



A Session on Financial Literacy

Date: 28th November, 2024

No. of Students: 62 (M: 34; F: 28)

Co-ordinator: Dr. Arpita Vyas and Miss Nandita Dalal

Speaker: Dr. Bhavik Shah, S V Patel College, Surat

Introduction:

On 28th November, 2024, Dr. Bhavik Shah from S V Patel College of Shri. Shambhubhai V. Patel College of Computer Science and Business Management conducted a comprehensive session on Financial Literacy, organized by the **National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)**. The session was designed to impart critical knowledge about the basics of financial planning, investment, and wealth management, aimed at enhancing the financial awareness of individuals, professionals, and students. Dr. Bhavik Shah, a renowned financial expert and educator, delivered the session with a focus on practical financial concepts and tools, making the subject accessible to a broad audience.

Objectives of the Session:

The primary objectives of the session were as follows:

- **To raise awareness about the importance of financial literacy** and its impact on personal and professional life.
- **To provide participants with knowledge about the various financial instruments** available in the market, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and retirement products.
- **To educate participants on the principles of personal finance management**, including budgeting, saving, and debt management.
- **To empower individuals** with the necessary skills to make informed financial decisions that align with their long-term goals.

Session Overview:

The session was structured to provide both theoretical understanding and practical insights into financial planning and management. Dr. Bhavik Shah used real-world examples, case studies, and interactive discussions to engage the participants.

1. Introduction to Financial Literacy:

- Dr. Shah began by defining financial literacy and discussing its significance in the modern world. He emphasized how financial knowledge can help individuals avoid financial pitfalls and build a secure future.



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- The session explored the difference between **financial education** (understanding concepts) and **financial behavior** (applying knowledge effectively).

2. **Understanding Personal Finance:**

- Dr. Shah explained the key components of personal finance, including budgeting, savings, and emergency funds. He stressed the importance of tracking expenses and building financial discipline.
- The session also covered the basics of **debt management**, with an explanation of good vs. bad debt and strategies to minimize liabilities.

3. **Investment Basics:**

- Dr. Shah provided an overview of the various investment options available in the financial markets, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).
- A special focus was given to **risk management** and the need for diversification in investment portfolios to protect against market volatility.
- The concept of **asset allocation** was introduced, and Dr. Shah explained how individuals should align their investments with their risk tolerance, financial goals, and time horizon.

4. **Tax Planning:**

- The session also touched upon the basics of tax planning, including available tax-saving instruments and the importance of making informed decisions to reduce tax liabilities.
- Dr. Shah introduced participants to popular tax-saving tools such as **ELSS (Equity Linked Savings Schemes)**, **PPF**, and **National Savings Certificates (NSC)**.

5. **Financial Tools and Technology:**

- Dr. Shah highlighted the role of technology in personal finance management, discussing digital tools, apps, and platforms that can help individuals track their spending, manage investments, and stay on top of their financial goals.
- He also talked about the rise of **FinTech** and how innovations like Robo-advisors and mobile trading apps are making it easier for people to manage their finances efficiently.

Key Takeaways:

- Financial literacy is essential for making informed and intelligent decisions about managing money and investments.
- Budgeting, saving, and debt management are fundamental aspects of personal finance that should be prioritized.



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- Diversifying investment portfolios and aligning them with personal risk tolerance is crucial for building long-term wealth.
- Early retirement planning and utilizing tax-saving instruments can significantly enhance financial security in later years.
- Technology can serve as a valuable tool in managing personal finances effectively.

Participant Feedback:

The session received positive feedback from the participants, who appreciated Dr. Bhavik Shah's engaging presentation style and his ability to simplify complex financial concepts. Many participants expressed gratitude for the practical tips shared on budgeting, tax planning, and investment strategies. The interactive Q&A session also allowed attendees to clarify specific queries, making the session highly valuable for both beginners and those with intermediate knowledge of finance.

Conclusion:

Dr. Bhavik Shah's session on financial literacy, organized by NISM, was a highly informative and engaging experience for all participants. By focusing on foundational financial principles and providing actionable insights, Dr. Shah successfully equipped attendees with the tools and knowledge they need to manage their finances effectively. The session's emphasis on personal financial planning, investment strategies, and the importance of early retirement planning will undoubtedly benefit participants in their financial journeys.

Recommendation: Given the success of this session, it is recommended that NISM continue to offer such programs on financial literacy to further empower individuals across various sectors.

