in allowing them to do important life activities (3.24). Based on this data, it suggests that the level of financial practice of OFWs is tolerable enough to cover more than their household needs and enable them to partake in significant life ventures.

Table 5. Financial Practice of OFWs

Items	Mean	Interpretation
1. My financial resources can meet beyond my essential needs	3.19	Good Practice
2. I practice long-term savings more than short-term spending	3.33	Good Practice
3. I pay my bills on time.	3.48	Good Practice
4. My financial condition allows me to do some important activities in life.	3.24	Good Practice
5. I closely monitor my financial activities.	3.36	Good Practice
6. I regularly keep records of my financial transactions.	3.26	Good Practice
7. I check my affordability before making purchases.	3.55	Excellent Practice
Overall Financial Practice	3.34	Good Practice

Interval Scale: 3.50 to 4.00: Excellent Practice; 2.50 to 3.49: Good Practice; 1.50 to 2.49: Fair Practice; 1.00 to 1.49: Poor Practice

The results align with the findings of Hogarth et al. (2023), showing that a large percentage of US households have "good" financial management. Additionally, these also agree with the conclusion of Kim et al (2022), stating that Filipino workers abroad practiced sound financial behavior only for simple financial activities. These pieces of evidence suggest that the OFWs of this paper exhibit similar levels of financial practice as other groups.

In summary, the findings reveal that OFWs with dependents in Bahrain exhibit a good level of financial practices. The respondents can evaluate critically their financial capabilities and pay regularly their obligations.

Level of Saving Behavior of OFWs with Dependents

Table 6 presents the level of saving behavior of OFWs with dependents. The findings show that the respondents exhibit an excellent level of saving behavior (3.61), indicating that most OFWs consistently manage their income responsibly and prioritize savings despite having dependents to support. These findings align with Uy et al. (2024), who found that OFWs value saving for future needs and financial stability over immediate spending.

Furthermore, the OFWs present excellent behavior in terms of considering the price of an item before buying something (3.86). Similarly, they also show excellent behavior in considering whether they can afford something before buying something (3.71). These results suggest that OFWs practice cautious spending and are deliberate in making financial decisions. Their tendency to delay gratification and evaluate affordability before purchasing indicates strong control over impulsive buying behavior. This supports the findings of Parilla and Abadilla (2023), who emphasize that OFWs tend to prioritize essential needs and long-term savings for their families.

Table 6. Saving Behavior of OFWs

Items	Mean	Interpretation
1. I make sure to save a portion of my income	3.33	Good Behavior
2. I would rather wait for the item to go on sale than buy it immediately.	3.69	Excellent Behavior
3. I consider the price of an item before buying.	3.86	Excellent Behavior
4. I reflect on whether what I am buying is something I need	3.52	Excellent Behavior
5. I carefully consider whether I can afford something before buying.	3.71	Excellent Behavior
6. I believe in "saving now so I will have money for the future."	3.67	Excellent Behavior
7. I make sure that my bank account has a considerable minimum balance enough for emergency purposes.	3.45	Good Behavior
Overall Saving Behavior	3.61	Excellent Behavior

Interval Scale: 3.50 to 4.00: Excellent Behavior; 2.50 to 3.49: Good Behavior; 1.50 to 2.49: Fair Behavior; 1.00 to 1.49: Poor Behavior

However, while still showing good saving behavior, the respondents have the least suitable behavior in terms of making sure to save a portion of their income (3.33). In addition, it is also revealed that their financial behavior is least favorable in making sure that their bank account has a sufficient minimum balance for emergency purposes (3.45). The findings relate to the precautionary motive for holding cash, wherein individuals need to hold cash due to uncertainty and unforeseen events (Acunto et al, 2020). In relation to the lower scores, this suggests that OFWs may not consistently allocate funds for unexpected needs compared to managing their expenses.

In conclusion, these findings imply that OFWs with dependents in Bahrain demonstrate an excellent level of saving behavior. They are financially disciplined and cautious with their expenses and prioritize responsible spending over impulsive purchases. Despite the financial pressures of supporting dependents, they remain capable of managing their savings.

Relationship Between Financial Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice with Saving Behavior

Table 7 presents the results of the correlation between financial knowledge and saving behavior.

Table 7. Relationship Between Financial Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice with Saving Behavior

Variable	Test Statistic		Interpretation
Financial Knowledge	Spearman's rho	0.03	Negligible Positive Correlation
	p-value	0.87	No Significant Relationship
Financial Attitude	Spearman's rho	0.16	Negligible Positive Relationship
	p-value	0.32	No Significant Relationship
Financial Practice	Spearman's rho	0.45	Strong Positive Relationship
	p-value	<0.00	Significant Relationship

Spearman Rho: 0.90 to 1.00: Very High Positive or Very High Negative Correlation; 0.70 to 0.89 High Positive or High Negative Correlation; 0.50 to 0.69 Moderate Positive or Moderate Negative Correlation; 0.30 to 0.49: Low Positive or Low Negative Correlation; 0.00 to 0.29 Negligible Correlation

The results reveal that financial knowledge has a negligible and statistically insignificant relationship with the respondents' saving behavior ($r = 0.03$, $p = 0.87$). This indicates that an increase in financial knowledge alone does not necessarily influence how respondents manage or grow their savings. In other words, being knowledgeable about financial concepts does not automatically translate to improved saving habits.

Similarly, financial attitude also shows a negligible positive but statistically insignificant relationship with saving behavior ($r = 0.16$, $p = 0.32$). This implies that even if respondents hold favorable views toward financial management, such attitudes may not directly lead to consistent saving actions. Positive financial mindset alone, without practical application, may not be sufficient to foster disciplined saving behavior among the respondents, particularly the OFWs.

In contrast, financial practice demonstrates a strong and statistically significant positive relationship with saving behavior (r = 0.45, $p < 0.00$). This finding suggests that respondents who regularly apply sound financial practices—such as budgeting, tracking expenses, and setting aside savings— tend to exhibit stronger saving behavior. In essence, active engagement in responsible financial habits is more strongly associated with improved saving outcomes than merely having financial knowledge or positive attitudes.

The findings of this study are related to the survey conducted by Murata (2024), which revealed that participation in financial literacy programs by OFWs does not necessarily improve their saving behavior due to the lack of statistical significance. In contrast, the results negate the findings of Namate (2020), who concluded that financial knowledge has a significant positive relationship with a household's saving behavior. Similarly, these also contradict the study of Kim and Yuh (2018), which stated that perceived financial knowledge is positively related to the likelihood of an individual being a saver. These various findings indicate that while OFWs may acquire an increased level of financial knowledge, such may not influence solely their saving behavior.

Moreover, the result of this study aligns with the study of Ismail et al. (2020), who concluded that financial attitude has no significant relationship with saving behavior. However, the findings contradict the studies of Yuliarto (2024) and Yogasnumurti (2021), which stated that financial attitude positively and significantly influences the saving behavior of households. These corroborating and contradicting findings suggest that financial attitude alone may be insufficient in influencing saving behavior, as other factors may have a stronger impact.

In addition, the study of Roy et al. (2025) supports the findings of this present paper from which it states that only financial practice had a significant positive relationship with saving behavior compared to other factors such as knowledge and attitude. The results also align with the research conducted by Susanti & Khaddafi (2024) showing that financial practice directly has a significant relationship with saving behavior. Ismail et al. (2020) also concluded that financial management practices have a significant relationship as a determinant of a person's saving behavior. These consistent findings from other studies suggest that maintaining sound financial practices plays a crucial role in developing OFWs' ability to save despite the presence of dependents with them abroad.

Overall, the results underscore the importance of translating financial literacy and attitudes into actionable financial practices to effectively enhance saving behavior.

Moderating Role of Dependents Knowledge and Saving Behavior

Table 8 presents the moderating role of dependents on the saving behavior and financial knowledge, attitude, and practice through moderation analysis. It was revealed that the number of dependents has no significant moderating effect on OFWs' saving behavior. This indicates that the saving behavior of OFWs remains consistent regardless of the number of dependents that reside with them abroad.

Table 8. The Moderating Role of Dependents on the Saving Behavior and Financial Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice through Moderation Analysis

Factors	Estimate	SE	Z	p	Interpretation
Overall Financial Knowledge ✻ Number of Dependents	0.11	0.12	0.93	0.35	No significant moderation
Overall Financial Attitude ✻ Number of Dependents	0.13	0.16	0.81	0.42	No significant Moderation
Overall Financial Practice ✻ Number of Dependents	0.03	0.09	0.28	0.78	No significant Moderation

Specifically, financial knowledge has a positive estimate (0.11), however, it lacks statistical significance ($p = 0.35$), suggesting that an increase in the number of dependents would result in a statistically insignificant increase in the relationship with saving behavior. This negates the findings of Mboli and Jude (2025), revealing that South African women with higher financial knowledge were more likely to handle effectively the finances of a larger family size.

Moreover, financial attitude also presents a positive yet insignificant moderation on the relationship with saving behavior (Est = 0.13, p = 0.42). This finding indicates that the number of dependents does not significantly change the influence of financial attitude on how OFWs save. The result aligns with Ismail et al. (2020), who found that a positive financial attitude does not necessarily predict saving behavior.

Financial practice similarly exhibits the least estimate with an insignificant moderation among the three variables, indicating an almost negligible moderating effect of dependents on the relationship with saving behavior. This data suggests that the saving behavior of OFWs is shaped primarily by the financial management practices themselves, regardless of the number of residing dependents. This is supported by Roy et al. (2025), who emphasized that financial practice alone has a strong and direct influence on saving behavior.

This analysis aligns similarly to the findings of Song et al. (2020), wherein they revealed that the number of children brought by China's One-Child Policy has only a minor effect (one to two percentage points) on people's saving behavior, even when compared to other regions without such a policy, suggesting that broader institutional and economic factors may influence saving behavior. This implies that the number of children does not substantially alter OFWs' ability to save, but rather other broader economic factors.

Overall, the number of dependents does not significantly moderate the relationship between financial literacy components (knowledge, attitude, and practice) and saving behavior. This means that having more or fewer dependents does not strengthen or weaken how these financial factors influence a person's saving behavior.

3.2 Summary of Findings

The findings of this study reveal the following:

1. The descriptive results revealed that OFWs with residing dependents are knowledgeable in terms of their finances (3.47). They demonstrated strong understanding in areas such as the time value of money, inflation, and electronic transactions, although they were less confident in computing compound interest.
2. The data revealed that OFWs display good financial attitude toward their finances (3.46). They highly valued awareness of their financial situation and the importance of understanding investment opportunities but showed less familiarity with the role of financial agents or brokers.
3. The findings revealed that OFWs display good practice toward their finances (3.34). They showed excellent habits in checking affordability before purchases and paying bills on time but were less capable of meeting needs beyond essentials and engaging in major life activities due to financial constraints.
4. OFWs exhibit an excellent level of saving behavior (3.61). This indicates that most OFWs consistently manage their finances responsibly and prioritize savings despite having dependents to support.
5. There is a negligible and statistically insignificant positive relationship between financial knowledge and the saving behavior of the respondents (r = 0.03, p =0.87). This means that higher levels of financial knowledge do not necessarily result in stronger saving habits.
   Additionally, there is a negligible and statistically insignificant positive relationship between the financial attitude and saving behavior of OFWs (r = 0.16, p = 0.32). This suggests that having a favorable outlook toward finances does not automatically influence saving decisions.
   It was also found that there is a significantly strong positive relationship between the financial practice and saving behavior of the OFWs (r = 0.44, p = 0.0028). This indicates that OFWs who consistently practice good financial habits are more likely to save effectively.
6. The number of dependents does not significantly moderate the relationship between financial knowledge and saving behavior (Est = 0.11, p = 0.35). This implies that the influence of financial

knowledge on the saving behavior of OFWs remains consistent regardless of the number of dependents they support.

The relationship between financial attitude and saving behavior is not significantly moderated by the number of dependents (Est = 0.11, p = 0.42).

This indicates that the effect of OFWs' financial outlook on saving behavior remains consistent regardless of the number of dependents.

The number of dependents does not significantly moderate the relationship between financial practice and saving behavior (Est = 0.03, p = 0.78). This implies that the saving behavior of OFWs is not notably affected by the number of dependents they support, even when their financial practices change.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

Financial knowledge, attitude, and practices influence the saving behavior of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Bahrain to varying degrees. The study revealed that while OFWs demonstrate a solid understanding of financial concepts and maintain a positive outlook toward money management, these factors alone do not translate into stronger saving behavior. Instead, it is their consistent financial practices—such as budgeting, monitoring expenses, paying bills on time, and evaluating affordability before purchases—that significantly drive their ability to save. OFWs also show excellent saving behavior overall, indicating that they prioritize financial security even while supporting dependents.

Furthermore, the number of dependents does not significantly moderate the relationship between financial knowledge, attitude, or practice and saving behavior. This suggests that regardless of how many dependents an OFW supports, their commitment to saving remains consistent. In essence, good financial practices, rather than knowledge or attitude alone, are the key determinants of effective saving among OFWs. These findings underscore the importance of promoting practical financial habits, as they have the most tangible impact on ensuring financial stability for OFWs and their families.

4.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. For OFWs:
    - 1.1 They may strengthen their financial knowledge, attitude, and practices through employing systematic financial management strategies such as budgeting, expense monitoring, and goal-oriented saving.
    - 1.2 They may also participate in comprehensive financial education programs to enhance their understanding of money management.
    - 1.3 OFWs may consider involving their dependents in financial discussions to promote shared responsibility and long-term financial stability for the household.
2. For Financial organizations:
    - 2.1 Financial organizations are recommended to consider developing comprehensive programs for OFWs with residing dependents to enhance their financial literacy.
    - 2.2 They may consider collaborating with OFW communities and embassies to raise awareness about smart financial practices, responsible borrowing, and long-term saving.
3. For Future researchers:
    - 3.1 Consider conducting a comparative study between OFWs living with dependents abroad and those supporting dependents in the Philippines. This comparison may provide more insights on how

the location of dependents influences financial knowledge, attitude, and saving behavior.
3.2 Consider other financial factors such as spending habits, investments, or financial well-being in general.

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