# ROLE OF MUTUAL FUND IN THE RURAL HOUSEHOLDS (SCHEME PREFERENCE AND PERIOD OF INVESTMENT)

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#### **Abstract**

The Indian financial market is one of the fastest emerging markets in Asia but in the present financial market, where a large number of private financial companies have disappeared but Mutual Fund (MF) offer the best and safest avenue of investment of household savings. In order to, Mutual Fund Industry (MFI) has involved the expansion of Mutual Fund Schemes (MFs) and it has grown at average rate of nine percent during the period from 2001 to 2009. This study aims to study the preference of MFs among rural households and their period of investment. This empirical research were used to questionnaire-cum-interview schedule and the primary data was collected from 226 respondents in rural households of Madhuranthakam Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu state using multi-stage sampling method. This study found that 69 percent of the respondents have invested in monthly income plans. This is followed by more than 50% of the respondents have invested in growth funds, income funds and tax saving fund. Age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation and family income of the respondents in the rural households associated with their period of investment in MFs.

**Keywords:** Mutual Fund, Investment Scheme, Rural Investor, Financial inclusion, Scheme Preference, Investment Period

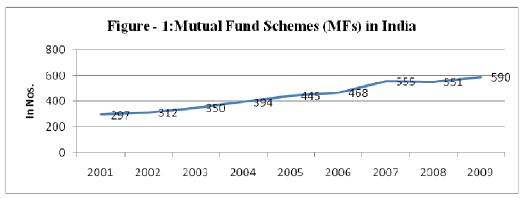
## Introduction and Execution of the Study Introduction

Mutual Fund (MF) is a mechanism for pooling the resources by issuing units to the investors and investing funds in securities in accordance with objectives as disclosed in offer document. Investments in securities are spread across a wide cross-section of industries and sectors and thus the risk is reduced. Diversification reduces the risk because all stocks may not move in the same direction in the same proportion at the same time. MF

issues units to the investors in accordance with quantum of money invested by them. Indian MFI has 48 million investor's accounts and among this 46.33 million accounts maintained by individuals and the remaining are Corporate/Institutions, Non-Resident of India (NRIs) and Foreign Institutional Investors (FII). The MFs normally come out with a number of schemes with different investment objectives which are launched from time to time. Any MF has the objectives of earning income for the investors and/or getting increased value of their investments. To achieve these objectives MFs adopt different strategies and accordingly offer schemes of investments. In 2009, MFI has 297 MFs but it is reached to 590 MFs with grew engine of 98.65 percent (Refer Figure - 1). The MFs are classified on the basis of their structure, nature and objectives. Table - 1 presents classification of the MFs.

Table 1 Classification of MFs/Schemes

Structure	Nature	Investment objective
Open-ended	Equity funds	Growth Schemes
Schemes	Diversified equity funds	
	Mid-Cap funds	7
	Sector specific funds	7
	Tax Savings Funds (ELSS)	
Close-ended	Debt funds	Income schemes
schemes	Gilt funds	
	Income funds	7
	Short Term Plans	
	Liquid funds ( money market schemes)	
Interval schemes	Balanced Funds	Balanced schemes
		Tax saving schemes:
		Index schemes:
		Sector-specific schemes



Source: Secondary data

### Performance of Mutual Fund Industry (MFI) in India

The Mutual Fund Industry (MFI) developed by four different phases like the first phase from July'1964 to Nov'1987 (UTI fund), second phase from Nov'1987 to Oct'1993 through entry public sector mutual funds, third phase from Oct'1993 to Feb'2003 through entry of private sector mutual funds and Feb'2003 onwards fourth phase of mutual funds. The assets maintained by mutual funds have grown at average rate of 19 percent for the twelve-year period from 2000-01 to 2011-2012. The actual amount of assets maintained by mutual funds in India continuously increased every year during the study period from 2000-2001 to 2007-2008. Thereafter, downward trend was found due to crisis of financial market. The actual amount of assets maintained by mutual funds during 2011-2012 was at Rs.5872.17 Billion compared to Rs.5922.5 Billion during the previous year (2010-2011) indicating an downward performance of over the year of 2010-2011. The actual and expected growth of assets in the MFI explained that, actual growth of assets maintained by MFs was less than the expected growth during the study period from 2002-2003 to 2006-2007, 2008-2009 and 2011-2012 (Refer Figure - 2). Before global meltdown and financial crisis, the assets maintained by mutual funds grown at average rate of 50 percent during the period from 2004-2005 to 2007-2008 but its average growth declined to 12 percent during the period from 2008-2009 to 2011-2012. In future the growth of assets maintained by MFs which will reach around or more than Rs.10,000 Billion on 2019-2020 with the average growth of 8 percent during the period from 2011-2012 to 2019-2020 (Refer Figure - 3).

### Issues raised for the study

Presently, access to financial services/education remains very low in rural India and as a result, 203 million households face real difficulties in accessing services like saving in a secure way, efficiently transferring funds, borrowing to facilitate entrepreneurship,

securing assets through insurance and so on. The main objective of education towards MF is to provide those people with the funds and financial services they need to multiply their earnings and build a more prosperous future. For that reason, this study concentrates to rural households' perception towards Mutual Fund (MF).

### Objectives of the Study

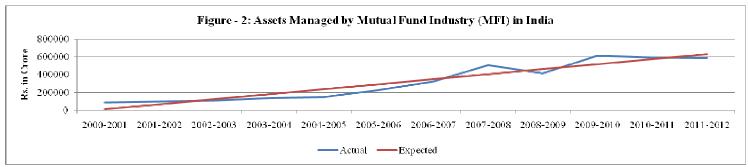
- To study the Mutual Fund Scheme (MFs) preference of among the rural households
- To analyze the relationship MFs preference among various groups of the rural in households
- To analyze the period of investment in MFs among various groups of the rural households

### Hypotheses of the Study

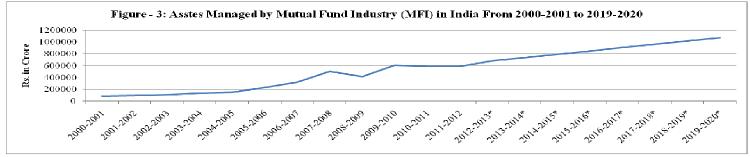
- Ho<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant relationship of the investment/preference in various MFs among the various groups of the rural households.
- Ho<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship of the period of investment of MFs among the various groups of the rural households.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This empirical study mainly depends on the primary data and it is collected from respondents in rural households of Madhuranthakam Taluk of Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu state. The secondary data helps to discuss the theoretical concept of the research and it is collected from websites of AMFI an SEBI. Questionnaire-cum-Interview schedule were used to collect primary data and 226 valid respondents (investors of Mutual Fund Schemes) selected from rural households located in the revenue villages of Avirimedu, Baburayanpettai, Chinnavenmani, Irumbedu, Kattugudalur, Edayalam, Melavalam, Eruvakkam, Alapakkam and Thirumukkadu using multi-stage sampling method. % Analysis, and Chi-square (x2) test is the statistical application of current research work.



Source: Secondary data



Source: Secondary data & \* Forecast

#### Review of Literature

The savings of MFs was six percent of total financial savings among the public (Sahu & Panda 1993) and the self-employed and salaried people are most of the investors in MFI (Sikidar & Singh 1996). The investors are having knowledge about costs, risk and returns associated with MFs (Gordon 1997). The effectiveness of marketing strategies size of fund, and past return of funds have great impact of the investors of MFs (Woerheide 1982). In addition, the brand image is the major influencing factors among the investors for investing in MFs schemes (Chakarabarti & Rungta 2000). The best performance of the scheme is PNB ELSS 92, Bonanze 80 CC and GIC and worst performance scheme is Can 80 CC, Canpep 91 and Can bonus (Varghese Kallada 1993). According to Ippolito (1992) fund selection by investors is based on past performance of the funds and money flows into winning funds more rapidly than they flow out of losing funds. Jayadev (1996) has studied the performance of 'Mastergain 1991' of UTI and 'Magnum Express, of SBI MF. Amitabh Gupta (2000) examined that the investment performance in terms of six performance measures using weekly net annual value data for 73 mutual funds schemes from 1994-1999.

### **Analysis And Discussions**

This part discusses on the role of MFs in the rural households like preference of MFs and period of investment in MFs with the help of statistical application.

#### Preference of MFs Schemes of the Respondents

Distribution of the respondents based on their investment in the various MFs is shown in the table 2, 3 &4 with the testing of various hypotheses.

### Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Growth Funds

Ho<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in growth funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

### Discussion

It could be collected from the table - 2 that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, no. of earning family members, family income, proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in growth funds.

Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship of investment in growth funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualifications, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

Table 2 Preference of MFs Schemes

Table 2 Preference of Mrs Scrientes										
Factor	Attributes		Growth Funds			Income Funds			Balanced Funds	
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
	Male	83 (54.6)	69 (45.4)	152 (100)	83 (54.6)	69 (45.4)	152(100)	72 (47.4)	80 (52.6)	152 (100)
Gender	Female	35 (47.3)	39 (52.7)	74 (100)	38 (51.4)	36 (48.6)	74 (100)	33 (44.6)	41 (55.4)	74 (100)
Gelidei	Total	118(52.2)	108(47.8)	226 (100)	121(53.5)	105(46.5)	226(100)	105 (46.5)	121 (53.5)	226 (100)
	×2= 1.065, df	1, T.V = 3.84	1		×2=	0.212, df= 1, T.V =	3.84	×2=	0.154, df= 1, T.V =	3.84
	Upto 25	21 (63.6)	12 (36.4)	33 (100)	19 (57.6)	14 (42.4)	33 (100)	17 (51.5)	16 (48.5)	33 (100)
	26-45	82 (48.8)	86 (51.2)	168 (100)	89 (53)	79 (47)	168(100)	77 (45.8)	91 (54.2)	168 (100)
Age group (In Years)	Above 45	15 (60)	10 (40)	25 (100)	13 (52)	12 (48)	25 (100)	11 (44)	14 (56)	25 (100)
	Total	118(52.2)	108(47.8)	226 (100)	121(53.5)	105(46.5)	226(100)	105 (46.5)	121 (53.5)	226 (100)
	x2= 3.113, df= 2, T.V = 5.99	· ·	1	1	x2= 0.261, df= 2, T.V = 5.99			×2=	0.426, df= 2, T.V =	5.99
Marital status	Married	91 (53.5)	79 (46.5)	170(100)	96 (56.5)	74 (43.5)	170(100)	79 (46.5)	91 (53.5)	170 (100)
	Unmarried	27 (48.2)	29 (51.8)	56 (100)	25 (44.6)	31 (55.4)	56 (100)	26 (46.4)	30 (53.6)	56 (100)
	Total	118(52.2)	108(47.8)	226 (100)	121(53.5)	105(46.5)	226(100)	105 (46.5)	121 (53.5)	226 (100)
	x2= 0.477, df=	: 1, Asymp.Sig T.V = 3.84			×2=	2.369, df= 1, T.V =	3.84	x2=0.000, df=1, Asymp.Sig=T.V = 3.84		
	Primary education (I-VIII)	8 (44.4)	10(525.6)	18 (100)	12 (66.7)	6 (33.3)	18 (100)	10 (55.6)	8 (44.4)	18 (100)
	School education (IX-XII)	24 (55.8)	19 (44.2)	43 (100)	26 (60.5)	17 (39.5)	43 (100)	15 (34.9)	28 (65.1)	43 (100)
Educational qualification	Higher education	69 (53.9)	59 (46.1)	128(100)	66 (51.6)	62 (48.4)	128(100)	62 (48.4)	66 (51.6)	128 (100)
Educational qualification	Technical education	17 (45.9)	20 (54.1)	37 (100)	17 (45.9)	20 (54.1)	37 (100)	18 (48.6)	19 (51.4)	37 (100)
	Total	118(52.2)	108 47.8)	226 (100)	121(53.5)	105(46.5)	226(100)	105 (46.5)	121 (53.5)	226 (100)
	x2= 1.388, df= 3, T.V = 7.81			I.	×2=	3.135, df= 3, T.V =	7.81	×2=	3.188, df= 3, T.V =	7.81
	Government employee	14 (42.4)	19 (57.6)	33 (100)	16 (48.5)	17 (51.5)	33 (100)	17 (51.5)	16 (48.5)	33 (100)
	Private employee	52 (52.5)	47 (47.5)	99 (100)	56 (56.6)	43 (43.4)	99 (100)	47 (47.5)	52 (52.5)	99 (100)
	Professional	8 (30.8)	18 (69.2)	26 (100)	8 (30.8)	18 (69.2)	26 (100)	6 (23.1)	20 (76.9)	26 (100)
	Businessman	22 (68.8)	10 (31.3)	32 (100)	17 (53.1)	15 (46.9)	32 (100)	19 (59.4)	13 (40.6)	32 (100)
Occupation	Agriculturalists	10 (55.6)	8 (44.4)	18 (100)	12 (66.7)	6 (33.3)	18 (100)	8 (44.4)	10 (55.6)	18 (100)
	Others	12 (66.7)	6 (33.3)	18 (100)	12 (66.7)	6 (33.3)	18 (100)	8 (44.4)	10 (55.6)	18 (100)
	Total	118(52.2)	108(47.8)	226 (100)	121(53.5)	105(46.5)	226(100)	105 (46.5)	121 (53.5)	226 (100
	×2=	11.158*, df= 5, T.V	= 11.07	1	×2= 8	3.619, df= 5, T.V = 1	1.07	×2=	8.300, df= 5, T.V =	11.07
	1	Source: Field data,	Source: Field dat	a. * 5% level of sig	nificant and ** one	percent level of si	gnificant	1		

Cont.,					Table 2 Preference of MFs Schemes					
Factor			Growth Funds		Income Funds			Balanced Funds		
ractor	Attributes	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
	1	49(45.4)	59(54.6)	108 (100)	43(39.8)	65(60.2)	108 (100)	39 (36.1)	69 (63.9)	108 (100)
	2	55 (60.4)	36 (39.6)	91 (100)	64 (70.3)	27 (29.7)	91 (100)	49 (53.8)	42 (46.2)	91 (100)
Earning Members (In Nos.)	3	14 (51.9)	13 (48.1)	27 (100)	14 (51.9)	13 (478.1)	27 (100)	17 (63)	10 (37)	27 (100)
	Total	118 (52.2)	108 (47.8)	226 (100)	121 (53.5)	105 (46.5)	226 (100)	105 (46.5)	121 (53.5)	226 (100)
	×2= 4.	496, df= 2, T.'	V = 5.99		x2= 18.523**, df= 2, T.V = 9.21			x2= 9.602**, df= 2, T.V = 9.21		
	Upto Rs. 10, 000	14 (56)	11 (44)	25 (100)	12 (48)	13 (52)	25 (100)	12 (48)	13 (52)	25 (100)
	Rs.10,001 - Rs. 20,000	38 (54.3)	32 (45.7)	70 (100)	46 (65.7)	24 (34.3)	70 (100)	31 (44.3)	39 (55.7)	70 (100)
Family Income (Rs. Per Month)	Above Rs. 20,000	66 (50.4)	65 (49.6)	131 (100)	63 (48.1)	68 (51.9)	131 (100)	62 (47.3)	69 (52.7)	131 (100)
	Total	118 (52.2)	108 (47.8)	226 (100)	121 (53.5)	105 (46.5)	226 (100)	105 (46.5)	121 (53.5)	226 (100)
	×2= 0.	440, df= 2, T.	V = 5.99		x2= 6.043*, df= 2, T.V = 5.99			x2= 0.197, df= 2, T.V = 5.99		
	Upto 10	38 (53.5)	33 (46.5)	71 (100)	42 (59.2)	29 (40.8)	71 (100)	32 (45.1)	39 (54.9)	71 (100)
	11 - 20	37 (57.8)	27 (42.2)	64 (100)	37 (57.8)	27 (42.2)	64 (100)	29 (45.3)	35 (54.7)	64 (100)
Proportion of saving Per Month (In %)	Above 20	43 (47.3)	48 (52.7)	91 (100)	42 (46.2)	49 (53.8)	91 (100)	44 (48.4)	47 (51.6)	91 (100)
	Total	118 (52.2)	108 (47.8)	226 (100)	121 (53.5)	105 (46.5)	226 (100)	105 (46.5)	121 (53.5)	226 (100)
		175, df= 2, T.			x2= 3.365, df= 2, T.V = 5.99				x2= 0.220, df= 2, T.V = 5.99	
Source: Field data, * 5% level of signifi	cant and ** one% percent l	evel of signific	ant				•			•

On the other hand, C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level between occupations of the respondents and investment in growth funds. For that reason, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be reported that there is a significant relationship of investment in growth funds among the various occupations.

### Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Income Funds

Ho<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in income funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupations, number of earning members of the family, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

**Discussion:** It is obvious from the table 2 that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in income funds. For that reason, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship of investment in income funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification and proportion of saving of the respondents. On the other hand, C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 1% &5% level among the various groups of the no. of earning family members, family income of the respondents and their investment in income funds respectively. So, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship of investment in income funds among the various groups of the earning no. of family members and family incomes.

### Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Balanced Funds

Ho<sub>3</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in balanced funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

**Discussion:** It is inferred from the table 2 that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @5% level among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, family income, proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in balanced funds. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship of investment in balanced funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation family income and proportion of saving of the respondents. On the other hand, calculated value of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than the T.V of  $x^2$  @1% level between no. of earning family members and investment in balanced funds. For that reason, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be reported that there is a significant relationship of investment in balanced funds among the various groups of no. of earning family members.

		Tab	ole 3 Prefer	ence of MFs	Schemes					
Forton	A44-91	Montl	nly Income I	Plans		Gilt funds		Liquid/Money market funds		
Factor	Attributes	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
	Male	118 (77.6)	34 (22.4)	152 (100)	72 (47.4)	80 (52.6)	152 (100)	34 (22.4)	118 (77.6)	152 (100
Gender	Female	37 (50)	37 (50)	74 (100)	27 (36.5)	47 (63.5)	74 (100)	21 (28.4)	53 (71.6)	74 (100
Gender	Total	155 (68.6)	71 (31.4)	226 (100)	99 (43.8)	127 (56.2)	226 (100)	55 (24.3)	171 (75.7)	226 (100
	x2= 17.636	**, df= 1, T.V	= 6.63		x2= 2.3	94, df= 1, T.\	V = 3.84	×2= 0.9	76, df= 1, T.\	V = 3.84
	Upto 25	25 (75.8)	8 (24.2)	33 (100)	13 (39.4)	20 (60.6)	33 (100)	11 (33.3)	22 (66.7)	33 (100
Age group (In Years)	26-45	111 (66.1)	57 (33.9)	168 (100)	74 (44)	94 (56)	168 (100)	40 (23.8)	128 (76.2)	168 (100
	Above 45	19 (76)	6 (24)	25 (100)	12 (48)	13 (52)	25 (100)	4 (16)	21 (84)	25 (100
	Total	155 (68.6)	71 (31.4)	226 (100)	99 (43.8)	127 (56.2)	226 (100)	55 (24.3)	171 (75.7)	226 (100
	x2= 1.919, df= 2, T.V = 5.99				x2= 0.444, df= 2, T.V = 5.99			x2= 2.420, df= 2, T.V = 5.99		
	Married	111 (65.3)	59 (34.7)	170 (100)	77 (45.3)	93 (54.7)	170 (100)	37 (21.8)	133 (78.2)	170 (100
Marital status	Unmarried	44 (78.6)	12 (21.4)	56 (100)	22 (39.3)	34 (60.7)	56 (100)	18 (32.1)	38 (67.9)	56 (100)
	Total	155 (68.6)	71 (31.4)	226 (100)	99 (43.8)	127 (56.2)	226 (100)	55 (24.3)	171 (75.7)	226 (100
	x2= 3.446	, df= 1, T.V =	= 3.84		x2= 0.6	518, df= 1, T.\	V = 3.84	x2= 2.4	64, df = 1, T.\	V = 3.84
	Primary education (I-VIII)	16 (88.9)	2 (11.1)	18 (100)	10 (55.6)	8 (44.4)	18 (100)	4 (22.2)	14 (77.8)	18 (100)
	School education (IX-XII)	31 (72.1)	12 (27.9)	43 (100)	23 (53.5)	20 (46.5)	43 (100)	5 (11.6)	38 (88.4)	43 (100)
Educational qualification	Higher education	89 (69.5)	39 (30.5)	128 (100)	48 (37.5)	80 (62.5)	128 (100)	43 (33.5)	85 (66.4)	128 (100
Lacational qualification	Technical education	19 (51.4)	18 (48.6)	37 (100)	18 (48.6)	19 (51.4)	37 (100)	3 (8.1)	94 (91.9)	37 (100)
	Total	155 (68.6)	71 (31.4)	226 (100)	99 (43.8)	127 (56.2)	226 (100)	55 (24.3)	171 (75.7)	226 (100
	x2= 8.843	*, df= 3, T.V	= 7.81		×2= 5.0	67, df= 3, T.\	V = 7.81	x2= 15.06	64**, df= 3, T.	.V = 11.34
	Source: Field	data, * 5% l	evel of signi	ficant and **	one% perce	nt level of sig	gnificant			

		Cont.,	Table 3	Preference	of MFs Sche	mes				
Factor	Attributes	Montl	hly Income	Plans		Gilt funds		Liquid/	Money marke	et funds
ractor	Attributes	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
	Government employee	21 (63.6)	12 (36.4)	33 (100)	11 (33.3)	22 (66.7)	33 (100)	15 (45.5)	18 (54.5)	33 (100)
	Private employee	62 (62.6)	37 (37.4)	99 (100)	49 (49.5)	50 (50.5)	99 (100)	34 (34.3)	65 (65.7)	99 (100)
	Professional	20 (76.9)	6 (23.1)	26 (100)	10 (38.5)	16 (61.5)	26 (100)	2 (7.7)	24 (92.3)	26 (100)
0 "	Businessman	25 (78.1)	7 (21.9)	32 (100)	12 (37.5)	20 (62.5)	32 (100)	2 (6.3)	30 (93.8)	32 (100)
Occupation	Agriculturalists	14 (77.8)	4 (22.2)	18 (100)	10 (55.6)	8 (44.4)	18 (100)	2 (11.1)	16 (88.9)	18 (100)
	Others	13 (72.2)	5 (27.8)	18 (100)	7 (38.9)	11 (61.1)	18 (100)	0 (0)	18 (100)	18 (100)
	Total	155 (68.6)	71 (31.4)	226 (100)	99 (43.8)	127 (56.2)	226 (100)	55 (24.3)	171 (75.7)	226 (100
	x2= 5.01	x2= 4.77	77, df= 5, T.V	= 11.07	x2= 30.47	72**, df= 5, T	.V = 15.09			
Earning Members (In Nos.)	1	74 (68.5)	34 (31.5)	108 (100)	41 (38)	67 (62)	108 (100)	24 (22.2)	84 (77.8)	108 (100
	2	63 (69.2)	28 (30.8)	91 (100)	45 (49.5)	46 (50.5)	91 (100)	28 (30.8)	63 (69.2)	91 (100)
	3	18 (66.7)	9 (33.3)	27 (100)	13 (48.1)	14 (51.9)	27 (100)	3 (11.1)	24 (88.9)	27 (100)
,	Total	155 (68.6)	71 (31.4)	226 (100)	99 (43.8)	127 (56.2)	226 (100)	55 (24.3)	171 (75.7)	226 (100
	x2= 0.064, df= 2, T.V = 5.99				x2= 2.883, df= 2, T.V = 5.99			x2= 4.872, df= 2, T.V = 5.99		
	Upto Rs.10, 000	19 (76)	6 (24)	25 (100)	17 (68)	8 (32)	25 (100)	7 (28)	18 (72)	25 (100)
	Rs.10,001 - Rs. 20,000	40 (57.1)	30 (42.9)	70 (100)	30 (42.9)	40 (57.1)	70 (100)	13 (18.6)	57 (81.4)	70 (100)
Family Income (Rs. Per Month)	Above Rs. 20,000	96 (73.3)	35 (26.7)	131 (100)	52 (39.7)	79 (60.3)	131 (100)	35 (26.7)	96 (73.3)	131 (100
,	Total	155 (68.6)	71 (31.4)	226 (100)	99 (43.8)	127 (56.2)	226 (100)	55 (24.3)	171 (75.7)	226 (100)
	x2= 6.23	3*, df= 2, T.V	/ = 5.99		x2= 6.870*, df= 2, T.V = 5.99			x2= 1.849, df= 2, T.V = 5.99		
	Upto 10	39 (54.9)	32 (45.1)	71 (100)	33 (46.5)	38 (53.5)	71 (100)	18 (25.4)	53 (74.6)	71 (100)
Duamantian of accion Dan	11 - 20	46 (71.9)	18 (28.1)	64 (100)	26 (40.6)	38 (59.4)	64(100)	19 (29.7)	45 (70.3)	64 (100)
Proportion of saving Per Month (In %)	Above 20	70 (76.9)	21 (23.1)	91 (100)	40 (44)	51 (56)	91 (100)	18 (19.8)	73 (80.2)	91 (100)
	Total	155 (68.6)	71 (31.4)	226 (100)	99 (43.8)	127 (56.2)	226 (100)	55 (24.3)	171 (75.7)	226 (100
x2= 9.402**, df= 2, T.V = 9.21								V = 5.99		

## Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Monthly Income Plans

Ho<sub>4</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in monthly income plans among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

**Discussion:** It is obvious from the table - 3 that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level among the various groups of the age group, marital status, occupation, no. of earning family members of the respondents and their investment in monthly income plans. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be reported that there is no significant relationship of investment in monthly income plans among the various groups of the age group, marital status, occupation and number of earning family members of the respondents. On the other hand, C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level between gender, educational qualification, family income, proportion of saving and investment in monthly income plans. So, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be reported that there is a significant relationship of investment in monthly income plans among the various groups of gender, educational qualification, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

#### Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Gilt Funds

Ho<sub>5</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in gilt funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, number of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

**Discussion:** It could be collected from the table - 3 that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level of significant among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in gilt funds. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be reported that there is no significant relationship of investment in gilt funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, and proportion of saving of the respondents. On the other hand, C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level between family income of the respondents and investment in gilt funds. So, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship of investment in gilt funds among the various groups of family incomes.

# Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Liquid/Money Market Funds

Ho<sub>6</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in liquid/money market funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

Discussion: Table - 3 that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, no. of earning family members, family income, proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in liquid/money market funds. For that reason, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship of investment in liquid/money market funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents. On the other hand, the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than the T.V of  $x^2$  @1% level between family income, occupations of the respondents and investment in liquid/money market funds. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be reported that there is a significant relationship of investment in liquid/money market funds among the various family income and occupations.

			Table 4 Prefe	erence of M	Fs Schemes						
Factor	Attributes		Index Funds			Sector Funds			Tax Saving Funds		
ractor	Attributes	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
	Male	19 (12.5)	133 (87.5)	152 (100)	12 (7.9)	140 (92.1)	152 (100)	97 (63.8)	55 (36.2)	152 (100)	
Gender	Female	17 (23)	57 (77)	74 (100)	17 (23)	57 (77)	74 (100)	30 (40.5)	44 (59.5)	74 (100)	
Gender	Total	36 (15.9)	190 (84.1)	226 (100)	29 (12.8)	197 (87.2)	226 (100)	127 (56.2)	99 (43.8)	226 (100)	
	x2= 4.076*, df= 1, T.V = 3.84					x2= 4.777, df= 1, T.V = 5.99			3**, df= 1, T	.V = 6.63	
	Upto 25	12 (36.4)	21 (63.6)	33 (100)	9 (27.3)	24 (72.7)	33 (100)	13 (39.4)	20 (60.6)	33 (100)	
	26-45	24 (14.3)	144 (85.7)	168 (100)	18 (10.7)	150 (89.3)	168 (100)	99 (58.9)	69 (41.1)	168 (100)	
Age group (In Years)	Above 45	0 (0)	25 (100)	25 (100)	2 (8)	23 (92)	25 (100)	15 (60)	10 (40)	25 (100)	
	Total	36 (15.9)	190 (84.1)	226 (100)	29 (12.8)	197 (87.2)	226 (100)	127 (56.2)	99 (43.8)	226 (100)	
	x2= 15.365	x2= 7.3	48*, df= 2, T.	V = 5.99	x2= 4.441, df= 2, T.V = 5.99						
	Married	22 (12.9)	148 (87.1)	170 (100)	18 (10.6)	152 (89.4)	170 (100)	99 (58.2)	71 (41.8)	170 (100)	
Marital status	Unmarried	14 (25)	42 (75)	56 (100)	11 (19.6)	45 (80.4)	56 (100)	28 (50)	28 (50)	56 (100)	
marrat status	Total	36 (15.9)	190 (84.1)	226 (100)	29 (12.8)	197 (87.2)	226 (100)	127 (56.2)	99 (43.8)	226 (100)	
	x2= 4.574	*, df= 1, T.V	′ = 3.84		x2= 3.088, df= 1, T.V = 3.84			x2= 1.161, df= 1, T.V = 3.84			
	Primary education (I-VIII)	6 (33.3)	12 (66.7)	18 (100)	2 (11)	16 (88.9)	18 (100)	14 (77.8)	4 (22.2)	18 (100)	
	School education (IX-XII)	2 (4.7)	41 (95.3)	43 (100)	0 (0)	43 (100)	43 (100)	30 (69.8)	13 (30.2)	43 (100)	
Educational	Higher education	23 (18)	105 (82)	128 (100)	24 (18.8)	104 (81.3)	128 (100)	57 (44.5)	71 (55.5)	128 (100)	
qualification	Technical education	5 (13.5)	32 (86.5)	37 (100)	3 (8.1)	31 (91.9)	37 (100)	26 (70.3)	11 (29.7)	37 (100)	
	Total	36 (15.9)	190 (84.1)	226 (100)	29 (12.8)	197 (87.2)	226 (100)	127 (56.2)	99 (43.8)	226 (100)	
	×2= 8.714	*, df= 3, T.V	′ = 7 <b>.</b> 81		x2= 11.1	124*, df= 3, T	.V = 7.81	x2= 16.676	6**, df= 3, T.	V = 11.34	
	Source: Fiel	d data, *!	5% level of sig	nificant and	** one% per	cent level of	significant				

		Cont	:., Table	4 Preferen	ce of MFs Sc	hemes										
Factor	Attributes		Index Funds			Sector Funds	5	Tax Saving Funds								
ractor		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total						
	Government employee	7 (21.2)	26 (78.8)	33 (100)	7 (21.2)	26 (78.8)	33 (100)	13 (39.4)	20 (60.6)	33 (100)						
	Private employee	21 (21.2)	78 (78.8)	99 (100)	19 (19.2)	80 (80.8)	99 (100)	49 (49.5)	50 (50.5)	99 (100)						
	Professional	4 (15.4)	22 (84.6)	26 (100)	2 (7.7)	24 (92.3)	26 (100)	20 (76.9)	6 (23.1)	26 (100)						
Occupation	Businessman	2 (6.3)	30 (93.8)	32 (100)	1 (3.1)	31 (96.9)	32 (100)	16 (50)	16 (50)	32 (100)						
	Agriculturalists	2 (11.1)	16 (88.9)	18 (100)	0 (0)	18 (100)	18 (100)	14 (77.8)	4 (22.2)	18 (100)						
	Others	0 (0)	18 (100)	18 (100)	0 (0)	18 (100)	18 (100)	15 (83.3)	3 (16.7)	18 (100)						
	Total	36 (15.9)	190 (84.1)	226 (100)	29 (12.8)	197 (87.2)	226 (100)	127 (56.2)	99 (43.8)	226 (100)						
	x2= 8.718	3, df=5, T.V	= 11.07		x2= 14.20	61*, df= 5, T.	V = 11.07	x2= 19.418	8**, df= 5, T	.V = 15.09						
Earning Members (In Nos.)	1	16 (14.8)	92 (85.2)	108 (100)	12 (11.1)	96 (88.9)	108 (100)	61 (56.5)	47 (43.5)	108 (100)						
	2	15 (16.5)	76 (83.5)	91 (100)	14 (15.4)	77 (84.6)	91 (100)	45 (49.5)	46 (50.5)	91 (100)						
	3	5 (18.5)	22 (81.5)	27 (100)	3 (11.1)	24 (88.9)	27 (100)	21 (77.8)	6 (22.2)	27 (100)						
	Total	36 (15.9)	190 (84.1)	226 (100)	29 (12.8)	197 (87.2)	226 (100)	127 (56.2)	99 (43.8)	226 (100)						
	x2=0.256	6, df=2, T.V	= 5.99		x2= 0.888, df= 2, T.V = 5.99			x2= 6.794*, df= 2, T.V = 5.99								
	Upto Rs.10, 000	7 (28)	18 (72)	25 (100)	2 (8)	23 (92)	25 (100)	19 (76)	6 (24)	25 (100)						
Family Income	Rs.10,001 - Rs. 20,000	16 (22.9)	54 (77.1)	70 (100)	9 (12.9)	61 (87.1)	70 (100)	41 (58.6)	29 (41.4)	70 (100)						
Family Income (Rs. Per Month)	Above Rs. 20,000	13 (9.9)	118 (90.1)	131 (100)	18 (13.7)	113 (86.3)	131 (100)	67 (51.1)	64 (48.9)	131 (100)						
	Total	36 (15.9)	190 (84.1)	226 (100)	29 (12.8)	197 (87.2)	226 (100)	127 (56.2)	99 (43.8)	226 (100)						
	x2= 8.75	7*, df=2, T.V	′ = 5 <b>.</b> 99	•	x2= 0.6	19, df = 2, T.\	V = 5.99	x2= 5.501, df= 2, T.V = 5.99								
	Upto 10	20 (28.2)	51 (71.8)	71 (100)	14 (19.7)	57 (80.3)	71 (100)	34 (47.9)	37 (52.1)	71 (100)						
Proportion of	11 - 20	2 (3.1)	62 (96.9)	64 (100)	4 (6.3)	60 (93.8)	64 (100)	49 (76.6)	15 (23.4)	64 (100)						
saving Per Month	Above 20	14 (15.4)	77 (84.6)	91 (100)	11 (12.1)	80 (87.9)	91 (100)	44 (48.4)	47 (51.6)	91 (100)						
(In %)	Total	36 (15.9)	190 (84.1)	226 (100)	29 (12.8)	197 (87.2)	226 (100)	127 (56.2)	99 (43.8)	226 (100						
	x2= 15.798**, df=2, T.V = 9.21					x2= 5.534, df= 2, T.V = 5.99			x2= 15.050**, df= 2, T.V = 9.21							
	Source: Fie	eld data, '	* 5% level of s	significant ar	nd ** one% pe	ercent level o	of significant		Source: Field data, * 5% level of significant and ** one% percent level of significant							

Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Index Funds

Ho<sub>7</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in index funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

**Discussion:** It could be collected from the table - 4 that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level among the various groups of the occupation, no. of earning family members of the respondents and their investment in index funds. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship of investment in index funds among the various groups of the no. of earning family members and occupation of the respondents. On the other hand, C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 1% & 5% level between gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents and investment in index funds. For that reason, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be reported that there is a significant relationship of investment in index funds among the various groups of gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

### Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Sector Funds

Ho<sub>8</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in sector funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

**Discussion:** Table - 4 shows that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level among the various groups of the gender, marital status, no. of earning family members, family income, proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in sector funds. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship of investment in sector funds among the various groups of the gender, marital status, number of earning members of the family, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents. On the other hand, C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level between age group, educational qualification, occupations of the respondents and investment in sector funds. For that reason, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be reported that there is a significant relationship of investment in sector funds among the various age groups, educational qualification and family income of the respondents.

### Relationship of Demographic factors of the Respondents and Investment in Tax Saving Funds

Ho<sub>9</sub>: There is no significant relationship of investment in tax saving funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents.

Discussion: It could be collected from the table - 4 that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level among the various groups of the age group, marital status, family income of the respondents and their investment in tax saving funds. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship of investment in tax saving funds among the various groups of the age group, marital status, and family income. On the other hand, C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 1% level between gender, educational qualification, occupations, proportion of saving, no. of earning family members (5% level) and investment in tax saving funds. For that reason, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be reported that there is a significant relationship of investment in tax saving funds among the various groups of the gender, educational qualification, occupations, no. of earning family members, proportion of saving.

### Period of Investment

Classification of the respondents based on their period of investment is shown in the table below.

Table 5 Period of Investment in the MFs Schemes							
Period	No. of Respondents	Percent					
Less than 1 Year	59	26.1					
1 - 2 Years	69	30.5					
2 - 3 years	43	19.0					
Above 3 Years	55	24.3					
Total	226	100					
Source: Field data	•	•					

It could be collected from the table - 5 that the 69 (30.5%) respondents invested in MFs schemes between 1 - 2 years, 26.1% of the respondents invested in MFs less than a year and around 25% of the respondents have investment experience of above 3 years.

### Relationship of Period of Investment of MFs among various groups of the Respondents

The  $x^2$  analysis helps to find out the relationship of demographic factors of the respondents with their period of investment.

Ho: There is no significant relationship of the period of investment of MFs among the various groups of the respondents' gender, age group, marital status, educational

qualification, occupation, earning number of family members, family income and proportion of saving.

 $\mathrm{Ho}_1$ : There is a significant relationship of the period of investment of MFs among the various groups of the respondents' gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, earning number of family members, family income and proportion of saving.

Table 6 Relationship of Demographic Factors and Period of Investment in MFs							
Characters	x²	df	T.V.	Result			
Gender and Period of Investment	4.824	3	7.81	Accept Ho &			
Gender and reriod of investment	1.021	3	7.01	Reject Ho₁			
Age group and Period of Investment	15.561*	6	12.53	Accept Ho₁ &			
Age group and refrod of investment	13.301	ŭ	12.55	Reject Ho			
Marital status and Period of Investment	11.987**	3	11.34	Accept Ho₁ &			
Martat status and reflod of investment	11.707	,	11.54	Reject Ho			
Educational qualification and Period of	32.250**	9	21.67	Accept Ho₁ &			
Investment		,	21.07	Reject Ho			
Occupation and Period of Investment	26.270*	15	25.00	Accept Ho₁ &			
occupation and reriod of investment		15	25.00	Reject Ho			
No. of earning family members and Period of	9,501	6	12.53	Accept Ho &			
Investment	7.501	J	12.33	Reject Ho₁			
Family Income (Rs. per month) and Period of	12.902*	6	12.53	Accept Ho₁ &			
Investment	12.702	J	12.33	Reject Ho			
Proportion of saving and Period of Investment	4.966	6	12.53	Accept Ho &			
	4.700		12.55	Reject Ho₁			
**	Sig. @ 1% & * Si	g. @ 5% level					
	Source: Fie	ld data					

**Discussion:** Table - 6 concluded that the C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be lesser than the T.V of  $x^2$  @ 5% level among the various groups of the gender, no. of earning family members, proportion of saving of the respondents and their period of investment in MFs. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship of the period of investment of MFs among the various groups of the respondents' gender, no. of earning family members, proportion of saving. On the other hand, C.V of  $x^2$  comes out to be greater than the T.V of  $x^2$  between age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, family income of the respondents and their period of investment in MFs. For that reason, the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be reported that there is a significant relationship of the period of investment of MFs among the various groups of the respondents' age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, family income.

### Preferred Mode of Payment of Investment

Distribution of the respondents according to preferred mode of payment of investment in MFs is given in the below.

Table 7 Preferred Mode of Payment							
Mode No. of Respondents Percer							
Direct payment	86	38.1					
ECS	21	9.3					
Internet	12	5.3					
Executives at your door	107	47.3					
Total	226	100					
Source: Field data							

It is observed from the table 7 that the nearly half of the respondents paid their investment through the executives. This is followed by around 40% percent of the respondents made payment directly to the office of the MFs organization but less number of respondents preferred technology-enabled (ECS, Internet) payment mode.

### Influenced Persons towards Investment Decisions in MFs

Distribution of the respondents based on their influenced persons towards investment decision in MFs schemes is shown in the table below.

Table 8 Influenced Persons towards Investment							
Decision in MFs							
No. of							
Person	Respondents	Percent					
Family members	52	23.0					
Friends / Relatives	76	33.6					
Banks	20	8.8					
Auditors	14	6.2					
By self	35	15.5					
Financial consultants	29	12.8					
Total	226	100					
Source: Field data		-					

It is obvious from the table 8 that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the respondents decided investment in MFs schemes based on their friend and relatives suggestions. This is followed by nearly 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the respondents decide based on their family members recommendation. 15.5% of the respondents decide by self-regarding investment in MFs schemes.

### Conclusion of the Study

The education of MFs in the rural households is very important because as compared to urban people the rural people have low level of awareness on finance matter. To the rural people the financial literacy is very important to make efficient decision on their finance. Moreover, the MF organizations asked to create more awareness of their schemes in rural areas while financial literacy should be delivered at affordable, though market driven costs among the uneducated also. Finally, the following outcomes found from the completed research work

- 52.2% of the respondents have invested in growth funds.
- There is a relationship between occupation of the respondents and investment in growth funds.
- There is no significant association between gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, no. of earning family members, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in growth funds.
- Majority (53.5%) of the respondents have invested in income funds.
- There is a relationship of investment in income funds among the various groups of no. of earning family members and family incomes.
- There is no significant relationship of investment in income funds among the various groups of the gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation and proportion of saving of the respondents
- 46.5% of the respondents have invested in balanced funds.
- There is a significant association between number of earning family members and investment in balanced funds but low level association.
- There is no significant relationship between gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, family income, proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in balanced funds.
- 68.6% of the respondents have invested in monthly income plans.
- There is a significant relationship of investment in monthly income plans among the various groups of gender, educational qualification, family income and proportion of saving of the respondents but low level.
- There is no significant relationship of investment in monthly income plans among the various groups of the age group, marital status, occupation and number of earning family members of the respondents.
- 43.8% of the respondents have invested in gilt funds.
- There is no significant relationship between gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, no. of earning family members, proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in gilt funds.

 There is a significant relationship of investment in gilt funds among the various groups of family incomes but low level.

- Nearly 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the respondents have invested in liquid funds.
- There is a significant relationship between family income, occupation of the respondents and their investment in liquid/money market funds.
- Gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, no. of earning family members, proportion of saving of the respondents have not connected with their investment in liquid/money market funds.
- Only 15.9% percent of the respondents have invested in index funds.
- Gender, age group, marital status, educational qualification, family income proportion of saving of the respondents and their investment in index funds.
- Only 12.8% of the respondents have invested in sector funds.
- There is a significant relationship between age groups, educational qualification, family income of the respondents and their investment in sector funds.
- 56.2% percent of the respondents have invested in tax saving funds.
- There is a significant relationship of investment in tax saving funds among the various groups of the gender, educational qualification, occupations, no. of earning family members and proportion of saving of the respondents.
- A little more than 3/10<sup>th</sup> of the respondents have invested in MFs between 1-2 years.
- There is a significant association between age group, marital status, educational qualification, occupations, family income of the respondents and period of investment in MFs.

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