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Original Article

Credit Attitude and Intention among Youth Populations: A Comparative Study of India and Singapore

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Abstract *- Strong financial institutions normalize credit use in advanced economies like Singapore, while in developing economies such as India, platforms such as digital lending services are driving an increase in youth credit utilization. Younger consumers depend more on credit for everyday expenses, whereas previous generations used it mostly for asset-building. Even though previous studies have unearthed factors affecting credit attitudes across numerous demographics, few studies directly compare youth credit perceptions between developed and developing economies, specifically regarding financial responsibility and daily credit utilization. To analyze how social and economic variables influence attitudes towards credit in both emerging and developed nations, this study looks into how youth in Singapore and India approach, perceive, and effectively utilize credit, focusing on the cultural and socioeconomic differences between the two communities. With a quantitative approach, this study collects data from 75 respondents through an online survey targeting youth (ages 15-24) in India and Singapore. The survey included demographic and standardised scale questions to assess credit attitudes and intentions. Using t-test, ANOVA and regression analysis, the study finds that Singaporean youth have a significantly more favorable attitude toward credit and a stronger intention to use it than those in India. Also, participants without income have higher credit intentions than those with stable income, proving that financial necessity and optimism bias shape borrowing behavior. This presents a need for immersive programs promoting long-term financial planning and responsible borrowing, proving effective for youth-driven financial tools and policies.*

Keywords *- Credit Attitude, Credit Intention, Financial literacy, Youth credit behavior.*

1. Introduction

In modern commerce, the utilization of cashless payment methods is becoming prevalent in many different categories of economies, driven by new technological advancements and the augmentation of demand for convenience and efficiency. Through borrowing methods such as cash advances and deferred payments, credit empowers consumers to access goods, services, and financial resources with the promise of future repayment, providing access to funds and connecting account balances and credit utilization, offering users increased purchasing power and flexibility. From this, credit can be seen as the provision of financial resources or goods with the agreement that payment will be made at a future date. [1] It can be extended in various forms: (i) as personal loans, often unsecured, which provide individuals with the flexibility to consolidate debt or fund significant purchases; (ii) as credit cards, which offer revolving credit, empowering consumers with the convenience of borrowing up to a set limit and repaying over time; (iii) as mortgages, secured by the purchased property as collateral; and (iv) as business loans to equip entrepreneurs and companies with the capital necessary for operations, expansion, or investment [2]. The adoption of alternative credit data in consumer lending is growing, highlighting a change in the financial industry's approach to credit evaluation. The credit increases consumer expenditure by allowing individuals to finance the purchase of items they otherwise could not afford, which boosts the economy. The global consumer credit industry was estimated to be worth $11.8 billion in 2022 and is projected to rise to $24.3 billion between 2023 and 2032 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.8%. [3] Thus, the progressing use of credit demonstrates a shift in consumer behavior driven by generational preferences and economic trends.

Unlike previous generations, whose use of credit often focused on asset-building investments like homes and vehicles, younger generations increasingly leverage credit for operational spending, such as daily expenses and lifestyle maintenance. [4] This trend can arise due to recent cultural and economic shifts, such as "Buy Now, Pay Later" (BNPL) platforms that place short-term demands ahead of long-term planning. In Singapore, where youth's financial literacy rates are around 90%, younger demographics display a distinct approach to credit. As delineated by DBS head of payments

and platforms Anthony Seow, while credit card adoption among youths aged 21-30 rose by 20% from 2019 to 2022, cultural norms promoting saving over debt have shaped cautious borrowing habits. [5] Many young consumers prioritize building financial reserves before taking on debt obligations. Research from the American Bankruptcy Institute [6] shows that cultural attitudes are critical for shaping perceptions of debt. Debt may be viewed cautiously in emerging markets as a last resort. [7] For one, India, as an emerging economy, is experiencing growth in its credit market as a consequence of the increasing disposable incomes of their population, greater financial inclusion, and the proliferation of digital lending platforms post-demonetization (2016), which invalidated high-denomination banknotes and created a cash shortage, hence leading to more credit usage and demand. [8]

However, developed economies like Singapore normalize credit usage, establishing it as a factor for financial growth. Access to credit is widespread, facilitated by dependable banking systems and well-regulated markets that stimulate consumer confidence in borrowing. In Singapore, modernity and utilitarianism affect cultural views towards credit, with high credit card usage indicating trust in financial institutions and consumer protection measures. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), which maintains strict control and safeguards customers against predatory lending practices, is responsible for the nation's highly developed regulatory environment.

Young individuals in Singapore and India display contrasting attitudes towards credit. Despite the widespread use of credit cards in Singapore-where 2.4 million individuals hold more than four accounts-young Singaporeans exhibit a measured approach to borrowing. Conversely, in India, the youth demographic is increasingly embracing credit through digital platforms, indicated by a recent report in which TransUnion CIBIL posits that 91% of new credit users in FY 23-24 were Millennials and Gen Z, indicating a significant trend towards credit adoption among younger consumers. [9]-[11] However, challenges persist, such as prevailing cultural attitudes towards debt that view borrowing with scepticism and low financial literacy levels, with only about 24% of young adults reportedly possessing adequate financial knowledge to make informed credit decisions. [12] Prior studies have also been conducted to unearth the factors influencing credit perception and adoption across various demographics. For one, a study conducted in Melaka, Malaysia, focused on bank policies, perceived benefits, service quality, and consumer attitudes to identify factors affecting credit card adoption. The study, which was collected from data from 200 respondents, found that all four factors benefit consumers' perceptions of credit card usage. [13] Another study in Kenya, Africa, focused on the differences in credit perception and financial behavior between un(der)banked consumers and how this affects credit usage. The study revealed that the source of financial advice, trust in financial institutions, and characteristics of financial instruments each influence un(der)banked consumers' credit usage patterns. [14]

Among the youth population, one study administered in the United States looked into the relationship between financial literacy, credit card usage, and debt levels among college students regarding tuition payment, revealing that even though most students had access to credit cards, those who lacked financial literacy were more likely to have large balances and use credit in risky ways, which were frequently caused by a failure to comprehend interest rates and terms of repayment. [15] Meanwhile, a study in Ghana surveyed 150 students at Ghana's Valley View University found that students often take a cautious approach to borrowing and frequently turn to family support or unofficial loans, even if access to traditional credit institutions is still restricted. [16] The study concluded that social and economic limitations influenced students' perceptions of entrepreneurship, with many considering it a dangerous endeavour best left to wealthy or naturally talented businesspeople. Despite these misgivings, the survey found that students were willing to use credit in better circumstances, as seen by the positive correlation ($R2 = 0.11$) between credit availability and entrepreneurial inclinations.

On the other hand, a study conducted in South Africa with a sample of 630 participants examined Generation Y university students' financial behavior and credit utilization across four campuses, including traditional, technological, and comprehensive institutions. The results revealed that 73% of students relied on their family as their primary income source for allowances, and 71% of students used credit in some capacity, mainly through the government financial aid program NSFAS. A tiny proportion of students had trouble making payments, but most could handle their financial commitments. Also, the study found that students' views about credit and materialistic tendencies were slightly positive and that their intentions and attitudes about credit were largely motivated by impulsive buying. [17]

There have also been some studies about credit that geographically compare two different demographics, such as one study about geographical credit behavior variations targeting urban and rural China. The study, which used data from a nationwide survey of Chinese households, found that while there may not be a discernible difference between the two groups, supply-side constraints, such as restricted access to financial institutions and low credit card acceptance in rural areas, make it less likely for rural households to own credit cards. [18] Furthermore, specific to the youth demographic, one study conducted at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign found within both undergraduate and graduate populations that while most students use credit responsibly, some students, particularly those with multiple credit cards or significant balances, are at greater financial risk due to limited

financial knowledge or inadequate financial aid. [19]A dearth of studies, though, explicitly examines how young people in developing and developed economies see credit, particularly regarding individuals' views on the possibility of long-term credit usage for managing expenses. Young people have a critical role in identifying financial trends, and as digital financial platforms gain traction, their opinions on credit significantly impact economic patterns.

Credit is a powerful tool for economic growth, providing access to opportunities, breaking poverty cycles, and supporting the development of enterprises and job creation. [20] However, how young people view and use credit is guided by the socioeconomic contexts to which they are exposed, whether in a wealthy or relatively poor economy. For instance, access to financial literacy and credit systems is more prevalent in developed economies, while youth in developing areas may face undeniable systemic barriers.

Focusing on accentuating the socioeconomic and cultural constituents that influence youth perspectives, this study aims to close the information gap by attracting attention to one central question: how do young people in prosperous economies versus those in emerging economies view and use credit? Designing financial mechanisms that encourage responsible credit use and global economic empowerment among young people is critical for understanding these distinctions.

Hence, this study investigates precisely how the youth population in Singapore and India views and accepts credit. In order to conduct an inquiry into the opinions of the target population in these two nations on the uses of credit individually, an online survey was conducted. This survey was distributed to youth respondents in these two countries to examine personal views on the prospect of credit as financing or daily payments. A quantitative study was conducted to analyze data, and primary data was collected through structured survey questions divided by an age filter, demographic, and credit-focused sections.

2. Methodology

2.1. Research Aim and Hypotheses

This study aims to investigate and contrast the attitudes and intentions of young people in Singapore and India concerning credit. The research aims to clarify how economic circumstances, social conventions, and financial surroundings influence the youth perspective towards credit by concentrating on these two different economies-one developed and the other developing.

The study's hypotheses are outlined as follows:

- H_{01}: There is no significant difference between the Credit Attitude of Indian and Singaporean residents.
- H_{02}: There is no significant difference between the Credit Intention of Indian and Singaporean residents.
- H_{03}: There is no significant difference in Credit Attitude based on employment status.
- H_{04}: There is no significant difference in Credit Intention based on employment status.
- H_{05}: There is no significant difference in Credit Attitude based on gender.
- H_{06}: There is no significant difference in Credit Intention based on gender.
- H_{07}: There is no significant difference in the Credit Attitude of respondents based on annual household income in Singapore.
- H_{08}: There is no significant difference in the Credit Intention of respondents based on annual household income in Singapore.
- H_{09}: There is no significant difference in the Credit Attitude of respondents based on annual household income in India.
- H_{10}: There is no significant difference in the Credit Intention of respondents based on annual household income in India.
- H_{11}: There is no significant difference in Credit Attitude based on educational attainment.
- H_{12}: There is no significant difference in Credit Intention based on educational attainment.
- H_{13}: Credit Attitude has no significant impact on credit intention.

2.2. Research Design and Data Collection

Using an online survey via Google Forms, quantitative data was collected to obtain responses concerning youth perceptions and acceptance of credit in India and Singapore. The survey began with a filter question, "How old are you?" to ensure only respondents within the youth age bracket ("persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years," as defined by the United Nations) were included. [21] The second section of the survey focused on demographic details, such as geography, education level, and income.

The final section consisted of credit-focused survey questions, which delved into participants' attitudes and intentions regarding credit. This contained standardized scales of 7 items each, measured on a 6-point balanced forced scale, chosen to encourage respondents to take a definitive stance on each statement. Used to measure the degree of impact of various factors on credit attitudes and intentions, participants were directed to choose between options ranging from *"Strongly Disagree"* to *"Strongly Agree."*

2.3. Sampling and Sample Characteristics

In order to choose participants who satisfied the inclusion requirements of the target young age range and geographic focus within Singapore and India, the study combined convenience and judgment sampling procedures. Although 80 replies were gathered, the final sample size was reduced to 75 respondents using filter questions. The statistics revealed a

roughly similar distribution of each demographic; for example, 36% of students had a high school diploma, 33% had a bachelor's degree, and 31% had a master's degree.

Regarding gender, 49% of participants were men and 48% were women. Income levels differed among Singaporeans: 25% of the respondents were from households with lower incomes (less than S$150,000 annually), another 25% were from households with higher incomes (more than S$150,000 p.a.), and another 25% were from higher-income households (above S$150,000 p.a.), indicating an even split. As for India, 23% were from lower-income socio-economic backgrounds (below ₹20,00,000), while 27% were from higher-income households (above ₹20,00,000).

2.4. Scales and Tools Used

The study intended to examine the construct of Credit Attitude by utilizing a previously validated scale developed by Xiao et al. [22] and Lea et al. [23]. This construct was assessed through statements such as "Credit cards and credit accounts are a convenient way for people to make purchases" and "Credit cards and credit accounts are an essential part of today's lifestyle." For the construct of Credit Intention, the study drew frameworks by Fishbein and Ajzen [24] and Ajzen [25]. This construct was measured using statements like "I plan on applying for credit accounts (e.g., store cards, loans, cell phone contracts) when I start working" and "If given the opportunity, I would buy on credit."

2.5. Ethical Considerations and Informed Consent

Informed consent was obtained from all participants through the survey description before they commenced the survey. The precaution was taken to ensure that no personal information would be associated with names or email addresses due to the sensitive nature of some of the survey questions. Participation was entirely voluntary, with participants informed that they "may choose to withdraw from the study at any point". To maintain anonymity and confidentiality, participants were assured that all information they provided would remain confidential and that their identity would not be disclosed to any third party.

3. Results and Discussion

This section investigates the differing attitudes and usage patterns of credit among youth populations and important variables affecting young people's borrowing habits, risk perception, and financial responsibility in both nations.

Table 1. Independent T-Test Analysis of Credit Attitude (CA) and Credit Intention (CI) of respondents based on location (N=75)

		n	M	SD	t	p
CA	Singapore	38	32.47	6.43	2.89	0.005***
	India	37	28.08	6.71		
CI	Singapore	38	29.87	7.66	2.68	0.009***
	India	37	25.43	6.66		

***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p< 0.10

There is a substantial difference in Credit Attitude (CA) and Credit Intention (CI) between respondents from Singapore and India, as p<0.01 (See Table 1). In the case of Credit Attitude scores, respondents from Singapore (M=32.47, SD=6.43) reported substantially higher mean scores compared to respondents from India (M=28.08, SD=6.71), t(73)=2.89, p=0.005. Similarly, it can be said that there is a notable difference in the Credit Intention scores of respondents from Singapore (M=29.87, SD=7.66) and India (M=25.43, SD=6.66), t(73)=2.68, p=0.009. Hence, from this, H_{01} and H_{02} have been rejected, indicating that nationality significantly impacts the credit attitudes and intentions of young individuals.

The findings showcase how individuals in Singapore may tend to have a more favorable perception of credit and a more prominent inclination to utilize it compared to those in India. A possible explanation could be the difference in economic conditions and financial market development between the two countries. Singapore, a highly developed financial hub with widespread access to credit facilities, may encourage individuals to perceive credit as a valuable and manageable financial expenditure method. Meanwhile, individuals in India may have a more cautious approach to credit, potentially due to lower financial inclusion, cultural preferences for debt aversion, or differences in credit accessibility. Additionally, income levels may affect these attitudes.

Research shows that income levels positively correlate with risk tolerance, meaning that those earning more are more inclined to take on greater financial risks. [26] Given that Singapore has a higher per capita income than India, individuals from Singapore might feel a greater tolerance towards risk behavior, making them more open to utilizing credit. In contrast, individuals in India may demonstrate more risk aversion, leading to lower credit intention and a more conservative approach toward borrowing.

Table 2. Independent T-Test Analysis of Credit Attitude (CA) and Credit Intention (CI) of respondents based on whether they are currently receiving any form of income (N=75)

		n	M	SD	t	p
CA	Yes	37	28.3	7.31	-2.58	0.012**
	No	38	32.26	5.91		
CI	Yes	37	25.05	7.25	-3.18	0.002***
	No	38	30.24	6.86		

***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p< 0.10

As shown in Table 2, there are significant differences in Credit Attitude (CA) and Credit Intention (CI) between respondents who are currently receiving income and those who are not, with p<0.05 for Credit Attitude and p<0.01 for Credit Intention. For Credit Attitude, respondents who are not receiving income (M=32.26, SD=5.91) maintained higher scores than those who are receiving income (M=28.3, SD=7.31), t(73) =-2.58, p=0.012. Similarly, for Credit Intention, respondents who are not receiving income

(M=30.24, SD=6.86) also reported notably higher scores compared to those who are receiving income (M=25.05, SD=7.25), t(73) =-3.18, p=0.002. Thus, H_{03} and H_{04} have been rejected. Hence, income status significantly impacts individuals' attitudes and intentions toward credit. This might suggest that individuals who currently are not receiving income tend to have a more favorable approach and perception of credit and a stronger inclination to utilize it compared to those with a steady income. One reason is that those with a steady income could view credit as perilous and unneeded because they can use their fixed income to pay for expenses without pursuing debt.

On the other hand, those without income might view credit as a practical way to finance and spend money, thus minimising the perceived risk of borrowing. This finding supports the results of previous research showing that individuals with irregular or no income are more likely to perceive credit as a necessary financial tool and are more inclined to borrow, even if it increases the risk of financial distress. [27]

Along with the variables mentioned above, individuals without income may also display optimism bias based solely on the belief that future financial achievements will permit them to handle credit, thereby enhancing their credit intention effectively. With this in mind, a study found that low-income individuals exhibit greater financial optimism bias, often overestimating their future financial stability and underestimating risks. [28] Conversely, people with steady incomes might take a more cautious approach to money, putting savings ahead of borrowing and showing less desire to take out loans. Past research states that individuals with stable incomes are less prone to seek credit unless necessary, which lends credence to this notion. [29] Also, another study has shown that those receiving stable incomes are more likely to exercise self-control in financial decision-making, prioritizing long-term security over short-term liquidity. [30]

Table 3. Independent T-Test Analysis of Credit Attitude (CA) and Credit Intention (CI) of respondents based on gender (N=73)

		n	M	SD	t	p
CA	Male	37	29.95	7.97	-0.64	0.527
	Female	36	30.97	5.64		
CI	Male	37	27.27	8.11	-0.83	0.407
	Female	36	38.69	6.38		

***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p< 0.10

Based on the independent sample t-test in Table 3, it can be inferred that there are no significant differences in the Credit Attitude (CA) scores of male respondents (M=29.95, SD=7.97) and female respondents (M=30.97, SD=5.64), t(71) =-0.64, p>0.05. Similarly, there are no significant differences in the Credit Intention (CI) scores of male respondents (M=27.27, SD=8.11) and female respondents (M=38.69, SD=6.38), t(71)=-0.83, p>0.10. Hence, H_{05} and H_{06} have been retained.

These results show that the gender of the individual does not play an adequate role in affecting credit attitudes and credit intentions. While psychological research generally suggests that males tend to take greater financial risks than females [31], some researchers caution that such conclusions may be oversimplified and that despite a general trend of women being more risk-averse, there is adequate counterevidence to challenge a gender-based distinction in risk attitudes. In particular, they emphasize that due to the exclusion of variables such as individual wealth, many studies on gender differences in risk attitudes may be biased. [32]

A possible explanation could be that both men and women have access to similar financial resources, education, and exposure to credit-related information, leading to comparable attitudes towards credit. For example, a study by the World Bank has shown that digital financial services have helped to close the gap concerning gender in ownership of financial accounts and accessibility to credit by lowering the cost of access to financial services and bypassing barriers imposed by social norms and mobility restrictions. [33] Also, societal shifts towards independence and financial knowledge for both genders may contribute to the similarities in credit-related behaviors. Educational attainment profoundly accounts for any disparities regarding this knowledge. Thus, as women have achieved higher education levels in recent years, their financial literacy has increased accordingly. [34]

Table 4. Independent T-Test Analysis of Credit Attitude (CA) and Credit Intention (CI) based on household income

			n	M	SD	t	p
CA	SGP	>S$150K	19	33.74	5.8	1.22	0.231
		<S$150K	19	31.21	6.92		
	IND	<₹20L	17	29.24	5.21	1	0.327
		>₹20L	20	37.1	7.75		
CI	SGP	>S$150K	19	30.63	7.24	0.61	0.546
		<S$150K	19	29.11	8.18		
	IND	<₹20L	17	25.76	6.03	0.28	0.781
		>₹20L	20	25.15	7.31		

***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p< 0.10

Based on the independent sample t-test in Table 4, there are no significant differences in the Credit Attitude (CA) and Credit Intention (CI) scores across different household income levels in both Singaporean dollar and Indian rupee terms. Respondents with household incomes above S$150,000 p.a. (M=33.74, SD=5.80) did not significantly differ in Credit

Attitude from those with household incomes below S$150,000 p.a. (M=31.21, SD=6.92), t(36)=1.22, p>0.10. Similarly, their Credit Intention scores (M=30.63, SD=7.24) were not significantly different from those of respondents with household incomes below S$150,000 p.a. (M=29.11, SD=8.18), t(36)=0.61, p>0.10. Likewise, for respondents categorized by income in Indian rupees, there were no significant differences in Credit Attitude between those with

household incomes below ₹20,00,000 p.a. (M=29.24, SD=5.21) and those with household incomes above ₹20,00,000 p.a. (M=37.10, SD=7.75), t(35)=1, p>0.10. Similarly, Credit Intention scores did not significantly differ between respondents with household incomes below ₹20,00,000 p.a. (M=25.76, SD=6.03) and those with household incomes above ₹20,00,000 p.a. (M=25.15, SD=7.31), t(35)=0.28, p>0.10. Thus, H_{07}, H_{08}, H_{09}, and H_{10} have been retained. One possible explanation could be the increasing digitalization of financial services, making access to credit information and opportunities more uniform across different income groups. Access to official accounts has been greatly enhanced by digital financial services, particularly for marginalized populations. This has helped reduce remittance transaction costs, facilitating financial support and poverty alleviation. [35] Moreover, the widespread availability of digital banking, credit, and financial advisory services through mobile applications has likely reduced the knowledge gap between high- and low-income individuals. Furthermore, digital financial services like digital credit platforms and mobile banking have greatly improved financial inclusion as they support providing access to credit and financial information to previously under-represented populations, including low-income groups. [36]

Table 5. ANOVA Test of Credit Attitude on the basis of highest level of education (N=75)

Sources of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	p
Between Groups	334.67	2	167.33	3.79	0.027**
Within Groups	3175.28	72	44.1		
Total	3509.95	74			
		Mean Difference		**t**	**p**
High School - Master's Degree		4.57		2.43	0.018**
High School - Bachelor's Degree		-0.02		-0.01	0.993
Master's Degree - Bachelor's Degree		-4.59		-2.39	0.019**

***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p< 0.10

Table 6. ANOVA Test of Credit Intention on the basis of highest level of education (N=75)

Sources of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	p
Between Groups	382.7	2	191.35	3.67	0.03**
Within Groups	3755.62	72	52.16		
Total	4138.32	74			
		Mean Difference		**t**	**p**
High School - Master's Degree		5.49		2.68	0.009***
High School - Bachelor's Degree		3.24		1.62	0.11
Master's Degree - Bachelor's Degree		-2.24		-1.08	0.286

***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p< 0.10

In Table 5, a one-way ANOVA was used to examine the effect of participants' highest level of education on Credit Attitude (CA). The results show a pronounced effect of education level on Credit Attitude, F(2, 72)=3.79, p=0.027. Bonferroni's post-hoc tests unveil that the respondents with a master's degree (M=24.96, SD=7.29) had higher Credit Attitude scores than those with solely a high school education (= 30.44, SD=7.08), p = 0.018. Also, respondents with a master's degree had Credit Attitude scores that were quite higher than those with a bachelor's degree (M=27.2, SD=7.31), p=0.019.

However, no significant differences were found between high school and bachelor's degree holders, p=0.993. Therefore, H_{11} has been rejected. Similarly, Table 6 showcases a one-way ANOVA to examine the effect of a participant's highest level of education on Credit Intention. The results show a profound effect of education level on Credit Intention, F(2, 72)=3.67, p=0.03. Bonferroni's post-hoc tests revealed that participants with a master's degree (M=24.96, SD=7.29) had much higher Credit Intention scores than those with solely a high school education (M=30.44, SD=7.08), p=0.009.

However, between participants with a bachelor's degree and those with either a high school or master's degree, no significant differences were found, p>0.05. Thus, H_{12} has been rejected.These findings align with previous research; attitudes towards credit are positively related to education, which means that individuals with higher educational attainment may possess more financial knowledge and confidence in managing credit. [37] In addition, individuals with higher education levels often have more credit cards and a better understanding of credit management, leading to more positive credit attitudes. For one, a study at Purdue University empirically found that higher education levels were associated with increased credit card usage. [38] More education may equip individuals with the financial literacy needed to make informed decisions based on their financial needs. [39] This is because education augments financial knowledge and confidence, making individuals more comfortable with the idea of credit and more likely to use it responsibly in the

future. [40] As a result, those with relatively advanced education are more likely to utilize credit cards regularly, leading to a better understanding of credit management and a better intention of using credit.

A regression analysis was carried out with Credit Attitude as the only independent variable (see Table 7). The predictive effect of Credit Attitude on Credit Intention was confirmed, B=0.7, t(75)=7.2, R^2=0.42, F=51.8, p<0.001. Credit Attitude explains 42 percent of the variability in the respondents' Credit Intention scores. Through this test, H_{13} has been rejected.

Table 7. Regression Analysis of Credit Attitude on Credit Intention (N=75)

Model	B	SE B	t	p
Constant	6.48	3.02	2.15	.035
Credit Attitude	0.7	0.1	7.2	<0.001***
R^2		0.42		
F		51.8		<.001

***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p< 0.10, B = Coefficients, SE B = Standard Error

This finding is consistent with the Theory of Planned Behavior, which posits that attitudes toward a behavior substantially influence the intention to perform that behavior. [25] This theory can further be applied to understand how individual attitudes toward credit affect their intentions to use credit. A 2024 study states that individuals with a favourable credit attitude are more likely to intend to use consumer credit, which subsequently leads to actual credit usage. [41]

4. Conclusion

This study evaluates how nationality, income, employment status, and educational attainment shape consumers' perspectives on credit. The two focused constructions show that Singapore and India, nations with different economic systems, differ considerably in their attitudes and intentions regarding credit. In contrast to India, where credit access is more restricted and people are more cautious, Singapore provides a developed financial sector with more cautious attitudes and intentions concerning borrowing. First, the disparities in credit attitudes and intentions between young people in Singapore and India imply that access to financial education and the financial industry's growth play an integral role in influencing how the youth population perceives credit. Therefore, broadening financial education initiatives and improving access to credit-related data in developing nations may aid in closing the perception gap on credit and promoting prudent borrowing practices.

The results, furthermore, show that compared to people with maintained incomes, those without it typically had higher credit intentions and a more enthusiastic disposition towards borrowing. This emphasizes the need for programs that focus on the importance of long-term financial planning and debt management strategies, especially those that are helpful for youth who are financially dependent or in transitional income phases. Moreover, the absence of significant gender-based differences in credit attitudes and intentions suggests that financial behaviors among young men and women are increasingly converging. Instead of previous single-country or demographic-limited studies, this study provides a more detailed and context-sensitive understanding by directly comparing young populations in Singapore and India.

It does this by analyzing not only general credit usage patterns but also how particular circumstances comprising of consistent versus fluctuating income levels, full-time versus part-time employment status, levels of educational attainment (secondary, tertiary, postgraduate), perceptions of institutional trust, and financial literacy programs influence credit attitudes and intentions. One limitation of this study is the sample size, which is limited to 80 responses within Singapore and India, which may not fully represent global trends of the relationship between credit attitude and intention within developed and developing economies. Future research could accumulate more developed and developing economies to assess whether economic conditions, politics, or cultural factors influence the observed patterns differently.

Another limitation is that the study's scope primarily includes data from urban middle-class individuals residing in Singapore and India. Future research should further explore a larger sample to include a more diverse population, potentially being a larger sample of individuals from different ethnic backgrounds to analyze socioeconomic backgrounds, which could improve the generalizability of the findings.

Also, future research could include measures that look into the psychology of borrowing behaviors, such as the tendency for impulsive spending with credit, to gain deeper insights into consumer credit misuse within behavioral finance to reveal a potential negative correlation of credit usage on individuals. Moreover, potential biases in data collection, such as self-reported financial habits or survey response bias, may impact the accuracy of the results. Future studies could use objective financial records or longitudinal data to minimize biases and ensure more reliable conclusions.

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