

# MONEY MANAGEMENT IN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper investigates the sources of allowance, spending and saving behavior of students. The results show that the majority of the Thai youngsters are dependent, extravagant, having high expenses with little or no savings. The researcher suggests that money management and saving culture should be developed in order to create self and social responsibility among students.*

## INTRODUCTION

One of the most important areas of responsibility for university students is to manage their money or allowance and this responsibility becomes part of the university students' lives. Being on their own for the first time after high-school is a new experience for many teens. The freedom of choosing friends, food, dormitory and life styles are challenging. Having such freedom together with high responsibility could be harmful without proper monitoring ([http://www.osfa.uiuc.edu/finaid\\_basics/money\\_manage.htm](http://www.osfa.uiuc.edu/finaid_basics/money_manage.htm)). Although many universities have developed the student financial aids centers, some teens may still lack money management skills and this often causes problems to parents, friends, society and themselves (<http://www.uiowa.edu/financial-aid/managing/college.html>).

The management of money in university student lives was cited as the management of the amount of money coming in or allowance, management of what the students have got to pay as expenses and management of savings (<http://afaweb.esd.usc.edu>).

The amount of money coming in or allowance includes financial assistance or help from relatives, loans, scholarships, part-time or full-time jobs. Amount of money to be paid or expenses include tuition, books, fees, transportation, clothing, food, housing, utilities, entertainment, and other expenses. Lastly, saving is the amount of money left over after all the expenses have been paid for (<http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~hsweb/newstudents/Money.html>).

Starting with young age, the understanding of personal finance should be installed in the youngsters so that they would understand the value of money and be able to manage their resources effectively. The research question arising is: How do university students in Thailand acquire, spend and manage their financial resources?

This research attempted a preliminary answer to the question by using survey technique as the methodology to investigate the sources of allowances, spending and saving behavior of the students in one public university in Thailand. A total of 203 students responded to the set of questions about (1) allowances, (2) expenses and (3) savings. Further questions were also asked about sources, attitude and ability to control the three variables for each student. This paper starts with the discussion of sample, followed by the discussion of the findings and ends with a statistical testing of the correlation between variables

The characteristics of the sample are shown below: