

**WORKING PROFESSIONALS' CONSUMER CREDIT ENGAGEMENT,
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR, AND HEDONIC LIFESTYLE**

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CERTIFICATE OF PANEL APPROVAL

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Lovely
Marlon
Samantha

DEDICATION

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ABSTRACT

As a transformative financial service provider in modern consumer finance, consumer credit has emerged as an increasingly relevant credit option for individuals seeking access to consumer goods and services. This study utilized a descriptive-correlational research design and use a quantitative approach to examine relationships between variables. The study was conducted in Ozamiz City, focusing on both teaching and non-teaching working professionals. There were 270 working individuals chosen through purposive sampling. Consumer Credit Engagement, Financial Management Behavior, and Hedonic Lifestyle Survey Questionnaires were used as instruments in gathering the data. *Mean and Standard Deviation* and *Regression Analysis* were used as data analysis. Working professionals in Ozamiz City demonstrate high consumer credit engagement. They also exhibit generally strong financial management behavior. A high hedonic lifestyle is evident, with individuals prioritizing emotional well-being, pleasure-seeking, social leisure activities, and moderate materialism. Findings revealed that consumer credit engagement significantly enhances financial management behavior, improving budgeting, spending control, and overall financial responsibility. Likewise, greater access to credit positively influences hedonic tendencies, encouraging lifestyle-oriented and consumption-driven behaviors. Future research is recommended to include larger samples, additional variables, and qualitative approaches to deepen understanding. Individuals are encouraged to practice disciplined budgeting, evaluate credit terms carefully, and balance hedonic desires with responsible financial planning to avoid long-term financial strain.

Keywords: *consumer credit engagement, financial management, financial responsibility, hedonic lifestyle, spending behavior, working professionals*

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

As a transformative financial service provider in modern consumer finance, consumer credit has emerged as an increasingly relevant credit option for individuals seeking access to consumer goods and services (Bialowolski, 2023). Its widespread usage significantly impacts individuals' lives, particularly working professionals, by enabling them to acquire emergency loans and essential items such as gadgets, appliances, and furniture, which improve their living standards (Arnold, 2003). Additionally, consumer credit also supports the acquisition of non-essential, yet highly sought-after goods and experiences that align with a hedonic lifestyle, such as entertainment, vacations, and luxury products, providing individuals with the ability to fulfil both their practical and leisure desires (Sara, 2023). For low-income households, traditional financial services are often inaccessible due to stringent requirements, leading many to turn to alternative credit options like consumer credit (Oppong, 2023).

Consumer credit has emerged as a crucial financial service that grants individuals the ability to acquire both essential and non-essential goods and services (Domanban, 2023). Consumer credit refers to consumer installment financing services, such as those provided by Home Credit Philippines, where working professionals can purchase items like gadgets, appliances, and furniture through short-term, fixed-payment loan arrangements (Luca, 2024). These credit services are often unsecured, do not require a credit card, and are accessible even to individuals with limited or no banking history.

They are primarily used for personal consumption rather than home mortgages or real estate loans.

Credit in this context, is defined as a financial arrangement where a consumer receives goods or services now and agrees to repay the cost over a set period, often with interest. In the case of consumer credit, this involves borrowing to acquire lifestyle or personal use items and making payments over time in installments (Shanbhag, 2022). Globally, the utilization of consumer credit spans diverse demographic groups, including working professionals who often rely on it for personal and lifestyle improvements (Thippayana, 2023). In Ireland and various parts of Europe, consumer credit has become an integral part of daily financial practices (Esme Terry, 2021). Their cultural perspectives on credit significantly influence how they engage with these credit facilities (Nsiah, 2023).

Working professionals exhibit a notable level of engagement with consumer credit that supports both their professional and personal aspirations (Lotto, 2023). The adoption of consumer credit among professionals varies globally, reflecting differences in financial behavior shaped by economic conditions, social norms, and the availability of alternative credit services (Zang, 2023). These credit patterns let working professionals perceive and manage credit across regions (Thippayana, 2023). As consumer credit becomes increasingly intertwined with daily life, it directly impacts lifestyle behaviors and patterns of material acquisition (Li, 2021). Some individuals find satisfaction and fulfillment in obtaining desired possessions, while others experience stress from the accumulating financial obligations. This dual effect raises important questions about how consumer

credit shapes not only financial stability but also well-being and lifestyle satisfaction (Khandelwal, 2021).

Globally, working professionals employ various financial management strategies when utilizing consumer credit (Domanban, 2023). These strategies are influenced by regional economic climates and the extent of financial literacy. Professionals from different globalized regions must balance the desire to enhance their lifestyles with the need to manage debts responsibly (Minina, 2021). These practices help them clarify how consumer credit usage aligns with sound financial management (Tang, 2021).

One of the most prominent outcomes of consumer credit usage is the cultivation of a hedonic lifestyle. This suggests that individuals acquire possessions to boost their happiness and sense of accomplishment (Devi, 2023). While new acquisitions may bring short-term satisfaction, the recurring need to maintain such a lifestyle can result in financial strain and anxiety over time (Cartwright, 2024). These purchases may or may not offer lasting value, which is crucial to assessing the long-term impact of consumer credit on well-being (Bialowolski, 2021).

In the context of the Philippines, consumer credit has been embraced by many working professionals to elevate their living standards (Never, 2021). However, the increasing reliance on credit poses challenges to financial management and raises concerns about sustaining a balanced lifestyle (Khandelwal, 2021). Despite the apparent advantages, the stress from ongoing debt can undermine the perceived benefits of credit-driven material acquisition (Drentea, 2021).

Despite the growing body of literature on credit management and financial stability, in understanding the specific intersection between consumer credit, financial

management behavior, and hedonic lifestyle among working professionals (Domanban, 2023). Most studies focus on either credit practices or lifestyle impacts independently, leaving a void in analyzing their combined effects (Hohnen, 2021).

This study holds significant value in the fields of consumer finance, behavioral economics, and lifestyle studies (Gomes, 2023). By closely examining how working professionals engage with consumer credit and how this engagement influences their financial management practices and hedonic lifestyle, the research offers nuanced insights into contemporary credit behavior. Specifically, it contributes to the understanding of credit utilization patterns among middle-income earners, highlighting the psychological and behavioral impacts of consumer financing in both global and Philippine contexts (Domanban, 2023).

Theoretical Framework

This study employed three theories namely: Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) (Ajzen, 1991), Financial Socialization Theory (Gudmunson, 2011), and Prospect Theory (Tversky & Kahneman, 1979).

The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) (Ajzen, 1991) posits that an individual's intention to perform a specific behavior is influenced by three key factors: attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. These elements interact to shape an individual's conduct. In this context, TPB serves as a valuable model for understanding financial decision-making, particularly in relation to financial products like consumer credit. Attitude refers to an individual's positive or negative evaluation of engaging in a behavior, such as using consumer credit. Subjective norms encompass perceived social

pressures to engage in or avoid certain behaviors, with influence derived from peer groups, workplace culture, and societal norms. Perceived behavioral control is a person's perception of the ease or difficulty of performing the behavior, often shaped by past experiences and the perceived availability of resources or obstacles.

In the financial domain, TPB helps explain how individuals' attitudes toward money, their perceptions of financial control, and social influences affect their engagement with consumer credit. Specifically, TPB can elucidate why financial decisions, including the use of consumer credit, are often driven by a combination of cognitive assessments (e.g., attitudes toward credit), social pressures (e.g., subjective norms from peers), and perceived ability to manage financial risks (e.g., perceived behavioral control).

TPB has been widely applied to explain how individuals make financial decisions, as demonstrated in several studies, including the work of (Shih 2022). In the context of Taiwan's electronic sector, the study found that employees' perceptions of financial control, such as their confidence in managing financial resources and handling investment-related risks, significantly influenced their investment behaviors. This finding supports TPB's core assumption that perceived behavioral control plays a crucial role in shaping intentions and actual actions. Moreover, subjective norms, which refer to the influence of colleagues, family members, and social networks, were shown to encourage participation in financial activities when such behaviors were viewed favorably by important others. Positive attitudes toward investing and financial management further strengthened individuals' willingness to engage in these activities.

Financial Socialization Theory (Gudmunson & Danes, 2011) explores how individuals' financial behaviors are shaped by early and ongoing socialization processes. These include familial, societal, and educational influences that affect one's approach to money. This theory suggests that financial knowledge and attitudes are largely learned through social interactions, both in the family and the broader community.

In this study, Financial Socialization Theory underscores the role of past financial experiences and cultural context in shaping professionals' engagement with credit products. The way individuals were socialized to understand money management in their youth—whether through direct instruction from parents, personal experience, or exposure to peer behaviors—can significantly influence their adult financial choices, including the use of consumer credit.

This theory further complements TPB by suggesting that financial habits and behaviors are not only shaped by rational cognitive factors (e.g., attitudes and perceived control) but also by learned financial practices that occur in one's formative years. These influences can help explain why some individuals are more prone to engage with financial products like consumer credit than others, even when the associated risks are known.

Meanwhile, Prospect Theory (Tversky & Kahneman, 1979) is a key psychological theory that addresses decision-making under conditions of risk and uncertainty. The concept of loss aversion suggests that losses are psychologically felt more intensely than equivalent gains. In financial contexts, individuals are often more motivated to avoid losses than to achieve gains, which can lead to risk-averse behavior when confronted with potential financial loss.

However, in the case of consumer credit, loss aversion can explain why individuals might take on debt even when faced with future financial risks. The immediate gratification provided by consumer credit, enabling the purchase of luxury goods, maintaining a desired lifestyle, or satisfying hedonic impulses, often outweighs the perceived risks of future debt. In this way, Prospect Theory helps us understand why individuals may justify engaging in behaviors like borrowing or taking on debt, despite knowing the long-term financial consequences.

Additionally, Prospect Theory explains how mental accounting and framing effects influence financial decisions. For example, professionals might view the immediate benefits of consumer credit (such as increased consumption or status) as outweighing the potential future loss, particularly when the future consequences of debt are framed as more abstract or distant.

The integration of TPB, Financial Socialization Theory, and Prospect Theory offers a comprehensive framework for understanding financial decision-making. TPB provides a cognitive and predictive lens, Financial Socialization Theory adds a developmental and cultural perspective, and Prospect Theory highlights the psychological biases that underlie financial behavior. These frameworks allow the researchers to examine how professionals' financial decisions, particularly their engagement with consumer credit, are shaped by: cognitive factors (e.g., attitudes and perceived control), social influences (e.g., peer pressure and learned financial behaviors), and psychological biases (e.g., loss aversion and mental accounting). This multifaceted approach is particularly relevant for understanding the complexities of financial behaviors in modern

consumer societies, where factors like peer influence, social status, and immediate gratification often outweigh long-term financial stability considerations.

Conceptual Framework

In this study, the independent variable is consumer credit engagement, which is composed of the constructs of trust, authenticity, security, and reliability, while the dependent variables are financial management behavior, consisting of spending behavior, financial attitude, and debt management, and hedonic lifestyle, which includes hedonic well-being, pleasure seeking, normative hedonism, and materialism. This research aims to examine how engagement in consumer credit services influences both the financial practices and lifestyle choices of working professionals. Understanding the nature of this relationship is crucial in identifying whether credit accessibility enhances financial stability or contributes to indulgent consumer behavior.

Consumer credit engagement refers to the way individuals make use of financial products such as home loans, mortgages, and personal loans (Bahadir, 2021). This variable is shaped by four primary constructs: trust, authenticity, security, and reliability. Conceptually, these constructs reflect both the psychological confidence and service quality that encourage consumer participation in credit systems. *Trust* refers to a consumer's confident belief that financial institutions will act in their best interest by fulfilling obligations, safeguarding funds, and maintaining ethical standards. It encompasses perceptions of honesty, competence, and benevolence, which reduce uncertainty and perceived risk in financial transactions. A high level of trust encourages consumers to engage more actively in credit services and establish long-term financial

relationships (Jafri et al., 2023). *Authenticity* pertains to the perceived genuineness, transparency, and honesty of financial institutions in presenting their credit products and services. It involves the clear disclosure of terms and conditions, absence of hidden charges, and consistency between communicated promises and actual service delivery. Authenticity enhances consumer confidence and promotes informed financial decision-making (Macca et al., 2023). *Security* refers to the extent to which financial institutions protect consumers' personal and financial information from unauthorized access, fraud, and cyber threats. It includes both technological safeguards, such as encryption and secure digital infrastructures, and institutional mechanisms like privacy policies and regulatory compliance. The presence of strong security systems reduces consumer anxiety and fosters greater participation in credit engagement (Zhou et al., 2022). *Reliability* is defined as the consistency and dependability of financial institutions in delivering accurate, timely, and efficient credit services. This includes proper account management, prompt processing of transactions, and sustained service quality over time. Reliability strengthens consumer trust and satisfaction, reinforcing continued usage of financial services (Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 2024).

Financial management behavior refers to the set of practices individuals adopt to effectively control and allocate their financial resources. This variable consists of three constructs: spending behavior, attitude toward money, and debt management. Conceptually, it reflects the extent to which individuals engage in financially responsible activities. *Spending behavior* refers to the patterns and decision-making processes individuals use in allocating their financial resources. It involves budgeting practices, prioritization of needs over wants, and the ability to regulate impulsive expenditures. This

reflects how individuals balance immediate consumption with long-term financial stability (Bai, 2023). *Financial attitude* refers to an individual's beliefs, values, and psychological disposition toward money and financial management. It encompasses one's mindset regarding saving, spending, and financial responsibility, which significantly influences financial decision-making. Individuals with a positive financial attitude are more likely to practice prudent financial behaviors, such as budgeting, saving, and avoiding unnecessary debt (Bai, 2023; Oppong, 2023). *Debt management* refers to an individual's ability to effectively handle credit obligations, including timely repayment, maintaining sustainable debt levels, and understanding credit terms and conditions. It also involves the strategic use of borrowing to avoid financial strain and over-indebtedness. Effective debt management reflects financial literacy, discipline, and responsibility in managing financial liabilities (Dubyna, 2022; Sara, I Made et al., 2023).

Hedonic lifestyle, on the other hand, captures an individual's tendency to seek sensory pleasure and emotional satisfaction through consumption. This variable is composed of four constructs: hedonic well-being, pleasure seeking, normative hedonism, and materialism. Conceptually, it refers to a lifestyle orientation that prioritizes instant gratification over delayed financial responsibility (Luo, 2021). *Hedonic well-being* refers to the level of happiness, pleasure, and emotional satisfaction individuals derive from consumption experiences. It emphasizes immediate gratification and positive emotional states rather than long-term fulfillment (Luo, 2021). *Pleasure seeking* is the active pursuit of enjoyable, exciting, and emotionally stimulating experiences, often through the acquisition of goods or services. It reflects a preference for consumption that provides instant satisfaction and sensory enjoyment (Khandelwal, 2021). *Normative hedonism*

refers to the belief that seeking pleasure and enjoyment is a natural and acceptable primary goal in life. Individuals with this orientation tend to justify indulgent behaviors and prioritize experiences that maximize happiness, even when these may conflict with long-term financial goals (Tarka, 2023). *Materialism* is defined as the importance individuals place on acquiring and owning material possessions as a source of happiness, success, and social status. Individuals with high levels of materialism often equate personal value with possessions, which can lead to increased consumption and potential financial strain (Tarka, 2023; Devi, 2023).

By analyzing these variables and constructs, the study investigates how consumer credit engagement postulates an influence on financial management behavior and hedonic lifestyle. It is hypothesized that positive experiences with credit, such as feeling secure, trusting the provider, and receiving reliable service, may promote responsible financial behavior (Alnsour, 2022). At the same time, the accessibility and flexibility of credit may encourage hedonic tendencies such as impulsive spending and materialism. Therefore, this research aims to provide a balanced analysis of whether consumer credit functions as a financial tool that fosters discipline or a gateway that enables excessive indulgence (Li, 2021). The findings are expected to inform strategies in financial education, policy development, and credit management targeted at working professionals.

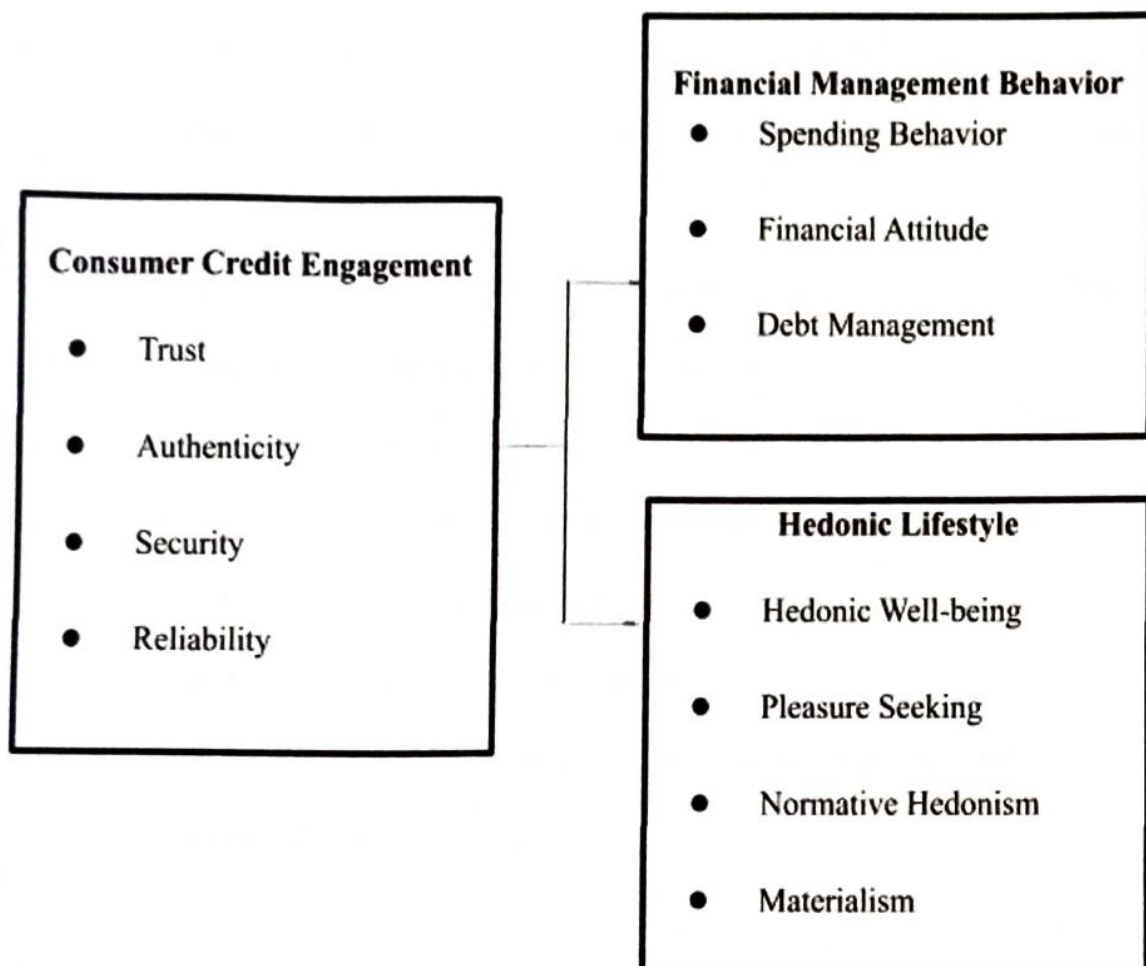


Figure 1. Schematic Diagram of the Study

Statement of the Problem

This study explored the significant relationship between working professionals' consumer credit engagement on their financial management behavior and the hedonic lifestyle of working professionals in Ozamiz City. This research primarily aimed to address the following questions:

1. What is the level of a working professional's consumer credit engagement in terms of trust, authenticity, security, and reliability?
2. What is the level of working professionals' financial management behavior in terms of spending behavior, financial attitude, and debt management?
3. What is the level of working professionals' hedonic lifestyle in terms of hedonic well-being, pleasure seeking, normative hedonism, and materialism?
4. Is there a significant relationship between working professionals' consumer credit engagement and financial management behavior?
5. Is there a significant relationship between working professionals' consumer credit engagement and hedonic lifestyle?

Significance of the Study

This can aid financial institutions, policymakers, and credit providers in designing more responsible lending practices that consider not just financial capacity but also lifestyle tendencies and behavioral patterns (Goel, 2023). Furthermore, it adds depth to academic literature by bridging the gap between financial decision-making and lifestyle choices, offering a multidimensional perspective relevant to scholars, financial planners, and educators focusing on financial literacy and personal finance behavior (Enete, 2024).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Design

This study adopted the descriptive-correlational research design using a quantitative approach to examine relationships among variables. This design intends to answer what questions rather than why or how. This design was appropriate in the study as it explored the significant relationship between working professionals' consumer credit engagement on their financial management behavior and hedonic lifestyle.

Setting

The study was conducted in Ozamiz City, focusing on both teaching and non-teaching working professionals. According to the 2024 census, Ozamiz City has a population of 143,620 and is composed of 51 barangays. This city served as an ideal research setting due to its accessible location and diverse community, which ensured a representative sample for the study. Additionally, Ozamiz City's dynamic socio-economic environment provided a rich context for analyzing working professionals, offering valuable insights into their financial behaviors, credit engagement, and lifestyle choices. The combination of the city's population size and its active, varied economic landscape enhanced the relevance and depth of the research findings.

Respondents

The study's respondents consisted of 270 working professionals, selected using purposive sampling. The total number of respondents was calculated through Raosoft Calculator based on a total population of 49,323 working professionals in Ozamiz City. The study focused on working individuals with direct experience or engagement in

consumer credit services. The respondents were selected based on specific criteria related to their financial management behavior and hedonic lifestyle to ensure the relevance of their insights to the study. The criteria for selection were as follows: (1) they must be employed individuals from various sectors and industries within Ozamiz City; (2) they must at least have previous or current engagement with consumer credit services, including information on how often they use these services; and (3) they must provide informed consent to voluntarily participate in the study. Individuals who did not meet these criteria were excluded as actual respondents of the study.

Instruments

The following research instruments were used in gathering the data:

A. Consumer Credit Engagement Questionnaire: This study employed a four-point Likert scale questionnaire which was adapted from validated instruments used in prior studies, including McKnight, (2017) for trust, Lee, (2016) for security; Napoli, (2016) for authenticity; and Amin, (2016) for reliability. The questionnaire consists of a total of 20 statements, with 5 items per construct.

In determining the level of working professionals' consumer credit engagement, the following scale was used:

Responses	Continuum	Interpretation
4- Strongly Agree (SA)	3.25-4.0	Very High (VH)
3-Agree (A)	2.50-3.24	High (H)
2-Disagree (D)	1.75-2.49	Low (L)
1-Strongly Disagree (SD)	1.0-1.74	Very Low (VL)

B. Financial Behavior Management Questionnaire: This study utilized a four-point Likert scale questionnaire which was adapted from the frameworks of Xiao, (2016), Robb, (2017) and Norvilitis (2016), with a focus on three key constructs: Spending Behavior, Financial Attitude, and Debt Management. The instrument contains a total of 15 statements, providing a comprehensive assessment of the individual's financial behavior management.

In determining the level of financial behavior management, the following scale was used:

Responses	Continuum	Interpretation
4- Strongly Agree (SA)	3.25-4.0	Very Good (VH)
3-Agree (A)	2.50-3.24	Good (H)
2-Disagree (D)	1.75-2.49	Low (L)
1-Strongly Disagree (SD)	1.0-1.74	Very Low (VL)

C. Hedonic Lifestyle Questionnaire: This study employed a four-point Likert scale questionnaire which was adapted from the works of Ryan, (2017) and Verplanken, (2017), will evaluate individuals' tendencies toward pleasure-driven consumption and lifestyle choices. The questionnaire consists of 20 statements.

In determining the level of hedonic lifestyle, the following scale was used:

Responses	Continuum	Interpretation
4- Strongly Agree (SA)	3.25-4.0	Very High (VH)
3-Agree (A)	2.50-3.24	High (H)
2-Disagree (D)	1.75-2.49	Low (L)
1-Strongly Disagree (SD)	1.0-1.74	Very Low (VL)

Data Gathering Procedures

Before initiating the study, the researchers obtained a letter of consent from the Dean of the College of Business and Management, and was conferred with the thesis adviser. Upon receiving full authorization, the researchers distributed the questionnaires. The distribution of questionnaires was done through face-to-face interactions. Each respondent was provided with a formal consent letter detailing the purpose of the study, the scope of their participation, and their rights as respondents. Before proceeding with the survey, respondents carefully reviewed and acknowledged the consent letter, signifying their voluntary participation. Once all the questionnaires were completed, the researchers tallied, analyzed, and interpreted the data.

Ethical Considerations

During the study, respondents were informed of their rights, including the option to decline or withdraw their participation at any time. It will be emphasized that their involvement is entirely voluntary. The researchers ensured that they have the freedom to choose whether to participate without any pressure or obligation. Informed consent was obtained from respondents, ensuring that they will be thoroughly oriented on the study's objectives and their voluntary participation. Furthermore, respondents have the right to review, request modifications, or withdraw their provided information at any stage of the research process. A formal consent letter was provided to legally competent respondents, outlining key details such as the study's objectives, benefits, implications, and institutional approval before they decide to participate or answer interview questions. To safeguard privacy and confidentiality, complete anonymity was upheld by replacing respondents' names with numerical identifiers (e.g., Respondent 1, Respondent 2) when reporting their perspective. Additionally, proper attribution will be ensured by referencing credible sources and presenting findings with transparency and accuracy. This study upheld research integrity and institutional credibility, ensuring that all procedures were conducted ethically, responsibly, and in compliance with established research standards.

Statistical Treatment

The following statistical tools were used in analyzing and interpreting the data collected in this study:

Mean and Standard Deviation. These tools were used to measure the level of working professionals' consumer credit engagement, financial management behavior, and their hedonic lifestyle.

Regression Analysis. This tool was utilized to explore the significant influence between consumer credit engagement of working professionals on their financial management behavior and hedonic lifestyle.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Level of Consumer Credit Engagement Among Working Professional

Table 1 shows the level of consumer credit engagement among working professionals in Ozamiz City. Results revealed an overall high level of engagement ($M = 3.20$; $SD = 0.37$), indicating that consumer credit has become a widely utilized and trusted financial mechanism among employees. The overall result reflected in Table 1 was high ($M = 3.20$, $SD = 0.37$), indicating that working professionals engage positively with consumer credit services. They trust providers, perceive services as authentic and secure, and make informed financial decisions. While most manage repayments consistently, some variability in reliability suggests a need for financial education and support. These findings indicate that respondents demonstrate responsible and effective use of credit.

Among the constructs, Trust received the highest mean score ($M = 3.35$; $SD = 0.45$), indicating that working professionals have strong confidence in credit providers. This reflects positive perceptions of their credibility, consistent service quality, clear communication, and reliable financial processes. Such trust encourages individuals to engage more confidently in loans, credit cards, and installment plans. The implication is that high trust not only strengthens the reputation of credit institutions but also creates an opportunity to promote responsible borrowing and enhance financial literacy among users.

Meanwhile, authenticity recorded a high mean ($M = 3.22$; $SD = 0.40$), showing that respondents perceive consumer credit services as genuine and trustworthy. Working professionals generally believe that credit offerings, such as loans,

promotions, or installment plans, are honest, transparent, and fair. This perception of integrity helps strengthen consumer engagement and confidence in using these services. The implication is that maintaining high authenticity reinforces ethical practices and credibility. Credit providers can further build trust by ensuring that information on fees, interest rates, and payment terms is clear and easily accessible.

Similarly, security received a high rating ($M = 3.18$; $SD = 0.42$), indicating that respondents feel protected when using credit platforms, particularly regarding personal data privacy and transaction safety. This high perception of security may result from enhanced digital safeguards, two-step verification, encryption technologies, and stricter regulatory compliance by financial institutions. When consumers perceive transactions as safe, they are more willing to adopt digital credit services. The implication is that a strong sense of security requires credit institutions to continuously upgrade cybersecurity measures to maintain user confidence, especially as financial fraud and identity theft remain pressing concerns in digital banking.

In contrast, reliability received the lowest mean among the four constructs, though it remained high ($M = 3.06$; $SD = 0.52$). Unlike trust and security, reliability showed greater variability among respondents, suggesting inconsistencies in how individuals manage their credit obligations. Some working professionals demonstrate responsible repayment behavior, while others face challenges such as late payments, fluctuating cash flow, or inadequate financial planning. This disparity reflects differing levels of financial discipline and capability. The implication is that this variability underscores the need for credit providers to implement financial education programs, flexible repayment options, and personalized account monitoring to support consistent credit management among consumers.

These findings corroborate a body of research that emphasizes the pivotal role of consumer credit engagement in financial decision-making among working professionals. Working professionals exhibit a notable level of engagement with consumer credit that supports both their professional and personal aspirations (Lotto, 2023). The adoption of consumer credit among professionals varies globally, reflecting differences in financial behavior shaped by economic conditions, social norms, and the availability of alternative credit services (Zang, 2023). As consumer credit becomes increasingly intertwined with daily life, it directly impacts lifestyle behaviors and patterns of material acquisition (Li, 2021).

Furthermore, the notion that consumer credit engagement play a crucial role in shaping financial behavior among working professionals. For instance, working professionals often rely on it for personal and lifestyle improvements (Thippayana, 2023). In Ireland and various parts of Europe, consumer credit has become an integral part of daily financial practices (Esme Terry, 2021). Their cultural perspectives on credit significantly influence how they engage with these credit facilities (Nsiah, 2023).

The findings revealed that working professionals in Ozamiz City have a high level of consumer credit engagement, indicating that credit services have become a trusted and essential part of their financial practices. Among the dimensions, trust emerged as the strongest factor, followed by authenticity and security, reflecting confidence in the credibility, transparency, and safety of credit services. Although reliability received the lowest rating, it remained at a high level, suggesting that while most professionals manage their credit responsibilities effectively, some still experience challenges in maintaining consistent repayment behavior. Overall, the

findings indicate that consumer credit plays a significant role in supporting the financial needs and lifestyle choices of working professionals.

The high level of consumer credit engagement suggests that financial institutions should continue strengthening trust, transparency, and security to maintain positive consumer relationships. However, the variation in reliability highlights the importance of promoting financial discipline among credit users. Credit providers and relevant institutions may implement financial literacy programs, provide clearer financial guidance, and offer flexible repayment strategies to help working professionals improve their credit management. These efforts can encourage more responsible borrowing, enhance financial stability, and reduce potential risks associated with improper credit use.

Table 1. Level of Consumer Credit Engagement

Constructs	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Trust	3.35	0.45	Very High
Authenticity	3.22	0.40	High
Security	3.18	0.42	High
Reliability	3.06	0.52	High
Overall Mean	3.20	0.37	High

Note: Scale: 3.25–4.00 (Very High); 2.50–3.24 (High); 1.75–2.49 (Low); 1.00–1.74 (Very Low)

Level of Financial Management Behavior Among Working Professionals

Table 2 shows the level of financial management behavior among working professionals. The overall result reflected in Table 2 was high ($M = 3.12$, $SD = 0.39$), indicating that working professionals generally demonstrate effective financial management behavior. They show awareness and discipline in controlling expenses, maintaining a responsible financial attitude, and managing debt. Despite some variability in spending and debt management, respondents are generally capable of

making informed financial decisions and practicing responsible money management. Their financial management behavior is also rated as high ($M = 3.12$; $SD = 0.39$). These respondents generally demonstrate awareness and discipline in managing their finances. This includes controlling expenses, making informed decisions regarding savings and spending, and handling debt responsibly. Working professionals are capable of prioritizing financial obligations, planning for short-term and long-term needs, and maintaining a balanced approach to their personal and household finances. Such behavior reflects a proactive attitude toward financial stability and responsible money management.

Meanwhile, their spending behavior obtained a high rating ($M = 3.10$; $SD = 0.50$), reflecting generally responsible spending practices among respondents. Working professionals tend to limit unnecessary expenses, assess affordability before purchases, and prioritize needs over wants. However, the relatively larger standard deviation indicates diverse spending habits, with some practicing strict budgeting while others struggle with impulse control or lifestyle demands. These findings highlight the importance of support from financial institutions and workplaces, such as budgeting tools, seminars, or salary-based spending guidelines, to help promote financial stability.

Subsequently, their financial attitude received a very high rating which is associated to be the highest rating among the constructs ($M = 3.30$; $SD = 0.45$). This indicates that working professionals possess positive beliefs toward financial planning, savings, and long-term money management. This result can be justified by the fact that employed individuals regularly deal with financial responsibilities such as budgeting, paying bills, and planning for future needs, which helps develop a more disciplined

and responsible financial mindset. Their stable source of income also encourages them to think ahead and manage their resources carefully. As a result, individuals with strong financial attitudes tend to exhibit self-control, forward-thinking, and awareness of financial consequences. These findings suggest that financial institutions and employers can further strengthen this behavior by promoting investment opportunities, savings programs, and long-term financial planning.

In contrast, Debt Management was rated high but remained the lowest among the constructs ($M = 2.97$; $SD = 0.43$). Respondents generally demonstrate awareness of credit terms and repayment obligations, yet some struggle with repayment scheduling, understanding interest, and avoiding excessive debt. This suggests that, while working professionals attempt to manage loans responsibly, financial pressures and inconsistent earnings can challenge sustained repayment discipline. These findings emphasize the need for targeted interventions, such as debt counseling, structured repayment planning, and clearer credit information, to support borrowers in maintaining financial health.

The results are consistent with previous studies emphasizing that consumer credit has been embraced by many working professionals to elevate their living standards (Never, 2021). However, the increasing reliance on credit poses challenges to financial management and raises concerns about sustaining a balanced lifestyle (Khandelwal, 2021). Despite the apparent advantages, the stress from ongoing debt can undermine the perceived benefits of credit-driven material acquisition (Drentea, 2021). Some individuals find satisfaction and fulfillment in obtaining desired possessions, while others experience stress from the accumulating financial obligations. This dual

effect raises important questions about how consumer credit shapes not only financial stability but also well-being and lifestyle satisfaction (Khandelwal, 2021).

The findings revealed that working professionals in Ozamiz City demonstrate a high level of financial management behavior, indicating their ability to make responsible financial decisions, control spending, and manage financial obligations effectively. Financial attitude emerged as the strongest dimension, reflecting positive beliefs toward budgeting, saving, and long-term financial planning. Although debt management obtained the lowest mean, it remained at a high level, suggesting that respondents are generally aware of their debt responsibilities but may still encounter challenges in repayment and avoiding excessive borrowing. Overall, the results suggest that working professionals possess a proactive and disciplined approach to maintaining financial stability and managing their personal finances.

The high level of financial management behavior implies that financial institutions and employers should continue promoting programs that strengthen positive financial attitudes and responsible money management. However, the lower rating in debt management highlights the need for greater support through financial literacy initiatives, debt counseling, budgeting tools, and accessible financial information. These strategies can help working professionals improve their spending habits, manage credit obligations effectively, and achieve greater long-term financial security.

Table 2. Level of Financial Management Behavior

Constructs	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Financial Attitude	3.30	0.45	Very High
Spending Behavior	3.10	0.50	High
Debt Management	2.97	0.43	High
Overall Mean	3.12	0.39	High

Note: Scale: 3.25–4.00 (Very High); 2.50–3.24 (High); 1.75–2.49 (Low); 1.00–1.74 (Very Low)

Level of Hedonic Lifestyle Among Working Professionals

Table 3 presents the high level of hedonic lifestyle among respondents ($M = 3.05$; $SD = 0.41$). This indicates that working professionals actively engage in pleasure-oriented activities, prioritize comfort, and seek experiences that enhance their emotional and psychological well-being. Such behaviors may include leisure activities, hobbies, social interactions, travel, or other forms of recreation that provide relaxation and satisfaction, helping them balance work demands and personal fulfillment.

The overall result reflected was high ($M = 3.05$, $SD = 0.41$), indicating that working professionals generally maintain a hedonic lifestyle by actively seeking pleasure, comfort, and experiences that enhance emotional and psychological well-being. They prioritize relaxation, leisure activities, social interactions, and self-care to balance work demands and personal fulfillment. While hedonic tendencies vary across well-being, pleasure seeking, normative hedonism, and materialism, respondents generally engage in these activities responsibly, suggesting a mindful approach to enjoyment without compromising essential financial or personal responsibilities.

Among the constructs, Hedonic Well-Being obtained the highest mean ($M = 3.25$; $SD = 0.49$), interpreted as very high. This suggests that many working professionals prioritize relaxation, happiness, and emotional balance. After

experiencing work-related stress, respondents often engage in leisure activities, travel, entertainment, or self-care practices to maintain psychological health. These results highlight the importance of work-life balance, indicating that employers and policymakers should support wellness programs that foster emotional well-being.

Meanwhile, Pleasure Seeking recorded a high mean ($M = 3.10$; $SD = 0.44$), indicating that respondents value enjoyable experiences and rewarding activities, such as dining out, shopping, hobbies, and recreational pursuits. While generally moderate, these tendencies suggest a desire to balance demanding work schedules with pleasurable experiences. These findings underscore the importance of integrating mindful spending strategies into financial literacy programs to ensure that pleasure-seeking behaviors do not lead to financial strain.

In contrast, Normative Hedonism, with a high mean ($M = 2.95$; $SD = 0.46$), indicates that respondents engage in socially accepted forms of enjoyment, such as celebrations, social gatherings, or lifestyle trends popular among their peers. These behaviors are largely shaped by cultural and social expectations regarding leisure and consumption. These results suggest that promoting responsible lifestyle choices within social environments could help reduce unnecessary expenses and encourage more mindful consumption.

Similarly, Materialism obtained the lowest mean within the construct group ($M = 2.90$; $SD = 0.48$), though it remained high. This suggests that respondents value material possessions moderately, purchasing items that symbolize comfort or success without relying solely on physical goods for happiness. These findings indicate that programs promoting financial prioritization can help ensure that material desires do not take precedence over essential financial responsibilities. However, a more

significant interpretation reveals potential challenges. These results imply that among the constructs of hedonic lifestyle, respondents place the greatest emphasis on hedonic well-being, reflecting a strong tendency to seek happiness, relaxation, and emotional balance as a means of coping with daily stressors. The slightly lower yet consistently high ratings in pleasure seeking, normative hedonism, and materialism suggest that while respondents value enjoyment, social acceptance, and material possessions, these aspects are moderately expressed compared to their pursuit of overall well-being. This highlights the critical distinction between financial knowledge and hedonic desire—a gap often emphasized in behavioral economic models of consumer finance. Working professionals may possess the knowledge and skills to budget effectively, but their actual spending habits may deviate from these plans due to social and emotional factors.

Globally, working professionals employ various financial management strategies when utilizing consumer credit (Domanban, 2023). These strategies are influenced by regional economic climates and the extent of financial literacy. Professionals from different globalized regions must balance the desire to enhance their lifestyles with the need to manage debts responsibly (Minina, 2021). These practices help them clarify how consumer credit usage aligns with sound financial management (Tang, 2021). Individuals acquire possessions to boost their happiness and sense of accomplishment (Devi, 2023). While new acquisitions may bring short-term satisfaction, the recurring need to maintain such a lifestyle can result in financial strain and anxiety over time (Cartwright, 2024).

Studies of previous research explain that in the context of the Philippines, consumer credit has been embraced by many working professionals to elevate their living standards (Never, 2021). However, the increasing reliance on credit poses challenges to financial management and raises concerns about sustaining a balanced lifestyle (Khandelwal, 2021). Despite the apparent advantages, the stress from ongoing debt can undermine the perceived benefits of credit-driven material acquisition (Drentea, 2021). This study holds significant value in the fields of consumer finance, behavioral economics, and lifestyle studies (Gomes, 2023). Specifically, it contributes to the understanding of credit utilization patterns among middle-income earners, highlighting the psychological and behavioral impacts of consumer financing in both global and Philippine contexts (Domanban, 2023).

The findings revealed that working professionals exhibit a high level of hedonic lifestyle, indicating their tendency to pursue pleasure, comfort, and experiences that contribute to emotional and psychological well-being. Hedonic well-being emerged as the highest-rated dimension, suggesting that respondents prioritize relaxation, happiness, and maintaining work-life balance. Although pleasure seeking, normative hedonism, and materialism were also rated highly, their lower scores indicate that respondents generally engage in enjoyable activities and consumption in a controlled manner rather than excessively relying on material possessions for satisfaction. Overall, the results suggest that working professionals balance their desire for enjoyment with their financial responsibilities; however, emotional, social, and lifestyle influences may still affect spending decisions and consumer credit use, potentially leading to financial strain when not managed carefully.

The study implies that while hedonic lifestyle contributes positively to the emotional well-being and life satisfaction of working professionals, excessive engagement in pleasure-seeking activities and material consumption may potentially affect long-term financial stability. This highlights the importance of strengthening financial literacy and responsible spending practices to help individuals make informed decisions when balancing lifestyle aspirations and financial obligations. Employers, educational institutions, and policymakers may also promote wellness and financial management programs that encourage healthy work-life balance while fostering mindful consumption and sustainable financial behaviors.

Table 3. Level of Hedonic Lifestyle

Constructs	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Hedonic Well-being	3.25	0.49	Very High
Pleasure Seeking	3.10	0.44	High
Normative Hedonism	2.95	0.46	High
Materialism	2.90	0.48	High
Overall Mean	3.05	0.41	High

Note: Scale: 3.25–4.00 (Very High); 2.50–3.24 (High); 1.75–2.49 (Low); 1.00–1.74 (Very Low)

Significant Relationship between Consumer Credit Engagement and Financial Management Behavior

Table 4 presented the relationship between consumer credit engagement and financial management behavior. The result shows a significant positive relationship ($r = 0.315$; $p = 0.000$), indicating that higher engagement with consumer credit services corresponds with better financial management practices.

The findings indicate a significant positive relationship between consumer credit engagement and financial management behavior. This suggests that individuals who

are more actively involved in consumer credit activities tend to exhibit better financial management practices. Such engagement may enhance their ability to budget effectively, control spending, and make informed financial decisions. The result further implies that familiarity and participation in credit-related systems contribute to the development of financial discipline and awareness, ultimately promoting more responsible and strategic financial behavior among consumers.

This means that individuals who responsibly use and trust credit systems tend to exhibit more disciplined financial behaviors. Access to secure and transparent credit systems promotes better budgeting and debt awareness, leading to more responsible financial management (Domanban, 2023). Similarly, this emphasized that financially literate individuals use credit as a strategic tool for managing resources effectively (Oppong et al., 2023). Other research suggests that financial literacy and money attitude play central roles in shaping these behaviors. Individuals with a sound understanding of financial concepts and a positive outlook toward money are more likely to engage in budgeting, avoid unnecessary debt, and save for future needs (Oppong, 2023; Sara, I Made et al., 2023).

The findings revealed a significant positive relationship between consumer credit engagement and financial management behavior, indicating that working professionals who actively and responsibly engage with consumer credit tend to demonstrate better financial practices. This suggests that proper use of credit services can contribute to increased financial awareness, improved budgeting skills, responsible debt management, and informed decision-making. The results further emphasize that financial literacy and positive money attitudes play important roles in enabling

individuals to use consumer credit as a strategic financial tool rather than a source of financial burden.

The findings imply that responsible consumer credit engagement can serve as a valuable tool in strengthening financial management behavior among working professionals. As individuals become more familiar with credit systems, they may develop greater awareness of budgeting, debt management, and informed financial decision-making. This highlights the importance of promoting financial literacy programs that emphasize proper credit utilization, responsible borrowing, and long-term financial planning. Financial institutions, employers, and educational institutions may also provide accessible financial education initiatives to help consumers maximize the benefits of credit while minimizing the risks of excessive debt and poor financial choices.

Table 4. Significant Relationship between Consumer Credit Engagement and Financial Management Behavior

Variables	r-value	p-value	Interpretation
Consumer Credit Engagement and Financial Management Behavior	0.315**	0.000	Significant

***Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)*

Significant Relationship between Consumer Credit Engagement and Hedonic Lifestyle

Table 5 presents the relationship between consumer credit engagement and hedonic lifestyle. The result reveals a significant positive relationship ($r = 0.288$; $p = 0.000$). This indicates that individuals who are more engaged in credit activities tend to display stronger tendencies toward pleasure-seeking and consumption-driven behaviors. The result suggests that access to and involvement in credit services may

encourage consumers to pursue lifestyle choices centered on enjoyment, comfort, and material satisfaction. Consequently, increased credit engagement could be associated with higher spending patterns and a greater inclination toward indulgent or non-essential purchases.

This implies that access to consumer credit enables individuals to satisfy lifestyle desires and pursue experiences associated with pleasure and enjoyment. Access to and utilization of credit may encourage working professionals to prioritize immediate gratification and lifestyle enhancement through spending, possibly viewing credit as a tool to support their desired standard of living. Consequently, this relationship emphasizes the psychological and behavioral dimension of credit use, where financial accessibility through credit can influence consumption patterns and lifestyle choices among professionals.

However, this also requires responsible financial behavior to prevent overspending. This noted that easy access to credit encourages indulgence in luxury and leisure purchases (Li, 2021; Devi, 2023). While warned that such habits, if unchecked, could lead to financial stress (Khandelwal, 2021). By closely examining how working professionals engage with consumer credit and how this engagement influences their financial management practices and hedonic lifestyle, the research offers nuanced insights into contemporary credit behavior. This can aid financial institutions, policymakers, and credit providers in designing more responsible lending practices that consider not just financial capacity but also lifestyle tendencies and behavioral patterns (Goel, 2023).

The findings revealed a significant positive relationship between consumer credit engagement and hedonic lifestyle, indicating that working professionals who actively

engage with consumer credit are more likely to pursue pleasure-oriented activities, comfort, and material satisfaction. This suggests that easier access to credit can influence spending behaviors by enabling individuals to fulfill lifestyle desires and immediate gratification. While consumer credit may enhance personal enjoyment and quality of life, excessive reliance on credit for non-essential purchases may result in financial strain if not managed responsibly. Therefore, maintaining a balance between lifestyle satisfaction and financial discipline remains essential for long-term financial well-being.

This implies that greater consumer credit engagement may influence working professionals to adopt more hedonic lifestyle behaviors, including increased spending on leisure, comfort, and material satisfaction. While credit accessibility can enhance quality of life and provide opportunities for personal enjoyment, it also highlights the need for responsible credit utilization and conscious spending to prevent excessive debt and financial stress. Therefore, financial institutions, employers, and policymakers may strengthen financial literacy initiatives and promote responsible lending practices that encourage consumers to balance their lifestyle aspirations with long-term financial stability and sound financial decision-making.

Table 5. Significant Relationship between Consumer Credit Engagement and Hedonic Lifestyle

Variables	r-value	p-value	Interpretation
Consumer Credit Engagement and Hedonic Lifestyle	0.288**	0.000	Significant

***Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)*

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Working professionals exhibit high levels of consumer credit engagement, financial management behavior, and hedonic lifestyle tendencies, maintaining a generally responsible balance across all three areas. Their strong engagement with credit indicates high trust and secure usage, which significantly and positively influences their financial management behavior by promoting disciplined spending and informed practices. At the same time, this substantial credit access also drives their hedonic lifestyle choices, encouraging higher levels of pleasure-seeking and lifestyle-enhancing consumption while they carefully navigate material desires and social expectations in a generally responsible manner.

Future researchers may use larger and more diverse samples, include additional variables such as financial literacy, income stability, and digital credit usage, and apply qualitative or longitudinal methods to gain deeper and long-term insights. Schools and higher education institutions may strengthen financial literacy programs by integrating budgeting, credit management, and financial planning into the curriculum, as well as offering regular seminars and training. The College of Business and Management, in partnership with the local government, may implement financial literacy programs for working professionals and enforce clear and transparent credit policies, including standardized disclosure of terms and fees. Working professionals, on the other hand, may practice disciplined budgeting, monitor expenses, evaluate credit terms carefully, and balance lifestyle spending with financial responsibilities to avoid excessive debt.

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CONSUMER CREDIT ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Read each statement carefully and write a check mark (/) on the columns that contain your answer. Be guided by the following scale: 4 - Strongly Agree; 3 - Agree; 2 - Disagree; 1 - Strongly Disagree

INDICATORS	RESPONSES			
	4	3	2	1
Trust				
1. I trust the information provided by consumer credit services about their terms and conditions.				
2. I feel confident that consumer credit services will not mislead me in any way.				
3. I trust that consumer credit services will provide the same benefits and services that they advertise.				
4. I believe consumer credit services will not take advantage of me as a consumer				
5. I rely on the reviews and ratings of consumer credit services to make my decisions.				
Authenticity				
6. The offers and products provided by consumer credit services seem authentic and genuinely beneficial to me.				
7. I trust that consumer credit services provide honest and transparent information about their products.				
8. Consumer credit services do not exaggerate their benefits to convince me to use their services.				
9. I feel that the deals I receive from consumer credit services are reliable and match my expectations.				
10. I believe that the services and products of consumer credit companies are of good quality and as described.				

Security

11. I feel secure when sharing my personal and financial details with consumer credit services.

12. Consumer credit services provide clear information on how my data is protected.

13. I believe that consumer credit services have strong security measures to protect my personal information.

14. I feel comfortable using consumer credit services because they ensure the safety of my financial transactions.

15. I am confident that consumer credit services use advanced technology to prevent fraud and unauthorized access to my account.

Reliability

16. Consumer credit services are dependable in processing my applications and requests on time.

17. I can count on consumer credit services to deliver on their promises.

18. Consumer credit services provide consistent and reliable customer support whenever I encounter issues.

19. I trust that the payment plans and loan terms I agree to with consumer credit services are always honored.

20. I have never experienced significant delays or errors with consumer credit services in the past.

Appendix B

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Read each statement carefully and write a check mark (/) on the columns that contain your answer. Be guided by the following scale: 4 - Strongly Agree; 3 - Agree; 2 - Disagree; 1 - Strongly Disagree

INDICATORS	RESPONSES			
	4	3	2	1
Spending Behavior				
1. I frequently monitor my spending to ensure I don't exceed my monthly budget.				
2. I tend to avoid impulse buying and prioritize essential purchases.				
3. I often track my spending habits through budgeting apps or other tools.				
4. I plan and stick to a monthly spending plan to ensure I save money.				
5. I am cautious when making significant purchases and take time to consider the costs.				
Financial Attitude				
6. I think it's okay to take on some debt if it helps improve my lifestyle.				
7. I feel confident that I can manage my finances well, even during difficult times.				
8. I value saving and budgeting more than spending impulsively.				
9. I believe financial planning should start early in one's career.				

10. I think it's okay to take on some debt if it helps improve my lifestyle.				
Debt Management				
11. I always make sure to pay my credit card and loan bills on time to avoid penalties.				
12. I try to pay off my debts as quickly as possible to reduce interest payments.				
13. I prefer to limit the amount of debt I accumulate to avoid financial stress.				
14. I have strategies in place to manage and reduce my debts effectively.				
15. I seek advice or resources to help me manage my debt more efficiently.				

HEDONIC LIFESTYLE QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Read each statement carefully and write a check mark (/) on the columns that contain your answer. Be guided by the following scale: 4 - Strongly Agree; 3 - Agree; 2 - Disagree; 1 - Strongly Disagree

INDICATORS	RESPONSES			
	4	3	2	1
Hedonic Well-being				
1. I seek activities that bring me pleasure and enjoyment in my daily life.				
2. I place a high value on happiness and well-being in my life.				
3. I enjoy trying new experiences that offer excitement and joy.				
4. I believe in creating a balanced life that includes both work and leisure for my well-being.				
5. I actively seek moments of relaxation and enjoyment to improve my overall happiness.				
Pleasure Seeking				
6. I often make decisions based on whether an activity will bring me joy or pleasure.				
7. I believe that enjoying life and having fun is more important than financial or material gains.				
8. I prefer spending money on experiences that bring me joy, rather than saving for future goals.				
9. I enjoy spending money on luxury items or services that enhance my lifestyle.				

10. I prioritize personal enjoyment over saving or budgeting when making purchase decisions.				
Normative Hedonism				
11. I believe society encourages people to pursue pleasure and enjoy life.				
12. I feel that people around me expect me to indulge in pleasurable experiences.				
13. I think that enjoying life is socially accepted and even encouraged.				
14. I often feel that the pursuit of pleasure is considered an important aspect of a successful life.				
15. People in my social circle value the pursuit of enjoyment and well-being.				
Materialism				
16. I believe owning high-end products or luxury items contributes to my happiness.				
17. I often compare my possessions to those of others and feel satisfaction when I have more or better items.				
18. I place a high value on the status that material possessions can bring.				
19. I feel that having the latest gadgets or clothing is important for my social standing.				
20. I often focus on acquiring material goods as a way to feel successful or fulfilled.				

Research Title: Working Professionals' Consumer Credit Engagement, Financial Management Behavior, and Hedonic Lifestyle
Researcher/Proponent: Daguay, II, Marlon Joseph L., Portallo, Lovely Jane O., Redoblado, Samantha Shane V.
Framework to Be Used:
Research Design: Descriptive and Regression Design

Research Questions		Data Collection	Instrument/ Tool	Respondents/ Participants	Sampling Technique	Data Analysis
1. What is the level of a working professional's consumer credit engagement in terms of trust, authenticity, security, and reliability?		Survey	Questionnaire	Teaching and Non-teaching Working Professionals	Systematic Sampling	Descriptive Statistics (mean, Std. Dev.)
2. What is the level of working professionals' financial management behavior in terms of spending, attitude, and debt management?		Survey	Questionnaire	Teaching and Non-teaching Working Professionals	Systematic Sampling	Descriptive Statistics (mean, Std. Dev.)
3. What is the level of working professionals' hedonic lifestyle in terms of hedonic well-being, pleasure seeking, normative hedonism, and materialism?		Survey	Questionnaire	Teaching and Non-teaching Working Professionals	Systematic Sampling	Descriptive Statistics (mean, Std. Dev.)
4. Is there a significant influence between working professionals' consumer credit engagement and financial management behavior?		Survey	Questionnaire	Teaching and Non-teaching Working Professionals	Systematic Sampling	Regression Analysis
5. Is there a significant influence between working professionals' consumer credit engagement and hedonic lifestyle?		Survey	Questionnaire	Teaching and Non-teaching Working Professionals	Systematic Sampling	Regression Analysis



MISAMIS UNIVERSITY
Ozamiz City
College of Business and Management



INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Researcher/Investigator

Name: MARLON JOSEPH L. DAGUAY, II
LOVELY JANE O. PORTALLO
SAMANTHA SHANE V. REDOBLADO
Course: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Major in Financial
Management
College: College of Business and Management
Email / Contact Number: portallolovely0@gmail.com / 091223771143

Business Research Title:

**WORKING PROFESSIONALS' CONSUMER CREDIT ENGAGEMENT,
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR, AND HEDONIC LIFESTYLE**

PART I. INFORMATION SHEET	
Introduction	Good day! We are the researcher/investigator of the study entitled "Working Professionals' Consumer Credit Engagement, Financial Management Behavior, and Hedonic Lifestyle." We are undergraduate students under the program Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Misamis University in Ozamiz City. We are to conduct the research with Working Professionals in both the public and private sector as participants. In this vein, we are respectfully seeking your voluntary participation, being qualified to give your informed consent to take part in this study. Before you decide whether to participate or not in this study, please read the succeeding information about the study and feel free to ask questions anytime should there be anything you do not understand or want to clarify. If you agree to answer the interview, you will be asked to affix your name and signature on this form for which you will be given a copy.
Purpose	This study will explore the significant influence of working professionals' consumer credit engagement on their financial management behavior and the hedonic lifestyle of working professionals in Ozamiz City.
Type of Research Intervention	This study will be conducted through interviews. The gathering of data will be conducted in person.

Selection of Participants	The study focused on working individuals with direct experience or engagement in consumer credit services. The respondents will be selected based on specific criteria related to their financial management behavior and hedonic lifestyle to ensure the relevance of their insights to the study. The criteria for selection are as follows: (1) they must be employed individuals from various sectors and industries within Ozamiz City; (2) they must have direct engagement with consumer credit services, including information on how often they use these services; and (3) they must provide informed consent to voluntarily participate in the study. Individuals who do not meet these criteria will be excluded from participation.
Voluntary Participation	Your participation has to be voluntary and will not affect your situation or status in any way, including your relationship with the researcher. You are free to decide if you will take part or not. If you decide to participate, you are free not to answer any questions that you do not prefer to answer.
Procedure	The participants will be given ample time to undertake the interview. The interviews will be undertaken once or several times when necessary. The researcher will transcribe the interviews to be used for the analysis of the data. The information and data provided by you as a participant will be utilized for this study alone and will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.
Duration	The gathering of data through the interview will last for 5 to 10 minutes.
Risks and Discomforts	The respondents will be protected from physical, social, or economic risks. In case the items in the survey instrument are too personal and make you feel uncomfortable, you may decline to answer any or all questions and may terminate your involvement at any time you choose.
Benefits	This study will explore and explain how these factors influence each other in the context of the working professionals' daily financial and lifestyle decisions. The study intends to answer key questions regarding how consumer credit usage impacts financial behaviors and lifestyle choices among working professionals. Thus, your responses shall be highly valued being deemed important in the field of financial literacy.
Reimbursements	There will be no monetary expenses or costs on your part as a respondent, nor any monetary compensation for your participation in this study. However, personal protective equipment (PPE) like face masks, alcohol and face shields may be provided during the gathering of the research data.
Confidentiality of Data	Only the researcher will have access to the information and responses of the participants. The personal identifying information of the participants will only be used for research analysis and will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. During the study, all data will

		be kept in a locked, secure filing cabinet, of which will be discarded 6 months after the publication of the results.
Sharing of Findings	of	The results of this study will be presented during the thesis/dissertation final defense of the researcher. Also, the research findings may be shared through publications and conferences with the assurance that the identities of the respondents will remain confidential. A printed copy of the completed study will be provided to the participants.
Rights to Refuse or Withdraw	to or	You are free to withdraw or terminate participation at any stage of the study, without the need to give any reason. You will not be penalized in case of termination of participation.
Who to Contact	to	Should there be any queries as a parent, you can contact the researcher through the following details: Name of the Researchers :MARLON JOSEPH DAGUAY, II LOVELY JANE PORTALLO SAMANTHA SHANE REDOBLADO Cellphone Number/s: 09123771143 e-mail ad: portallolovely0@gmail.com STATEMENT BY THE RESEARCHER (PAGPADAYAG SA NAGTUON) I will read the Information sheet to the potential participant. With the best of my ability, I make sure that the participant will understand the interview questions and that possible follow-up interviews may be undertaken. I can assure that the participant will be given an opportunity to ask questions about the study, and all the questions raised will be answered fully. I can likewise assure that the participant will not be coerced into giving consent that must be free and voluntary. A copy of this Informed Consent Form will be provided to the participant. Print Name of Researchers: MARLON JOSEPH L. DAGUAY, II LOVELY JANE O. PORTALLO SAMANTHA SHANE V. REDOBLADO

PART II. CERTIFICATE OF CONSENT

This research entitled "Working Professionals' Consumer Credit Engagement, Financial Management Behavior, and Hedonic Lifestyle" by Marlon Joseph L. Dagway, II, Lovely Jane O. Portallo, Samantha Shane V. Redoblado with the aim of gathering information and data pertaining to working professionals' consumer credit engagement, financial management behavior, and hedonic lifestyle, has been presented and explained to me clearly. Since the study involves working professionals, I am chosen as one of the participants.

I have read the foregoing Informed Consent Form, or it has been read to me. I had the opportunity to ask questions, which were subsequently answered fully. I consent voluntarily to be a participant of this study.

Print Name of Participant: _____

Signature of Participant: _____

Date: [MM/DD/YYYY] _____

If Illiterate

If the respondent is illiterate, a witness who is literate will sign. The respondent will choose him/ her and who is without connection with the researcher or the research group to attest this undertaking. The respondent will affix his thumb print.

Name and Signature of the Witness

Thumb mark

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Report: WORKING PROFESSIONALS' CONSUMER CREDIT ENGAGEMENT, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR,

WORKING PROFESSIONALS' CONSUMER CREDIT ENGAGEMENT, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR, AND HEDONIC LIFESTYLE

by Misamis University

General metrics

59,824	7,896	548	31 min 35 sec	1 hr 0 min
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Sentence Length

Measures average sentence length

14.4

words per sentence

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

Appendix A

CONSUMER CREDIT ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Read each statement carefully and write a check mark (/) on the columns that contain your answer. Be guided by the following scale: 4 - Strongly Agree; 3 - Agree; 2 - Disagree; 1 - Strongly Disagree

INDICATORS	RESPONSES			
	4	3	2	1
Trust				
1. I trust the information provided by consumer credit services about their terms and conditions.		✓		
2. I feel confident that consumer credit services will not mislead me in any way.		✓		
3. I trust that consumer credit services will provide the same benefits and services that they advertise.		/		
4. I believe consumer credit services will not take advantage of me as a consumer		/		
5. I rely on the reviews and ratings of consumer credit services to make my decisions.		/		
Authenticity				
6. The offers and products provided by consumer credit services seem authentic and genuinely beneficial to me.		/		
7. I trust that consumer credit services provide honest and transparent information about their products.		/		
8. Consumer credit services do not exaggerate their benefits to convince me to use their services.		✓		
9. I feel that the deals I receive from consumer credit services are reliable and match my expectations.		/		
10. I believe that the services and products of consumer credit companies are of good quality and as described.		✓		
Security				
11. I feel secure when sharing my personal and financial details with consumer credit services.			/	
12. Consumer credit services provide clear information on how my data is protected.			/	
13. I believe that consumer credit services have strong security measures to protect my personal information.			/	
14. I feel comfortable using consumer credit services because they ensure the safety of my financial transactions.			/	
15. I am confident that consumer credit services use advanced technology to prevent fraud and unauthorized access to my account.			/	
Reliability				
16. consumer credit services are dependable in processing my applications and requests on time.			/	

17. I can count on consumer credit services to deliver on their promises.				
18. Consumer credit services provide consistent and reliable customer support whenever I encounter issues.				
19. I trust that the payment plans and loan terms I agree to with consumer credit services are always honored.			✓	
20. I have never experienced significant delays or errors with consumer credit services in the past.			✓	

Appendix B

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Read each statement carefully and write a check mark (✓) on the columns that contain your answer. Be guided by the following scale: 4 - Strongly Agree; 3 - Agree; 2 - Disagree; 1 - Strongly Disagree

INDICATORS	RESPONSES			
	4	3	2	1
Spending Behavior				
1. I frequently monitor my spending to ensure I don't exceed my monthly budget.				
2. I tend to avoid impulse buying and prioritize essential purchases.	✓			
3. I often track my spending habits through budgeting apps or other tools.		✓		
4. I plan and stick to a monthly spending plan to ensure I save money.		✓		
5. I am cautious when making significant purchases and take time to consider the costs.		✓		
Financial Attitude				
6. I think it's okay to take on some debt if it helps improve my lifestyle.				
7. I feel confident that I can manage my finances well, even during difficult times.			✓	
8. I value saving and budgeting more than spending impulsively.		✓		
9. I believe financial planning should start early in one's career.		✓		
10. I think it's okay to take on some debt if it helps improve my lifestyle.	✓			
Debt Management				
11. I always make sure to pay my credit card and loan bills on time to avoid penalties.		✓		
12. I try to pay off my debts as quickly as possible to reduce interest payments.	✓			
13. I prefer to limit the amount of debt I accumulate to avoid financial stress.	✓			
14. I have strategies in place to manage and reduce my debts effectively.		✓		
15. I seek advice or resources to help me manage my debt more efficiently.		✓		

HEBONIC LIFESTYLE QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Read each statement carefully and write a check mark (/) on the columns that contain your answer. Be guided by the following scale: 4 - Strongly Agree; 3 - Agree; 2 - Disagree; 1 - Strongly Disagree

INDICATORS	RESPONSES			
	4	3	2	1
Hedonic Well-being				
1. I seek activities that bring me pleasure and enjoyment in my daily life.		/		
2. I place a high value on happiness and well-being in my life.	/	-		
3. I enjoy trying new experiences that offer excitement and joy.		/		
4. I believe in creating a balanced life that includes both work and leisure for my well-being.	/			
5. I actively seek moments of relaxation and enjoyment to improve my overall happiness.		/		
Pleasure Seeking				
6. I often make decisions based on whether an activity will bring me joy or pleasure.		/		
7. I believe that enjoying life and having fun is more important than financial or material gains.		/		
8. I prefer spending money on experiences that bring me joy, rather than saving for future goals.		/		
9. I enjoy spending money on luxury items or services that enhance my lifestyle.			/	
10. I prioritize personal enjoyment over saving or budgeting when making purchase decisions.			/	
Normative Hedonism				
11. I believe society encourages people to pursue pleasure and enjoy life.			/	
12. I feel that people around me expect me to indulge in pleasurable experiences.			/	
13. I think that enjoying life is socially accepted and even encouraged.			/	
14. I often feel that the pursuit of pleasure is considered an important aspect of a successful life.			/	
15. People in my social circle value the pursuit of enjoyment and well-being.		/		
Materialism				
16. I believe owning high-end products or luxury items contributes to my happiness.				/
17. I often compare my possessions to those of others and feel satisfaction when I have more or better items.				/
18. I place a high value on the status that material possessions can bring.				/

19. I feel that having the latest gadgets or clothing is important for my social standing.

20. I often focus on acquiring material goods as a way to feel successful or fulfilled.

PART II. CERTIFICATE OF CONSENT

This research entitled "Working Professionals' Consumer Credit Engagement, Financial Management Behavior, and Hedonic Lifestyle" by Marlon Joseph L. Dagway, II, Lovely Jane O. Portallo, Samantha Shane V. Redoblado with the aim of gathering information and data pertaining to working professionals' consumer credit engagement, financial management behavior, and hedonic lifestyle, has been presented and explained to me clearly. Since the study involves working professionals, I am chosen as one of the participants.

I have read the foregoing Informed Consent Form, or it has been read to me. I had the opportunity to ask questions, which were subsequently answered fully. I consent voluntarily to be a participant of this study.

Print Name of Participant: ESTELA C. PENARANDA
Signature of Participant: [Signature]
Date: [MM/DD/YYYY] 12-6-2018

If Illiterate

If the respondent is illiterate, a witness who is literate will sign. The respondent will choose him/ her and who is without connection with the researcher or the research group to attest this undertaking. The respondent will affix his thumb print.

Name and Signature of the Witness _____

Thumb mark

Misamis University
Ozamiz City
College of Business Management
Junior Business Executives (JBE)

CURRICULUM VITAE

Marlon Joseph L. Daguary, II
Purok 1 Tiaman, Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental
Contact No. 0956-337-3829



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Age : 21 Years Old
Religion : Roman Catholic
Sex : Male
Civil Status : Single
Language/Dialect Spoken : Cebuano, English, and Filipino

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

TERTIARY

SCHOOL : Misamis University
DEGREE : Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
SCHOOLYEAR : 2022-Present

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL : Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology
SCHOOL YEAR : S.Y. 2020-2022

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL : St. Vincent High School
SCHOOL YEAR : S.Y. 2016 - 2020

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

SCHOOL : Tiaman Elementary School
SCHOOL YEAR : S.Y. 2010-2016

Misamis University
Ozamiz City
College of Business Management
Junior Business Executives (JBE)

CURRICULUM VITAE

Lovely Jane O. Portallo

Purok 5 Calabayan, Ozamiz City

Contact No. 0912-377-1143



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Age	: 21 Years Old
Religion	: Roman Catholic
Sex	: Female
Civil Status	: Single
Language/Dialect Spoken	: Cebuano, English, and Filipino

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

TERTIARY

SCHOOL	: Misamis University
DEGREE	: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
SCHOOLYEAR	: 2022-Present

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL	: Misamis University
SCHOOL YEAR	: S.Y. 2020-2022

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL	: Jose Lim Ho National High School
SCHOOL YEAR	: S.Y. 2016 - 2020

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

SCHOOL	: Maria V. Lopez Elementary School
SCHOOL YEAR	: S.Y. 2010-2016

Misamis University

Ozamiz City
College of Business Management
Junior Business Executives (JBE)

CURRICULUM VITAE

Samantha Shane V. Redoblado

San Antonio, Ozamiz City

Contact No. 0961-688-0209



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Age	: 21 Years Old
Religion	: Roman Catholic
Sex	: Female
Civil Status	: Single
Language/Dialect Spoken	: Cebuano, English, and Filipino

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

TERTIARY

SCHOOL	: Misamis University
DEGREE	: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
SCHOOLYEAR	: 2022-Present

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL	: Misamis University
SCHOOL YEAR	: S.Y. 2020-2022

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL	: Ozamiz City School of Arts and Trades
SCHOOL YEAR	: S.Y. 2016 - 2020

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

SCHOOL	: Maningcol Central School
SCHOOL YEAR	: S.Y. 2010-2016