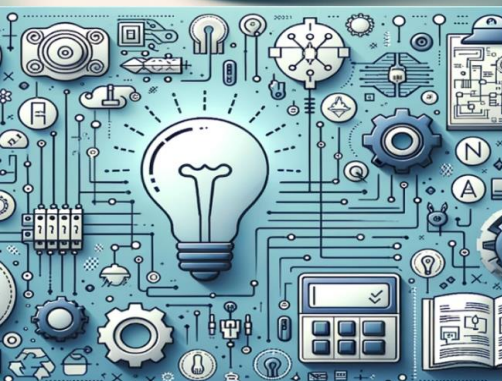


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The Impact of Tax Regimes on Household Savings: An Empirical Study

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ABSTRACT: This research examines the effect of taxes on consumer saving behavior, specifically the degree to which tax policy impacts financial decisions. It looks at peoples' perceptions of tax policy while also looking at how they save money. Some forms of saving are, for sure, more popular than others among consumers, as this reveals accessibility and stability are major concerns for them. Further, the survey also shows that the majority of respondents have a him to moderate understanding of tax laws marking a knowledge gap. These findings suggest that to promote various forms of saving behaviors and increase family tax literacy, tailored financial education legislative measures are necessary.

KEYWORDS: Taxation, Household Savings, Disposable Income, Tax Incentives, Financial Planning, Economic Growth, Financial Security.

I. INTRODUCTION

Taxation is an important element of fiscal policy, which affects how people save their money, among other things. Revenues are used by governments for economic stability, direct economic impact, or simply generating revenue. Taxes affect savings and this association is influenced, among others, by income levels, tax policies and expenses in saving incentives. Increased income taxation may reduce savings and disposable income, while tax advantages like the ability to deduct contributions to retirement accounts or tax-free savings plans can encourage more savings. As household savings are necessary for investment, economic growth, and individual financial well-being, it is thus critical to design tax policy that strikes a balance between revenue mobilization and incentive for long-run saving.

According to some of the economic models of saving such as the life-cycle hypothesis and the permanent income hypothesis, individuals should plan their savings based on their expected lifetime income and the impact of tax payments. While some studies indicate that tax incentives translate into higher household saving, other research suggests that rather than increasing total savings, they simply cause individuals to transfer money from one asset class to another. By reviewing existing research, examining international tax models, and determining best practices in tax policy, this research aims to examine the nexus between taxation and household saving behavior. The findings will help economists, financial planners, and policymakers design tax policies that encourage savings while supporting economic growth and stability.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Koskela, E., & Virén, M. (2022). Taxation and household saving in open economies: Evidence from the Nordic countries. *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 425-441

Because of more income taxation, low unemployment, changes in the population, and the impact of growth, Nordic household savings are lower than OECD savings. Quarterly data indicate that savings increase when there is inflation and real income growth, but decrease when there is an increase in real housing prices, implying that short-term movements are influenced by the wealth effect.



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2. Tanzi, M. V., & Zee, M. H. H. (2021). Taxation and the Household Saving Rate: evidence from OECD countries. *International Monetary Fund*.

Drawing on OECD statistics, the research examines the connection between household savings and taxation. It determines that income and overall taxation significantly reduce the rate of saving, whereas consumption taxation does so too, though less so. Other research has found it hard to establish a clear link between taxation rates and saving.

3. Poterba, J. M. (2022). Taxation, risk-taking, and household portfolio behavior. In *Handbook of public economics* (Vol. 3, pp. 1109-1171). Elsevier.

Taxation systematically affects household portfolio choices, impacting asset choices, investment levels, and risk-taking. It affects stock and bond investing, capital gains realization, mutual fund behavior, and investor reaction to tax shocks. While portfolio structure research is state-of-the-art, welfare cost of distortion studies lag behind, emphasizing the general economic impacts of taxation.

4. Engen, E. M., Gale, W., & Scholz, J. K. (2021). The effects of tax-based saving incentives on saving and wealth.

The current paper analyzes tax-based saving incentive studies, contending that their influence on private and national savings is exaggerated. Factors such as preferences of savers, more household debt, adjustments in financial markets, and tax treatment distort the estimates. When these are adjusted, positive impacts lose significance, indicating little influence on aggregate savings.

5. Tschinkl, D., Weikert, N., & Kiesewetter, D. (2021). The impact of taxes on individual long-term savings decision. *Copernican Journal of Finance & Accounting*, 10(4), 159-179.

This article applies experiments to explore how taxation impacts saving over consumption choice. Regardless of equal net payoffs, postponed taxation suppresses saving to a greater degree than upfront taxation, indicating misperception. This contradicts OECD policies advocating for postponed taxation on retirement saving. Furthermore, participants do not anticipate the positive effects of tax-free yield, defying theory.

6. Dirschmid, W., & Glatzer, E. (2023). Determinants of the household saving rate in Austria. *Monetary Policy & the Economy* Q, 4, 25-38.

Tax policy affects Austria's saving behavior by lowering precautionary saving needs. Budget consolidation reduced saving for potential future tax hikes, while tax incentives promote private pension savings relative to other investment. Low-income households are constrained by liquidity, however, which prevents them from taking advantage. Future tax policy may influence saving patterns in the face of demographic change.

7. Robson, M. H. (2022). Taxation and household saving: reflections on the OECD report. *Fiscal Studies*, 16(1), 38-57.

Tax policy and its influence on household saving was brought to attention in the 1990s, which caused discussion and examinations. The OECD performed a survey of taxation and household saving among 24 member countries and considered lessons for sound tax policy design. A number of initiatives developed typical frameworks for taxing investment and saving.

8. McLure Jr, C. E. (2021). Taxes, saving, and welfare: Theory and evidence. *National Tax Journal*, 33(3), 311-320.

Tax policy debate centers on taxation's effects on saving and welfare through the decision between future and current consumption. Plans entail taxing consumption instead of income, e.g., VAT or individual consumption tax, to promote saving. Empirical obstacles complicate evaluation of taxation's actual effects on saving and welfare.

9. Koskela, E., & Virén, M. (2021). Taxes, credit market imperfections' and inter-country differences in the household saving ratio.

Taxation impacts family saving through its effect on the post-tax interest rate wedge. An increased tax rate usually discourages saving by decreasing after-tax returns, but its magnitude depends on financial situations of the households. In addition to differences in borrowing and lending rates of capital market imperfections, their impact on taxation and saving further complicates.



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10. Banks, J., & Blundell, R. (2023). Taxation and personal saving incentives in the United Kingdom. *Public Policies and Household Saving*, 57-80

This paper analyzes the influence of taxation on domestic savings in the UK with emphasis on post-tax returns and saving method choice. Although tax reforms have curbed anomalies in asset taxation, pretax and post-tax returns remain quite distinct. Tax incentives affect saving behavior, determining long-run patterns of aggregate savings and asset allocation.

11. Ring, M. A. (2024). Wealth taxation and household saving: Evidence from assessment discontinuities in Norway. *Review of Economic Studies*, rdae100.

Wealth taxation raises household savings through the reinforcement of income effects relative to substitution effects. For each extra NOK of wealth tax, savings are increased by 3.76 NOK, financed mainly by increased labor earnings using Norwegian data. This undermines traditional interpretations, proposing that wealth taxes can stimulate saving instead of deterring it, and this should impact tax policy design.

12. Brühlhart, M., Gruber, J., Krapf, M., & Schmidheiny, K. (2022). Behavioral responses to wealth taxes: Evidence from Switzerland. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 14(4), 111-150.

Reduced wealth tax rates have high elasticities in reported taxable wealth, largely caused by taxpayer mobility and the increase in housing costs. With Swiss evidence, a 1 percentage point reduction in taxes raises reported wealth at least 43% within six years. Small savings reactions imply that the role of tax evasion is important in wealth reporting.

13. Advani, A., & Tarrant, H. (2021). Behavioural responses to a wealth tax. *Fiscal Studies*, 42(3-4), 509-537

The effect of wealth taxation on household savings is contingent on tax design, enforcement, and behavioral reaction. Estimates of elasticity are highly variable, subject to migration, asset reallocation, and evasion. Evidence indicates that a well-designed wealth tax with comprehensive asset coverage and third-party reporting reduces distortions. A 1% tax may lower the tax base by 7–17%, but savings reactions are bounded. Successful policy design is crucial to balancing revenue collection while reducing adverse impacts on household financial choices.

14. Alstadsæter, A., Bjørneby, M., Kopczuk, W., Markussen, S., & Røed, K. (2022, May). Saving effects of a real-life imperfectly implemented wealth tax: Evidence from norwegian micro data. In *AEA Papers and Proceedings* (Vol. 112, pp. 63-67). 2014 Broadway, Suite 305, Nashville, TN 37203: American Economic Association.

Wealth tax design entails real-world trade-offs in asset valuation and treatment to meet assessment and liquidity issues. Utilizing Norwegian tax variations, this paper demonstrates that definitions of tax bases have a substantial impact on saving and portfolio decisions. The results highlight how complexity in tax design affects household financial behavior, influencing saving responses overall.

15. Scheuer, F., & Slemrod, J. (2021). Taxing our wealth. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 35(1), 207-230.

This note evaluates proposals for annual wealth taxes, with just three OECD members still having them, and Switzerland raising considerable revenue. Behavioral reactions—saving, portfolio, avoidance, and evasion—vary with tax design, such as base width and enforcement. Although historical wealth taxes provide few direct comparisons, lessons can be learned from similar taxes, such as property and estate taxes, and optimal tax theory to guide good policy design.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the impact of taxation on household consumption – Examining how taxation influences household spending and consumption habits.
- To identify key factors influencing household saving decisions – Exploring economic, demographic, and policy-related factors that shape saving habits.
- To compare savings behavior under different tax regimes – Studying how households respond to variations in tax structures (e.g., progressive vs. regressive taxation).
- To analyze the impact of taxation on household savings – Examining how different tax policies affect individuals' savings decisions.
- To evaluate tax incentives and their effectiveness – Assessing whether tax deductions, exemptions, or incentives encourage or discourage saving behavior.



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III. RESEARCH GAP

Taxation affects economic activity but less is known about its impact on household saving habits in India. Most research overlooks how tax laws influence individual financial choices, and it's unclear if tax-advantaged savings plans encourage saving compared to traditional options like bank deposits and gold. Financial literacy's role in tax decision-making is a significant subject of research. Although financial awareness is known to affect investment and saving decisions, it's not as well understood how tax policy knowledge affects family finance behavior. There is still limited knowledge of tax legislation among many, raising questions regarding public knowledge of current policies. Tax research tends to ignore middle- and lower-income families, who may respond differently because of different financial behaviors and risk appetites. To develop inclusive tax policies that benefit all income groups, it is important for financial institutions and policymakers to understand these effects.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Research Design

This study adopts a quantitative research design to examine the influence of taxation on household saving behavior. A survey-based approach is used to collect data from individuals across different income groups, occupations, and financial backgrounds. The research aims to identify how various tax policies, including income tax, capital gains tax, and tax incentives, impact saving habits, investment preferences, and financial decision-making. The study also explores how familiarity with tax laws influences household saving patterns.

2. Data Collection Method

The primary data for this research is gathered through an online structured questionnaire. The survey consists of multiple-choice questions that capture key financial aspects such as income levels, saving habits, investment choices, tax awareness, and the impact of tax incentives. The questionnaire is designed to ensure clarity and consistency in responses, making the data suitable for statistical analysis.

The questionnaire includes:

- Demographic information (occupation, income level)
- Savings behavior (percentage of income saved, primary saving methods)
- Tax awareness (familiarity with tax laws, influence of tax incentives)
- Investment decisions (impact of tax policies on investment choices)
- Financial concerns (factors affecting long-term saving and investment decisions)

3. Sampling Method

The study uses a non-probability convenience sampling method to collect responses. Participants are selected based on their availability and willingness to complete the survey. Although this method does not guarantee full representation of the entire population, efforts are made to include diverse respondents across different income brackets, professions, and financial knowledge levels to enhance the validity of findings.

4. Sample Size

The research aims to collect responses from at least 60 participants to ensure meaningful and statistically relevant results. A larger sample size would provide better insights into household saving behavior across different economic and demographic groups.

5. Data Analysis Method

The collected data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics to identify patterns in saving behavior, tax awareness, and investment preferences. Statistical methods such as frequency distribution, percentage analysis, and cross-tabulation will be applied to examine relationships between key variables. For deeper insights, correlation analysis may be used to explore the association between factors such as tax burden and saving rates, or investment choices and tax incentives. This approach helps determine how different tax policies influence financial decisions among households.

6. Research Variables

The study consists of the following key variables:

Independent Variables:



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- Different types of taxation (income tax, capital gains tax, consumption tax)
- Tax incentives (deductions, tax-free savings schemes)
- Overall tax burden

Dependent Variables:

- Household saving behavior (percentage of income saved)
- Investment preferences (bank savings, real estate, stocks, gold, retirement funds)
- Awareness and understanding of tax policies
- Financial decision-making based on tax incentives

7. Research Ethics

Ethical considerations are a crucial part of this study. Participants are informed that their responses will remain confidential and used strictly for research purposes. No personally identifiable information is collected, ensuring anonymity and privacy. The survey emphasizes voluntary participation, allowing individuals to opt out at any time if they choose not to respond. By employing a structured research methodology, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how taxation influences household savings and investment behavior. The findings will offer valuable insights for policymakers, financial advisors, and individuals seeking to optimize their savings strategies while navigating the impact of tax policies.

V. DATA ANALYSIS

Primary savings preferences and its impact

Savings Option	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bank accounts	28	48.3%
Gold/Jewelry	16	27.6%
Stocks/Mutual Funds	6	10.3%
Real estate	6	10.3%
Retirement accounts	2	3.5%

Bank accounts remain the primary way of saving with 48.3% usage. Holding stocks at a 10.3% level shows investment in risk-tolerance, retirement accounts, and property are fewer. Gold and jewelry are traditionally used as methods of saving, with 27.6% relying on them in India.

H₀ : There is no significant difference in the proportion of people choosing different saving methods.

H₁ : At least one saving method is significantly preferred over others.

Chi-square test of independence

Savings method	Observed Value	Expected Value	χ^2
Bank accounts	27	11.4	21.36
Gold/Jewelry	16	11.4	1.86
Real estate	6	11.4	2.56
Stocks/Mutual funds	6	11.4	2.56
Retirement accounts	2	11.4	7.75
Total χ^2	57	57	36.09

Critical values for chi-square distribution (df=4)

Significance Level (α)	Critical χ^2 Value
0.05	9.488
0.01	13.277
0.005	14.860
0.001	18.467



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Measures of central tendency (observed frequencies)

Measure	Value
Mean	11.4
Median	6
Mode	6

Interpretation of chi-square goodness of fit test

Element	Interpretation
Chi-square value (χ^2)	36.09- demonstrates a strong deviation from a uniform distribution.
Significance level (α)	0.05
p-value	≈ 0.0000185 (much smaller than α)
Decision	Reject H_0
Conclusion	Saving technique preferences vary widely from each other. Bank accounts were much more prevalent than expected (observed = 27). Retirement accounts were much less prevalent than expected (observed = 2).

Familiarity with current tax laws in India

Familiarity Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Moderately familiar	28	48.3%
Less familiar	20	34.5%
Highly familiar	10	17.2%

The majority of respondents (48.3%) are moderately familiar with India's tax regulations, and 34.5% are less familiar, suggesting the need for improved tax education. Only 17.2% are very familiar, highlighting the need for accessible financial literacy programs.

H_0 : The familiarity with tax laws is uniformly distributed across the three categories.

H_1 : The familiarity with tax laws is not uniformly distributed.

Chi-square test of independence

Category	Observed frequency	Expected frequencies	χ^2
Moderately familiar	30	19	6.37
Less familiar	18	19	0.05
Highly familiar	9	19	5.26
Total	57	57	12.55

Critical values for chi-square distribution (df=2)

Significance level (α)	Critical value (χ^2)
0.05	5.991
0.01	9.210
0.005	10.597
0.001	13.816



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Measures of central tendency (observed frequencies)

Measure	Value
Mean	2.37
Median	3
Mode	3

Interpretation of chi-square goodness of fit test

Element	Interpretation
Chi-square value (χ^2)	12.55
Significance level (α)	0.05
p-value	≈ 0.00188
Decision	Reject H_0 - since p-value ($0.00188 < 0.05$) is smaller than α .
Conclusion	The pattern of acquaintance with tax rules is not equally distributed across types.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The survey outcomes show a bimodal income range, with a combination of lower and higher income groups among the respondents. The majority save 10 to 30% of their monthly incomes, with 20% saving over 30% and 30% saving under 10%, potentially as a result of financial limitations. 48.3% prefer traditional bank accounts, and stocks and mutual funds are utilized by 15%. More than a quarter of respondents report not knowing much about taxation, with 25% not knowing enough and just 20% reporting that they know a great deal. Tax savings, particularly Section 80C, have a major influence on saving, with 40% reporting that paying tax deters their ability to save. Capital gains tax has also impacted investment choices for 70% of respondents. Communications on tax savings work effectively, with presentation as tax penalties avoided enhancing saving incentives. The internet is the primary source of financial knowledge, with government websites being sparingly used. Tax benefits being made more beneficial would see a large number of respondents save more. Economic insecurity, healthcare costs, and pension security are their key financial worries.

VII. FINDINGS

Based on the report, taxes significantly influence the saving habits of Indian households. The majority of the respondents were concerned that excessive tax rates would reduce their ability to save because they would deprive them of their discretionary income. Most families know the tax laws that impact them directly and are aware of how these laws impact their own finances, a poll found. Respondents stressed that high or poorly constructed tax burdens deter, even as tax incentives and breaks are known to be savers' motivators. This highlights the need for tax policy to achieve a vital balance between rendering incentives meaningful and available and cautiously balancing overall tax burdens to avoid deterring families from saving.

Another significant conclusion is the impact of perceived justice and transparency of tax administration on saving behavior. Stable and anticipatory saving practices were found more often in those households that perceived that the tax system was fair and efficient. A crucial determinant in enhancing voluntary compliance and long-run financial planning is the level of trust in tax administrations and in government policies. The research presents evidence that psychological and governance-related factors, including the openness, ease, and equity of tax procedures, are equally significant in determining family economic choices as monetary rewards. The study thereby stresses the extent to which measures aimed at promoting tax justice and transparency may significantly empower Indian families' saving behavior.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The research summarizes by demonstrating the role taxes play in determining how much Indian households save. Policymakers will need to consider policies that transform the tax mechanism into a more egalitarian, transparent, and saving-friendly structure to encourage better saving culture. By cutting unnecessary tax charges and introducing taxation



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incentives that promote saving, families can become financially more secure and contribute more significantly to the stability of the national economy.

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