INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
Management House • College Square (West), Kolkata

SEMINAR REPORT

Financial Literacy Program

Building informed, responsible and future-ready financial decision makers

Speaker	Dr. Dona Ghosh Senior Assistant Professor, Thiagarajar School of Management Securities Market Trainer (SEBI/NISM)
Date & Time	18 August 2026 • 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Venue	Auditorium, IISWBM
Felicitation	Dr. Sritama Mandal Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, IISWBM

Dr. Dona Ghosh receiving a felicitation from Dr. Sritama Mandal Dasgupta during the seminar.

A student-focused session under the Financial Education Programme for College Students (FEPCS), connecting everyday money choices with long-term financial well-being.

1. Seminar Overview

The Financial Literacy Program was organised to help students understand the practical foundations of personal finance and develop confidence in making informed financial decisions. Dr. Dona Ghosh conducted an interactive session that moved from everyday financial behaviour—such as impulse buying and credit-card use—to digital payments, retirement planning and investment products. The emphasis throughout was on awareness, comparison, disciplined planning and responsible use of financial services.

2. Speaker Profile

Dr. Dona Ghosh has 9 years of teaching experience, 10 years of research experience and 3 years of CSR and corporate-training experience. She is currently a Senior Assistant Professor at Thiagarajar School of Management.
She is a qualified Securities Market Trainer of SEBI and NISM and has been associated with IIT Jammu as a Visiting Lecturer and Taylor's University Malaysia as an Adjunct Senior Lecturer. She has published five books, book chapters and journal articles, along with articles in

publications such as The Hindu BusinessLine. Her recognitions include the 2020 Honorary Rosalind Membership from London Journals Press and an RBI Faculty Scholarship in 2023.

3. Major Lecture Highlights

Responsible Credit Use
The session highlighted annual/joining and maintenance fees, interest on unpaid dues and APR. A card advertised as "free" may still carry charges after an initial period. Students were encouraged to read the terms before borrowing.

Impulse Buying & Budgeting
Sales and public-demand cues can trigger impulsive purchases. Practical advice included planning purchases, making a list, asking whether the purchase is necessary and doing a cost-benefit analysis before spending.

Education Loans
Education borrowing should be assessed in terms of total cost, repayment capacity and the long-term value of the education being financed.

Digital Financial Literacy
Debit and credit cards, mobile wallets and UPI were discussed. Students were introduced to registration and usage processes and reminded to protect credentials and verify transactions.

Retirement Planning through NPS
The National Pension System was introduced through Tier I and Tier II features, contribution requirements, liquidity and tax considerations. The discussion showed how starting early can strengthen retirement savings.

Mutual Funds & ELSS
The speaker explained professional expertise, diversification, convenience, liquidity and regulated investing. ELSS was presented as a tax-saving mutual-fund option, while SIPs were discussed as a systematic approach to investing.

4. Credit-Card Awareness: A Practical Lesson

One of the most relevant takeaways for college students was the need to look beyond the word "free" when accepting a credit card. The presentation illustrated that a card may involve joining or annual-maintenance charges after the initial period. It also showed how a monthly interest rate of around 2–4% can translate into a very high annualised cost. Understanding fees, due dates, minimum payments, interest and APR is essential before using credit.

5. NPS Case Study: The Power of Starting Early

An illustrative case considered a 25-year-old investor planning to retire at 60 and contributing Rs. 5,000 per month to NPS. Using an illustrative average return of 11%, the presentation showed a potential corpus of about Rs. 2.49 crore. Forty percent (about Rs. 99.47 lakh) was shown for annuity purchase and 60% (about Rs. 1.49 crore) as the withdrawal component. At an assumed annuity rate of 8%, the illustration produced a monthly pension of about Rs. 66,313. The case demonstrated the value of compounding, consistency and starting early; the return assumption was illustrative, not guaranteed.

Age	25 years	Retirement age	60 years
Monthly NPS investment	Rs. 5,000	Illustrative return	11%
Total corpus	Rs. 2,48,67,363	40% annuity	Rs. 99,46,946
60% withdrawal	Rs. 1,49,20,417	Annuity rate	8%
Monthly pension	Rs. 66,313		

6. Key Learnings for Students

- Budget before you spend: Turn income into aplan and distinguish needs from wants.
- Credit is a responsibility: Understand fees,interest, APR and repayment obligations.
- Use digital finance safely: Protect credentials andverify every digital transaction.
- Start investing early: Time and compounding canstrengthen long-term wealth creation.
- Diversify rather than speculate: Matchinvestments to goals and risk capacity.
- Invest systematically: SIPs can build disciplineand reduce pressure to time the market.
- Plan retirement early: Evaluate NPS and otherlong-term options as part of a broader retirement strategy.

7. Conclusion

The seminar successfully connected financial concepts with situations students are likely to encounter in everyday life and in their transition to professional careers. From resisting impulse purchases and understanding credit-card costs to using UPI responsibly, investing through mutual funds and planning retirement through NPS, the session reinforced that financial literacy is about making informed choices. Financial well-being is built through small, consistent and responsible decisions rather than sudden or speculative actions.

Acknowledgement
The seminar was enriched by the practical insights of Dr. Dona Ghosh and the academic support of IISWBM. The felicitation by Dr. Sritama Mandal Dasgupta added a meaningful note of appreciation to the programme.

“Financial literacy is not merely knowing financial products; it is knowing how to make better decisions with money.”

Seminar session on Financial Education and Credit-Card Awareness