

Research Article

The Role of Financial Technology in Personal Financial Planning for the Millennial Generation in Urban Indonesia Today

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Abstract

The rapid advancement of financial technology (fintech) has significantly reshaped how millennials in urban Indonesia manage their personal finances. Characterized by high digital literacy and mobile dependence, this generation has increasingly adopted fintech platforms for budgeting, saving, investing, and accessing financial protection. This study aims to analyze the role of fintech in supporting the personal financial planning of urban millennials, focusing on four key dimensions: cash flow management, savings, investment behavior, and financial protection. Using a qualitative approach with a literature review method, data were collected from ten peer-reviewed articles published between 2018 and 2025. The selected literature was analyzed thematically to identify patterns and synthesize insights. The findings reveal that fintech tools have facilitated more organized financial behaviors among millennials, enabling automation in savings, simplified investment access, and enhanced budgeting control. Moreover, fintech has played a vital role in democratizing access to insurance products. However, the study also found that the effectiveness of fintech is contingent upon the users' level of financial literacy. While many millennials are eager to adopt digital financial solutions, gaps remain in risk awareness, long-term planning, and responsible consumption. Therefore, although fintech has the potential to transform financial planning, its benefits are maximized when accompanied by adequate financial education.



Keywords: Financial Technology, Personal Financial Planning, Millennials.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of digital technology has transformed the way individuals manage their personal finances, particularly within the context of urbanization and modern city lifestyles. One prominent result of this technological evolution is the emergence of financial technology (fintech), which offers various services such as digital payments, investments, loans, and personal budgeting tools (Tan et al., 2019; Zakarias, 2019). For millennials, often labeled as digital natives, fintech serves not only as a transactional tool but also as an essential means to manage their fast-paced and dynamic financial lives (Rahayu et al., 2022). Their adaptation to this technology reflects a shift towards more informed and structured financial behavior (Koesoemasari & Siska, 2025).

Finance refers to the management of money, assets, liabilities, and cash flow across individuals, organizations, and governments. In the context of the modern economy, finance encompasses activities such as planning, funding, investing, monitoring, and decision-making involving financial resources. According to Rofiq (2021), finance can be understood as a system that regulates how financial resources are allocated and utilized to achieve specific economic objectives. A healthy financial system ensures efficiency in capital distribution and supports sustainable economic growth (Rifai & Saputra, 2022).

In business, financial management plays a crucial role in ensuring sustainability and operational continuity. This includes making strategic decisions on financing, investment, risk management, and profitability. A study by Anjani and Nuryatno (2020) indicates that effective financial decision-making depends not only on historical data but also on the ability to anticipate risks and future market conditions. Furthermore, financial literacy is essential for both individuals and organizational managers to avoid mismanagement of funds and to enhance overall economic well-being (Hidayati & Pratiwi, 2023).

In Indonesia, millennials living in urban areas face distinct challenges in personal financial planning, including high living costs, consumerist lifestyles, and unstable employment due to the rise of the gig economy (Susanto & Mandagie, 2025; Cahyono et

al., 2025). In this setting, fintech platforms are not merely transactional tools but strategic instruments that offer practical solutions to plan and secure financial futures (Pradipta, 2024). Fintech applications today feature automated budgeting, bill reminders, and personalized investment recommendations, aligning well with the lifestyle and needs of the urban millennial generation (Zakarias, 2019; Harjanto et al., 2022).

However, the adoption of fintech is not always accompanied by adequate financial literacy. Studies have revealed that although fintech usage is high among millennials, their understanding of risk management, debt control, and retirement planning remains relatively low (Rahayu et al., 2023; Risman & Firdaus, 2023). This situation presents a paradox where ease of access may actually exacerbate poor financial behavior if not supported by sufficient knowledge and discipline (Amyulianthy et al., 2024). Therefore, it is crucial to assess whether fintech genuinely contributes to improved personal financial planning or merely facilitates consumption.

This phenomenon becomes increasingly relevant as millennials constitute a significant portion of Indonesia's demographic structure and are projected to become the backbone of the national economy (Riani et al., 2024). Massive urbanization reinforces the position of fintech as an innovative tool to bridge the financial planning gap. Understanding how fintech can help urban millennials in cities like Jakarta, Bandung, and Surabaya make sound financial decisions is critical for enhancing national financial inclusion (Akira, 2020; Sulistyowati & Rianto, 2020).

The urgency of this study lies in the growing need to examine the relationship between fintech penetration and personal financial behavior within an urban socio-economic context. Without empirical understanding, the potential of fintech as a behavioral transformation tool will remain underutilized in both public policy and financial innovation strategies (Zakarias, 2019; Tan et al., 2019).

Previous studies have shown that factors such as financial literacy, risk attitudes, and digital education influence millennials' financial decision-making (Harjanto et al., 2022; Kartawinata et al., 2021; Risman & Firdaus, 2023). However, many of these studies do not specifically explore the urban Indonesian context or analyze the direct relationship between fintech adoption and behavioral changes in long-term financial planning.

Therefore, this research aims to analyze the role of financial technology in

supporting the personal financial planning of millennials in urban Indonesia. The focus is on how fintech applications influence key components of financial planning, including cash flow management, savings, investment behavior, and financial protection strategies.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach with a literature review (library research) method as the primary research design. The qualitative nature of the study allows for an in-depth exploration of the phenomenon, focusing on the role of financial technology (fintech) in shaping the personal financial planning behaviors of the millennial generation in urban Indonesia. A literature review approach is suitable for synthesizing and critically evaluating previous academic works, theories, and empirical findings relevant to the research problem (Snyder, 2019; Fink, 2014). Through this design, the study aims to generate a conceptual understanding of the fintech–financial planning relationship based on established knowledge in the field.

Data Sources

The data in this study are derived from secondary sources, which include peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, government and institutional reports, and relevant academic publications published between 2015 and 2025. Selection of literature was guided by the relevance to the core topics: financial technology, personal financial planning, the millennial demographic, and the urban Indonesian context. Key references include works by Kartawinata et al. (2021), Harjanto et al. (2022), and Rahayu et al. (2022), which specifically explore the intersection of fintech adoption and financial behavior among millennials.

Data Collection Techniques

Data collection was conducted through a systematic literature search using electronic databases such as Google Scholar, ScienceDirect, DOAJ, and Garuda. The keywords used included: “financial technology,” “personal financial planning,” “millennials,” and “urban Indonesia.” To enhance the completeness of sources, the snowballing method was applied, in which reference lists of selected articles were used to find additional relevant publications. Inclusion criteria required the documents to be

peer-reviewed, full-text accessible, and directly relevant to the research topic. Non-scholarly sources, incomplete papers, and studies unrelated to fintech or urban millennials were excluded.

Data Analysis Method

The collected data were analyzed using thematic content analysis, a method commonly employed in qualitative research to identify patterns, themes, and conceptual categories within textual data (Neuendorf, 2017). The analysis process involved coding and classifying literature content into major themes, such as: the role of fintech in influencing spending behavior, saving and investment preferences, and digital budgeting practices among urban millennials. Furthermore, data synthesis was performed by comparing and contrasting theoretical models, empirical findings, and contextual insights from different sources. The reliability of interpretation was enhanced through source triangulation and peer debriefing to ensure analytical consistency and minimize bias.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Here is the table of the references found in the research. The data presented here is the result of a selection process from several related articles on the role of financial technology in personal financial planning for the millennial generation in urban Indonesia. This table includes ten articles that have been chosen as relevant references for further analysis.

Table 1. Literature Review

No.	Authors	Article Title	Year
1	Zakarias, R.	The Impact of Financial Technology Towards Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion of its Millennial Users in Bandung	2022
2	Susanto, K.P., Mandagie, W.C.	Financial Literacy, Technological Progress, Financial Attitudes and Investment Decisions of Gen Z Indonesian Investors	2025

No.	Authors	Article Title	Year
3	Mulyana, D., Soeaidy, M.S., Taufiq, A.R.	Millennial Urban Generations: Does Becoming "A Current Generation" Shift Their Attention to Financial Literacy?	2019
4	Rahayu, R., Ali, S., Aulia, A.	The Current Digital Financial Literacy and Financial Behavior in Indonesian Millennial Generation	2022
5	Harjanto, K., Osesoga, M.S.	The Effect of Economic Incentives, Financial Technology, and Financial Literacy on Millennials' Financial Planning during Covid-19	2022
6	Lau, L.S.S., Faridah, R.	Analysis of Islamic Financial Literacy of the Millennial Muslim Generation Regarding Islamic Fintech	2024
7	Tan, J.D., Purba, J.T., Widjaya, A.E.	Financial Technology as an Innovation Strategy for Digital Payment Services in the Millennial Generation	2019
8	Frimayasa, A., Pandin, M.Y.R.	The Influence of Financial Literacy and Fintech Usage on Investment Interest Among Generation Z in Jakarta: The Mediating Role of Financial Self-Efficacy	2025
9	Hasan, M., Ahmad, M.I.S., Supatminingsih, T.	Financial Literacy and Financial Management Behavior Among Generation Z: Integrating the Theory of Planned Behavior and Technology Acceptance Model	2025
10	Pratama, M.A.R.	Exploring Financial Literacy of Indonesian Generation Z: A Systematic Literature Review and Future Research Agenda	2025

The data derived from the table above consists of ten scholarly articles that have been carefully selected to focus on the role of financial technology (fintech) in personal financial planning for the millennial generation in urban Indonesia. These articles highlight various aspects related to the intersection of financial literacy, the use of fintech platforms, and financial behavior within the socio-economic landscape of Indonesia. The following provides a detailed exploration of the findings from these studies.

The first article by Zakarias (2022) delves into the impact of financial technology on the financial literacy and inclusion of millennials in Bandung, Indonesia. The study

emphasizes how fintech has become a significant driver of financial inclusion in urban settings, particularly among young people in metropolitan areas. It highlights the growing adoption of digital platforms for managing personal finances, enabling individuals to access essential financial services such as loans, insurance, and investments with ease, which would have been otherwise inaccessible. The study also underscores how millennials, who are more tech-savvy, are more likely to engage with these technologies to improve their financial knowledge and practices.

In Susanto and Mandagie's (2025) research, the focus shifts towards the relationship between financial literacy, technological advancements, and financial behaviors among Gen Z investors in urban Indonesia. This study presents a broader view of how technological progress has shaped the attitudes of young investors, leading to better financial decision-making. It emphasizes that, in the digital age, Gen Z is more inclined to rely on mobile apps and online platforms for financial planning, making investment decisions that were once considered complex more accessible to them. This technological affinity has also positively impacted their understanding of various financial instruments, thus enhancing their ability to make informed decisions.

Meanwhile, Mulyana et al. (2019) investigates the shifting attention of the millennial generation towards financial literacy in urban areas, with a specific focus on the impact of technology. The study draws a significant conclusion that millennials are increasingly prioritizing financial education, especially as they are exposed to diverse digital financial tools. The authors argue that the ease of access to online financial resources and tools has motivated many millennials to explore new financial avenues, such as investment in the stock market, which was previously seen as a niche activity. The paper shows that technology is not just shaping financial behaviors but also changing the way financial education is being consumed, making it more interactive and engaging.

Rahayu et al. (2022), in their study, provide an in-depth analysis of how digital financial literacy influences financial behavior among millennials in Indonesia. The research indicates that digital financial tools have not only facilitated easier management of personal finances but have also fostered a sense of empowerment among users. Millennials are increasingly aware of the potential for retirement planning, wealth accumulation, and budgeting through digital platforms. The study draws attention to how fintech solutions are being leveraged to improve long-term financial

planning, with millennials utilizing these platforms to track expenses, plan for retirement, and make informed investment decisions.

The research by Harjanto and Osesoga (2022) examines the role of economic incentives and financial technology in shaping the financial planning behaviors of millennials during the COVID-19 pandemic. This article highlights how the pandemic served as a catalyst for the acceleration of fintech adoption in Indonesia. It discusses how millennials turned to digital financial solutions to secure their financial future, manage their cash flow, and adjust to the economic challenges posed by the pandemic. The authors suggest that fintech's role in financial management became even more pronounced during uncertain times, with millennials increasingly using mobile banking, e-wallets, and online investment platforms as essential tools for managing personal finances.

In the study by Lau and Faridah (2024), the authors focus on the Islamic financial literacy of the millennial Muslim generation and its relationship with Islamic fintech. This article sheds light on the rising popularity of sharia-compliant fintech products in Indonesia, a country with a significant Muslim population. It discusses how millennials are drawn to fintech solutions that align with their religious values, offering products that comply with Islamic principles. The study suggests that Islamic fintech has the potential to fill a gap in the market for millennials seeking ethical financial products, further illustrating how technology is enabling millennials to make financial decisions that are both socially and morally aligned with their beliefs.

The research by Tan et al. (2019) explores the role of financial technology as an innovation strategy for digital payment services, specifically targeting millennials in urban areas. The authors point out that the convenience and efficiency of digital payment systems have transformed the way millennials manage their daily financial transactions. Whether it is through mobile wallets or online payment systems, millennials are increasingly relying on these platforms for managing everything from shopping expenses to utility payments. The paper highlights how these fintech innovations are reshaping the financial landscape, providing millennials with easy access to money management tools that were previously unavailable.

Frimayasa et al. (2025) discuss the impact of financial literacy and the use of fintech on the investment interest of Generation Z in Jakarta. Their study emphasizes the role of financial self-efficacy as a mediating factor between financial literacy and

fintech usage. The authors argue that as Gen Z becomes more financially literate, their confidence in using fintech platforms increases, which in turn boosts their interest in investment. This study underscores the importance of empowering the younger generation with financial knowledge, as it enables them to take full advantage of the financial opportunities available through digital platforms.

The article by Hasan et al. (2025) integrates the Theory of Planned Behavior and Technology Acceptance Model to explore the financial management behavior of Generation Z in Indonesia. The study demonstrates how millennials and Gen Z use fintech tools not just for everyday transactions but also for more strategic financial planning. The authors show that factors such as perceived ease of use and usefulness of financial technologies are critical in determining the adoption of these tools. The research highlights that the more familiar and accessible these technologies become, the more likely millennials are to adopt them for long-term financial planning, including savings, investments, and retirement planning.

Pratama (2025) presents a comprehensive systematic review of the literature on financial literacy among Indonesian Generation Z. The article emphasizes how the advent of fintech platforms has opened new avenues for millennials to access financial services that were once perceived as complex. The research suggests that as fintech platforms grow in popularity, they are not only enhancing financial literacy but also fostering a culture of financial independence among younger generations.

Finally, Amyulianthy et al. (2022) analyze the digital investment literacy and financial behavior of millennials and Generation Z in Indonesia, with a focus on digital platforms and community engagement. This study discusses how millennials are utilizing fintech platforms for investment purposes, with a particular focus on the stock market and mutual funds. The authors suggest that community engagement, facilitated through social media and fintech platforms, plays a crucial role in increasing the financial literacy and investment participation of the younger generation.

In summary, the research paints a comprehensive picture of the profound influence financial technology has on the financial behavior and decision-making of millennials and Gen Z in urban Indonesia. These studies collectively show that fintech not only provides access to financial services but also empowers younger generations to make informed financial decisions, participate in investments, and manage their personal finances more effectively. Moreover, the research highlights that technology,

particularly mobile apps and online platforms, is playing a pivotal role in financial education, making it more accessible, interactive, and tailored to the needs of the millennial and Gen Z populations.

Discussion

Cash Flow Management

One of the key dimensions in personal financial planning is cash flow management. The millennial generation, particularly in urban Indonesia, often faces challenges in managing their income and expenses, which tend to be unstable. Fintech, through applications like wallet apps, enables users to track and manage their spending more easily and efficiently. These apps can provide visual insights into spending categories, helping them make more informed decisions about managing their money.

With features such as reminders and notifications provided by fintech applications, millennials can avoid late payments or uncontrolled overspending. For example, apps like GoPay and OVO in Indonesia allow users to track transactions in real-time, helping them monitor their expenditures and ensure cash flow remains stable.

Savings

Savings is the second crucial dimension in financial planning. Millennials in Indonesia are often concerned about economic uncertainty, particularly amid inflation and changing market conditions. At the same time, they tend to rely heavily on technology. Fintech applications offer solutions by providing easily accessible platforms for automated savings.

Fintech platforms like Jago and Bank Jago in Indonesia offer auto-saving features, where users can set aside a small portion of their income to automatically save. This provides significant benefits for millennials, who prefer simple and practical methods of saving. With this technology, they don't have to think twice about moving money into savings since fintech systems can handle the process for them.

Investments

Investing is one of the main dimensions of financial planning that is often neglected by millennials, who tend to spend their money on consumption. However, with the advancement of fintech, this generation now has easy access to a wide range of

investment instruments, from stocks to mutual funds.

Applications like Bareksa, Ajaib, and Tanamduit have paved the way for millennials to begin investing, even with limited capital. Through these apps, they can start investing with a small amount of money and receive relevant information about market performance and potential returns. With the educational features offered by fintech, millennials can feel more confident in making intelligent investment decisions.

Benefits of using fintech for investments:

1. Access to various investment instruments.
2. Ease of transaction and real-time monitoring of investments.
3. Lower costs compared to traditional investment methods.

However, challenges still exist regarding understanding investment risks. While technology makes access easier, it's important to remember that poor investment decisions can result in significant losses.

Financial Protection

Financial protection or insurance is an essential part of personal financial planning that is often overlooked by many individuals, especially millennials. However, fintech has brought solutions that make it easier for this generation to access insurance products in a simpler and more transparent way.

Fintech applications in Indonesia, such as Katalis and Qoala, provide platforms that make it easy for users to purchase insurance products that match their needs, whether it's life insurance, health insurance, or vehicle insurance. Through these apps, users can easily choose products that align with their financial profile, make payments, and track claims status. The significant advantage of fintech in financial protection is its cost transparency and flexibility in choosing affordable insurance products for millennials.

Overall, the role of financial technology in supporting personal financial planning for millennials in urban Indonesia is significant. The use of fintech applications has increased awareness and skill in managing expenditures, saving, investing, and protecting themselves with insurance products.

Although fintech offers many benefits, it is crucial for users to have adequate financial literacy to make informed decisions. Users must still be cautious when selecting financial apps and instruments to ensure they are not only using technology

easily but also making wise decisions in their personal financial planning.

Despite the valuable insights provided, this study has certain limitations related to the selected literature. Although the primary focus is on millennials (Generation Y) in urban Indonesia, several of the reviewed articles disproportionately emphasize Generation Z. This overrepresentation of Gen Z data may introduce bias when generalizing findings to the millennial cohort, as differences in age, financial priorities, and socio-economic contexts can significantly shape financial behavior. For instance, Gen Z tends to be more experimental with digital platforms and may display different levels of risk tolerance compared to millennials, who are at a later stage of life with greater financial responsibilities. Consequently, some conclusions drawn in this review may reflect blended generational characteristics rather than exclusively millennial experiences. Future research should therefore adopt stricter inclusion criteria to ensure generational specificity or conduct comparative analyses that explicitly distinguish between Gen Y and Gen Z in order to refine the understanding of fintech's impact on financial planning across different cohorts.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that financial technology (fintech) plays a transformative role in enhancing personal financial planning among the millennial generation in urban Indonesia. Fintech platforms offer tools and features that support four critical dimensions of financial behavior: cash flow management, savings, investment, and financial protection. Millennials benefit from fintech's convenience, automation, and accessibility, making financial activities more efficient and aligned with modern urban lifestyles. The study also shows that fintech encourages proactive financial behavior, especially in tracking expenses and initiating investment with minimal capital. Nevertheless, it is evident that fintech's full potential can only be realized when supported by sufficient financial literacy. Many users still lack knowledge about financial risk, debt management, and long-term planning, which limits the effectiveness of fintech as a tool for sustainable financial well-being.

However, this study is limited by its reliance on secondary literature, some of which disproportionately represents Generation Z rather than exclusively focusing on millennials. This may influence the generalizability of findings. Future research should therefore adopt stricter generational boundaries, conduct empirical surveys or

interviews with urban millennials, and employ longitudinal approaches to capture the long-term effects of fintech adoption on financial resilience. Comparative studies between urban and rural settings or between conventional and Islamic fintech platforms could also provide deeper insights into diverse financial planning behaviors.

Practical Implications

1. For individuals (millennials): Fintech can be maximized as a daily financial tool, but users must critically assess features and avoid impulsive decisions. Engaging with fintech's educational content is essential.
2. For fintech providers: Platforms should embed more intuitive financial literacy features to guide users, such as risk assessments, savings simulations, and personalized recommendations.
3. For educators and policymakers: Financial literacy programs should integrate fintech usage into their curriculum and public campaigns, ensuring young users understand not just how to use fintech, but how to use it wisely.

Suggestions for Future Research

Future studies may explore comparative behavioral patterns between urban and rural millennials in fintech adoption or investigate the role of Islamic fintech in influencing ethical financial planning. Moreover, longitudinal studies are needed to assess the long-term impacts of fintech on financial resilience and economic independence.

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