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Convenience vs Community: Understanding the Drivers Behind Student Preference for Online Food Delivery over Campus Dining

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of e-wallet features on the spending habits and financial wellbeing of students at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Using a quantitative approach, the study investigates three key factors: Perceived Ease of Use, Promotional Incentives, and Payment Visibility. Spending habits are assessed through impulse buying and budgetary leaks, while financial wellbeing is evaluated through saving capacity and financial stress. The findings indicate that frictionless digital transactions and reduced visibility of physical cash lower psychological barriers to spending, increasing students' tendency to make unplanned purchases. Promotional incentives, including cashback and rewards, further encourage frequent e-wallet usage and spending beyond planned budgets. These patterns may contribute to increased borrowing and reduced financial stability among students. The study highlights the importance of digital financial literacy and recommends e-wallet features that provide real-time spending transparency to support responsible financial behavior and improve students' long-term financial wellbeing.

Keywords: E-Wallet; Digital Wallet; Spending Habits; Financial Wellbeing; University Students; Financial Literacy

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INTRODUCTION

The use of digital wallets (e-wallets) has increased very quickly in recent years due to technology growth, smartphone usage, and the need for fast and easy payments. E-wallets such as Touch ‘n Go eWallet, GrabPay, and Boost allow users to make payment anytime and anywhere without using cash. This is especially popular among university students because it is simple, convenient, and often comes with promotions like cashback and discounts. However, while e-wallets make transactions easier, they may also change how people spend money. Many students may spend more without realizing it because digital payments feel less “real” compared to using cash. This creates a serious concern about whether e-wallets are helping or harming students’ financial wellbeing.

Previous studies have shown that convenience and ease of use are the main reasons people use e-wallets. At the same time, promotions and rewards can encourage users to spend more frequently. Some research also suggests that using e-wallets can reduce awareness of spending, leading to poor financial control and possible overspending. For students, this is an important issue because most of them have limited income and need to manage their money carefully. Even though these studies provide useful insight, many of them only focus on usage or satisfaction, not on how e-wallets affect both spending habits and financial wellbeing together.

There is still a gap in understanding how different factors like convenience, ease of use, promotions, and financial awareness work together to influence student’s behavior. For example, while convenience makes payment faster, it may also lead to impulsive buying. Promotions may attract users, but they can also encourage unnecessary spending. Without proper financial awareness and self-control, students may fall into what can be called a “digital wallet trap”, where easy spending leads to financial problems.

This study aims to examine how e-wallets usage affects the spending habits and financial wellbeing of students at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). It focuses on whether the features of e-wallets encourage higher spending and how this impacts student’s ability to manage their money. The study also aims to identify key issues faced by students and suggest ways to improve financial control.

Overall, this research highlights an important issue in today’s digital world, while e-wallets provide convenience, they may also create hidden risks in financial behaviour. Understanding this balance is important to help students use e-wallets wisely and maintain good financial wellbeing

LITERATURE REVIEW

E-Wallet Usage

An **e-wallet, or electronic wallet,** is a digital payment method that allows users to conduct financial transactions using their mobile devices. E-wallets essentially serve as virtual containers for money, enabling users to store funds, make payments, and transfer money without physical cash or cards. Their operation typically involves linking to a bank account or credit/debit card, or by loading money directly into the e-wallet account. Many **students opt for e-wallets** due to their cashless convenience, which simplifies transactions and eliminates the need to carry physical currency. E-wallets also frequently offer incentives such as **cashback, discounts, vouchers, and reward points**, which provide financial benefits and build user loyalty. The ease of performing various financial tasks, from paying bills to purchasing products, with just a few taps on a mobile screen is another significant draw.

Recent studies over the past five years highlight several key factors influencing e-wallet adoption and continued usage. Research by Hikmah, Putri, and Kusumawati (2025) shows that perceived benefits and financial literacy positively affect users' intention to continue using e-wallets, while perceived risk has a negative impact. Other studies, such as those by Wikantiyoso et al. (2021), emphasize the importance of adaptability in a VUCA environment, which indirectly supports the adoption of flexible technologies like e-wallets. Additionally, research on service quality and customer satisfaction (e.g., Singh et al., 2021) highlights the role of user experience, while studies using UTAUT2 (e.g., Alamanda et al., 2021) explain how technological factors influence adoption in mobile platforms. Furthermore, financial literacy remains a consistent determinant, with multiple studies confirming that higher financial knowledge significantly increases the likelihood of using financial technologies, including e-wallets. Therefore, we hypothesize:

H1: E-wallet usage positively affects spending habits.

H2: E-wallet usage positively affects financial wellbeing.

Spending Habits (The Mediating Variable)

Spending habits refer to the consistent and recurring patterns in which an individual or group allocates their financial resources. . In a digital ecosystem, these habits are increasingly influenced by the "cashless effect," which minimizes the psychological friction of a transaction. Unlike cash, digital money is often perceived as "invisible," leading to a reduction in self-monitoring and a surge in impulse buying. As digital natives, USM students are highly influenced by the "digital wallet trap," where the ease of "one-tap" payments can lead to unplanned purchases and eventually lead to budget shocks. Because these digital habits directly dictate how students manage their limited resources, they play a crucial role in determining their overall financial security.

Over the past five years, academic research has increasingly focused on the "cashless effect," highlighting how e-wallets fundamentally adapt the financial behavior of university students. Recent studies (e.g., Sudarno, 2024) demonstrate that the perceived ease and convenience of digital payments significantly increase impulsive buying tendencies and unplanned spending. Research specifically within the Malaysian context (Sanny, 2023; UTHM Study, 2025) shows that government initiatives like eTunai Belia Rahmah have fast-tracked e-wallet adoption among students, yet this shift often comes with a decrease in financial discipline. Furthermore, new psychological frameworks like "Spendception" (Schomburgk et al., 2024) explain that digital transactions create an emotional detachment from money, making it harder for students to perceive the "pain of paying." While digital literacy can help some students use transaction histories to track expenses, the overall trend in the last five years suggests that without high self-control, the convenience of e-wallets often leads to "budget shocks" and diminished financial security. Therefore, we hypothesize that:

H3: Spending habits significantly affect financial wellbeing.

Financial Wellbeing (The Dependent Variable)

Financial wellbeing is the state of having control over daily finances, the capacity to absorb economic shocks, and the freedom to make life-satisfying choices. National data from Bank Negara Malaysia (2022) reveals a concerning trend: 64% of individuals struggle with impulsive spending, and 54% possess a financial buffer of less than three months. For USM students, maintaining this wellbeing is contingent on managing the influence of digital payment platforms. This is supported by Fatimah et al. (2024), who found that students with better financial management skills, stronger self-control, and higher financial literacy tend to experience greater financial wellbeing, as they are more capable of controlling spending behavior and making sound financial decisions.

Relationship Between Variables, Hypotheses, and Conceptual Framework
Having reviewed the theoretical foundations of e-wallet usage, spending habits, and financial wellbeing individually, this section draws those threads together. The aim here is to articulate how these three variables relate to one another, to formally state the hypotheses guiding this study, and to present the conceptual framework that underpins the research design.

Relationship Between Variables
The growing prevalence of e-wallet platforms has prompted researchers to examine how digital payment behaviour shapes broader financial outcomes. While each variable in this study carries its own conceptual weight, it is their interaction rather than any single factor in isolation that forms the analytical core of this research.
E-Wallet Usage and Spending Habits

A well-documented concern in consumer behaviour research is that digital payment methods alter the psychological experience of spending. Unlike cash transactions, where the physical exchange of money creates a tangible sense of loss, e-wallet payments are largely frictionless. This reduction in what Prelec and Simester (2001) describe as the "pain of paying" has been associated with higher transaction frequency and a tendency toward less deliberate purchasing decisions. Soman (2001) similarly found that consumers who paid electronically recalled their expenditures less accurately than those who paid in cash, suggesting that e-wallet usage may weaken financial self-monitoring. On this basis, the present study posits that e-wallet usage exerts a significant influence on an individual's spending habits.

E-Wallet Usage and Financial Wellbeing
The relationship between e-wallet usage and financial wellbeing is less straightforward and warrants careful consideration. On one hand, many e-wallet platforms now integrate budgeting tools, real-time spending notifications, and categorised transaction histories features that, when actively used, may support greater financial awareness and discipline. On the other hand, the same ease of access that makes e-wallets convenient can also facilitate impulsive purchases and, where credit or buy-now-pay-later options are embedded, contribute to debt accumulation. The direction of this relationship likely depends on the user's financial literacy and self-regulatory capacity, though the overall effect on financial wellbeing remains an empirical question that this study seeks to address.

Spending Habits and Financial Wellbeing
Among the three variables, the link between spending habits and financial wellbeing is perhaps the most intuitively apparent, and it is well-supported in the existing literature. Individuals who demonstrate planned, intentional spending behaviour tend to report higher levels of financial satisfaction, lower financial stress, and stronger savings outcomes (Xiao & Porto, 2017). Conversely, impulsive or unregulated spending is consistently associated with reduced financial resilience, greater reliance on credit, and diminished long-term economic security. Given this, spending habits are treated in this study as both a dependent outcome of e-wallet usage and a direct predictor of financial wellbeing — occupying a mediating role within the broader research model.

Research Hypotheses
Grounded in the theoretical arguments and empirical evidence presented above, this study advances three formal hypotheses

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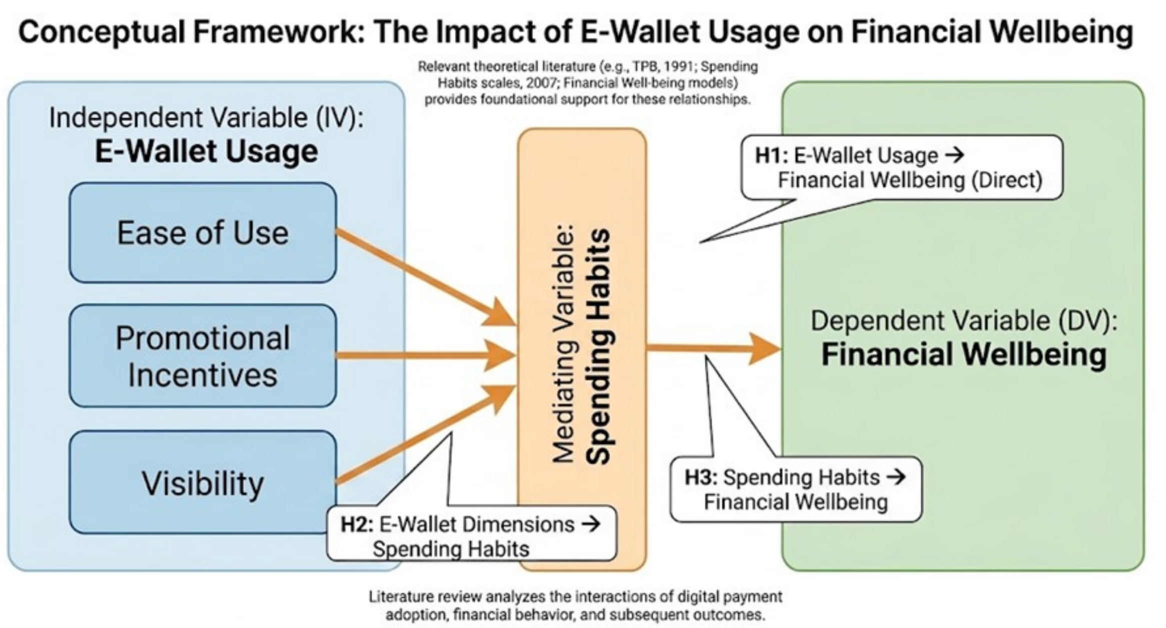
H1	E-wallet usage positively affects spending habits.
H2	E-wallet usage positively affects financial wellbeing.
H3	Spending habits significantly affect financial wellbeing.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework presented in Figure 1 translates the theoretical relationships discussed above into a visual research model. E-wallet usage is positioned as the independent variable, with direct pathways proposed toward both spending habits (H1) and financial wellbeing (H2). Spending habits occupy a dual role: as a dependent variable shaped by e-wallet usage, and as an independent predictor of financial wellbeing (H3). Financial wellbeing constitutes the ultimate dependent variable of the study.

This structure reflects a partial mediation model, wherein e-wallet usage may influence financial wellbeing both directly and indirectly through its effect on spending behaviour. The framework serves as the basis for instrument development and the analytical strategy outlined in Chapter 3.

Figure 1: Research Framework



In summary, this section has established the theoretical rationale for each of the three proposed hypotheses and outlined the structural logic of the research model. The hypotheses are not advanced arbitrarily; rather, they emerge directly from a critical reading of the existing literature and reflect the current state of scholarly understanding on digital financial behaviour. The conceptual framework presented here will guide all subsequent stages of the research process, from questionnaire design through to statistical analysis and interpretation of findings.

RESEARCH METHOD

Sample and Respondents

The target population for this study comprises undergraduate students at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) who utilize e-wallets. A sample size of N = 150 respondents was gathered from the dataset.

The demographic profile breakdown includes:

- Gender: Primarily Female with 109 respondents (72.7%), and 41 Male respondents (27.3%).
- Age Distribution: The majority fall within the 21 - 24 age bracket (100 respondents), followed by 18 - 20 (35 respondents), 25 - 29 (13 respondents), and 30 and above (2 respondents).
- Year of Study: Most participants are in Year 2 (70), followed by Year 1 (42), Year 3 (22), and Final Year (16).
- Monthly Allowance: The financial distribution is concentrated at RM500 and below (66) and RM501 - RM1000 (55), with fewer receiving RM1001 - RM2000 (22) or RM2001 and above (7).
- E-Wallet Usage Frequency: An overwhelming majority are heavy users, with 105 respondents using e-wallets Daily, 28 Several times a week, 9 Once a week, 7 Once a month, and 1 Never.

Research Procedures

1. Survey Creation: A structured digital questionnaire was compiled grouping operational items into distinct logical dimensions.
2. Distribution: The questionnaire was distributed electronically to university students (indicated by the Timestamp and demographic collection fields).
3. Data Preprocessing & Coding: Raw textual responses (e.g., "Strongly Agree") were systematically transformed into coded numerical scores (PEOU1_CODE, PI_1, etc.) within "SPSS ATW251 GROUP 21.xls" to allow statistical computational processing.

Data Collection Method

A quantitative primary data collection method was executed using a self-administered online cross-sectional questionnaire. This approach maximized reach within the student community and ensured completely standardized feedback across all 150 participants.

Questionnaire Design

The survey structure is segmented into clear sequential divisions:

- Section A: Demographics & Filtering: Evaluates user characteristics (Gender, Age, Year of Study, Allowance, and Usage Frequency).
- Section B: Independent Variable Antecedents: Psychometric tracking of perceived usability, promotional triggers, and psychological visual accounting traits.
- Section C: Dependent Variable / Outcome Metrics: Monitors resulting behavioural spending deviations and general financial wellness.

Measures
Likert Scale
The instrument utilizes a 5 point Likert Scale to measure the level of respondent agreement with the psychometric statements:

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Agree
- 5 = Strongly Agree

Independent Variable(s)
The framework contains three primary Independent Variables (IVs), aggregated in columns perceivedeaseof, promotional and paymentvisibility:

1. Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU): Measures user-friendliness, structural layout clarity, and operational flexibility of the application interface (Items: PEOU1_CODE to PEOU4).
2. Promotional Incentives (PI): Assesses the motivational influence of cashbacks, vouchers, app deals, and immediate discounts on consumer actions (Items: PI_1 to PI_4).
3. Payment Visibility / The Pain of Paying (PV): Gauges how abstract digital currency reduces immediate transaction hesitation and disrupts active budget tracking compared to physical cash (Items: PV_1 to PV_4).

Dependent Variable(s)
The study assesses the downstream impact via two key outcome dimensions, aggregated in columns spendinghabits and financialwellbeing:

1. Spending Habits (SH): Captures negative spending deviations such as impulse buying tendencies, overspending thresholds, unmapped micro-purchases ("leaking"), and post choice confusion regarding cash flows (Items: SH_1 to SH_4).
2. Financial Wellbeing (FW): Captures the subsequent personal fiscal health effects, including savings impairment, reliance on social debt/borrowing, and systemic financial stress or anxiety about long-term financial trajectories (Items: FW_1 to FW_4)

RESULTS

Table 1. Summary of Respondents' Demographic Characteristics (N = 150)

Response	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Gender		
Male	41	27.3
Female	109	72.6
Age		
18 - 20 years old	35	23.3
21 - 24 years old	100	66.6

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25 - 29 years old	13	8.6
30 years above	2	1.3
Year of Study		
Year 1	42	28.0
Year 2	70	46.6
Year 3	22	14.6
Final Year	16	10.6
Monthly Allowance		
RM 500 and below	66	44.0
RM 501 - RM 1000	55	36.6
RM 1001 - RM 2000	22	14.6
RM 2001 and above	7	4.6
Frequency of E-Wallet Usage		
Daily	105	70.0
Several times a week	28	18.6
Once a week	9	6.0
Once a month	7	4.6
Never	1	0.6

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the 150 respondents involved in this study. In terms of gender, female respondents constituted the majority of the sample with 109 respondents (72.67%), while male respondents accounted for 41 respondents (27.33%). Regarding age distribution, most respondents were between 21 and 24 years old (N= 100, 66.67%), followed by those aged 18 to 20 years old (N=35, 23.33%). Respondents aged 25 to 29 years old represented 8.67% (N=13) of the sample, while only 2 respondents (1.33%) were ages 30 years old and above.

In terms of academic standing, Year 2 students formed the largest group of respondents (N=70, 46.67%), followed by Year 1 students (N=42, 28.00%). Year 3 students accounted for 22 respondents (14.67%), while Final Year students represent the smallest group (N = 16, 10.67%). For monthly allowance, the highest proportion of respondents receive RM500 and below (N = 66, 44.00%), followed by RM501 to RM1000 (N = 55, 36.67%). A smaller proportion receives RM1001 to RM2000 (N = 22, 14.67%), and only a few respondents receive RM2001 and above (N = 7, 4.67%). Lastly, in terms of e-wallet usage frequency, most respondents use e-wallets daily (N = 105, 70.00%), followed by several times a week (N = 28, 18.67%). Fewer respondents use them once a week (N = 9, 6.00%) or once a month (N = 7, 4.67%), while only one respondent (N =

1, 0.67%) reported never using e-wallets. Overall, the findings indicate that e-wallet usage is highly common among the respondents.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics, Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficients, and Zero-order Correlations for All Study Variables

Variable	1	2	3	4	5
1. Perceived Ease of Use	0.899				
2. Promotional Incentives	0.500***	0.912			
3. Payment Visibility	0.306***	0.581***	0.935		
4. Spending Habits	0.270***	0.313***	0.373***	0.929	
5. Financial Wellbeing	0.183*	0.307***	0.453***	0.795***	0.934
Mean	14.64	13.77	13.40	13.33	13.16
SD	1.71	2.29	2.78	2.93	3.12

Note: N = 150; *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001. Diagonal values represent Cronbach's alpha coefficients.

Table 2 presents the descriptive statistics, reliability coefficients, and zero-order correlations among the study variables. The results indicate that all constructs demonstrated excellent reliability, with Cronbach's alpha values ranging from 0.899 to 0.935, exceeding the recommended threshold of 0.70. The correlation analysis reveals significant positive relationships among the variables. Perceived Ease of Use was positively correlated with Promotional Incentives ($r = 0.500$, $p < 0.001$), Payment Visibility ($r = 0.306$, $p < 0.001$), Spending Habits ($r = 0.270$, $p < 0.01$), and Financial Wellbeing ($r = 0.183$, $p < 0.05$). Promotional Incentives were positively associated with Payment Visibility ($r = 0.581$, $p < 0.001$), Spending Habits ($r = 0.313$, $p < 0.001$), and Financial Wellbeing ($r = 0.307$, $p < 0.001$). Furthermore, Payment Visibility showed significant positive relationships with Spending Habits ($r = 0.373$, $p < 0.001$) and Financial Wellbeing ($r = 0.453$, $p < 0.001$). The strongest correlation was observed between Spending Habits and Financial Wellbeing ($r = 0.795$, $p < 0.001$), indicating a substantial association between students' spending behaviour and their financial wellbeing.

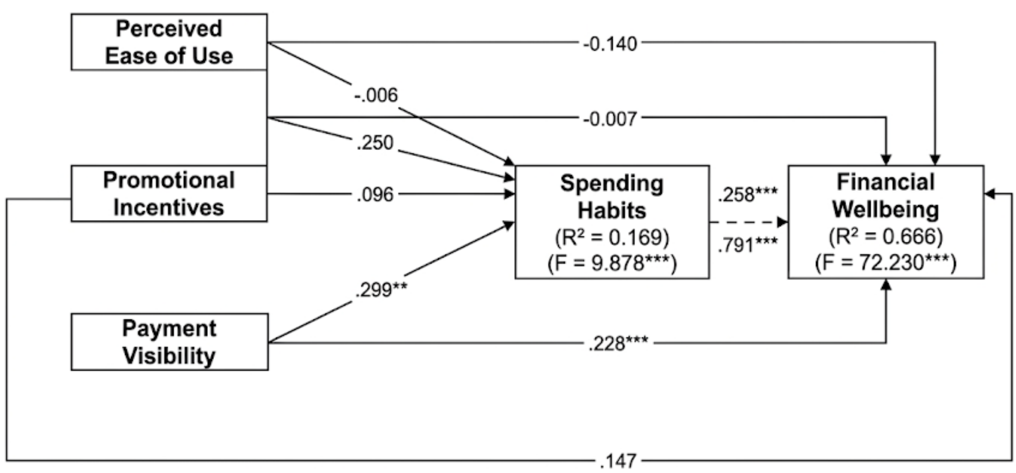
Table 3. Summary of Regression Analysis

Variable	Spending Habit	Financial Wellbeing
Perceived Ease of Use	0.250	-0.140
Promotional Incentives	0.096	-0.007
Payment Visibility	0.299**	0.228***
Spending Habits		0.791***
R^2	0.169	0.666
F-value	9.878***	72.230***
Durbin-Watson	1.623	1.498

Note: N = 150; **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.

Table 3 reports the regression analysis results examining the effects of Perceived Ease of Use, Promotional Incentives, and Payment Visibility on Spending Habits, as well as the influence of Spending Habits on Financial Wellbeing. The findings indicate that Payment Visibility significantly predicts Spending Habits (β = 0.299, p < 0.01), suggesting that reduced visibility of spending through e-wallet transactions increases students' tendency toward impulsive and excessive spending. However, Perceived Ease of Use (β = 0.250, p > 0.05) and Promotional Incentives (β = 0.096, p > 0.05) were not found to be significant predictors of Spending Habits. The model explains 16.9% of the variance in Spending Habits ($R^2 = 0.169$), indicating a moderate explanatory power. For Financial Wellbeing, the results reveal that Spending Habits significantly predict Financial Wellbeing (β = 0.791, p < 0.001), demonstrating that students' spending behaviour plays a crucial role in determining their overall financial condition. Additionally, Payment Visibility remains a significant predictor of Financial Wellbeing (β = 0.228, p < 0.001). In contrast, Perceived Ease of Use (β = -0.140, p > 0.05) and Promotional Incentives (β = -0.007, p > 0.05) do not significantly influence Financial Wellbeing. The Financial Wellbeing model explains 66.6% of the variance in the dependent variable ($R^2 = 0.666$), indicating strong explanatory power. The Durbin-Watson statistics of 1.623 and 1.498 suggest that autocorrelation is not a serious concern in the regression models. Overall, the findings suggest that Payment Visibility is the most influential e-wallet characteristic affecting Spending Habits, while Spending Habits serve as the strongest predictor of Financial Wellbeing among USM students.

Figure 2. Hypothesized Model and Path Analysis



Note: N=150; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001.

DISCUSSION

This study examined the impact of e-wallet usage on spending habits and financial wellbeing among Universiti Sains (USM) students. Specifically, the study investigated the effects of perceived ease of use, promotional incentives, and payment visibility on spending habits, as well as the influence of spending habits on financial wellbeing.

Perceived ease of use and spending habits
The findings indicate that perceived ease of use has a positive relationship with spending habits. Students generally perceive e-wallet applications as easy to use, flexible, and user-friendly. The convenience provided by e-wallets allows transactions to be completed quickly without much effort, which may encourage more frequent spending. This finding is consistent with previous studies that suggested digital payment systems reduce transaction friction and make purchasing activities more convenient. As highlighted by Sudarno (2024), the ease and convenience of digital payments can increase impulsive purchasing behavior. Similarly, Soman (2001) argued that electronic payments reduce consumer's awareness of spending compared to cash transactions.

Although the relationship was positive, the effect was relatively weaker compared to payment visibility. This suggests that while ease of use encourages e-wallet adoption, it may not be the primary factor driving excessive spending among students.

Promotional incentives and spending habits
The results show that promotional incentives have a positive relationship with spending habits. Cashback offers, reward points, vouchers, and discounts motivate students to use e-wallets more frequently. Many students are attracted by promotions and may make purchases they would not otherwise consider. This finding supports research which found promotional rewards significantly influence consumer behavior and increase transaction frequency.

However, the effect of promotional incentives was not as strong as expected. This may indicate that students are becoming more selective when responding to promotional campaigns. While incentives encourage spending, students may still evaluate whether purchases are necessary before making financial decisions.

Payment visibility and spending habits
Among all independent variables, payment visibility demonstrated the strongest positive influence on spending habits. This finding supports the concept of the "cashless effect",where digital payments reduce the psychological pain of paying. Since e-wallet transactions do not involve the physical exchange of cash, students may become less aware of how much money they are spending.

This finding is consistent with the arguments of Prelec and Simester et. al (2001), who suggested that cashless payment reduces spending awareness and increases purchase frequency. Schomburgk et al. (2024) also explained that digital transactions create emotional detachment from money, from money, making consumers less sensitive to spending decisions. As a result, students may engage in more impulsive purchases and experience greater difficulty controlling their budgets.

Spending habits and financial wellbeing
The findings reveal strong positive relationship habits and financial wellbeing. Spending habits emerged as the most significant predictor of financial wellbeing among USM students. This result demonstrates that students who maintain better spending control are more likely to experience higher levels of financial wellbeing.

The finding supports previous studies by Xiao and Porto et. al (2017), who found that planned and disciplined spending behaviour contributes positively to financial satisfaction and financial security. Students who manage their expenditures effectively are better able to save money, avoid unnecessary borrowing, and reduce financial stress. Conversely, impulsive spending and overspending can negatively affect financial stability and increase financial concerns.

The results suggest that spending habits play a crucial mediating role between e-wallet usage and financial wellbeing. While e-wallets provide convenience and efficiency, their long-term impact depends largely on how students manage their spending behaviour.

Hypotheses summary

Based on the findings, H1 is partially supported as e-wallet usage factors positively influence spending habits, particularly through payment visibility. H2 is also supported as certain e-wallet characteristics indirectly influence financial wellbeing. H3 is strongly supported because spending habits significantly affect financial wellbeing and represent the strongest relationship observed in the study.

Overall, the findings suggest that although e-wallets offer convenience and efficiency, payment awareness. Therefore, students must develop stronger financial discipline and spending control to maintain positive financial wellbeing in an increasingly cashless environment.

CONCLUSION

This study looked at how using e-wallets affects students spending habits and financial wellbeing at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Specifically, the research investigated how perceived ease of use, promotional incentives, and payment visibility influence students' spending habits, as well as how spending habits affect their financial wellbeing.

The findings show that using e-wallets plays a role in shaping students' financial behaviour. Among the factors studied, seeing transactions clearly was influential. When students use e-wallets they don't always see their spending, which makes them less aware of their expenditures. This can lead to purchases and overspending. Using e-wallets is easy and that makes students spend more unconsciously. Promotional offers from e-wallets also encourage students to spend more. Furthermore, spending habits were found to have a significant impact on financial wellbeing. Students who exhibited better spending control and financial discipline reported higher levels of financial wellbeing, while those who engaged in impulsive or excessive spending were more likely to experience financial stress and difficulties in managing their finances. These findings highlight the role of spending behaviour in how e-wallet usage affects students' overall condition.

Overall, the study shows that while e-wallets are convenient and offer benefits, they can encourage bad spending habits if not managed carefully. Therefore students need to be more aware of their finances, make budgets and control themselves when using payments. The findings also suggest that universities, policymakers, and e-wallet providers should promote financial literacy initiatives and implement features that improve spending transparency to help students make more informed financial decisions in an increasingly cashless society.

LIMITATION

This study looks at how e-wallet usage affects spending habits and financial wellbeing of students at Universiti Sains Malaysia. Firstly, the sample size of 150 respondents, though adequate for the scope of this research, constrains the generalizability of the findings. The sample predominantly comprised students aged between 21 and 30 years above and a student at Universiti Sains Malaysia, which may not accurately reflect the perceptions and experiences of other demographic groups, such as working professionals, older individuals, or those with varying levels of income.The study only looks at students from Universiti Sains Malaysia. So the results may not be the same for students at universities or for people who are not in university. Students from universities may have different backgrounds and experiences that affect how they spend money and manage their finances.

The study also relies on what students say about their spending habits. This can be a problem because students may not always remember things correctly or they may not want to tell the truth. They may say what they think is the answer instead of what really happens. This can affect the accuracy of the results. Another thing to consider is that the study only looks at one point in time. It does not look at how spending habits and wellbeing change over time. So we cannot say for sure if using e-wallets causes financial outcomes. Future studies that look at things over a period of time may be able to provide more insight into this.

The study mainly looks at how e-wallet usage affects spending habits and financial wellbeing. However there are things that can affect how students manage their money, such as how well they understand finance, how much money they have, what their friends think and what their parents do. Looking at these things in studies may give us a better understanding of what affects students' financial wellbeing.
Knowing about these limitations is important when looking at the results of the study. It also gives us ideas for what to study to learn more about how e-wallets affect university students' finances. The study of e-wallet usage and its impact on well-being is important and more research on e-wallet usage can help us understand this better.

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS
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