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Inflation Awareness and Its Relation to the Financial Stability of Caloocan City Jeepney Drivers

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ABSTRACT

This study examined how inflation awareness relates to the financial stability of jeepney drivers in Caloocan City, a sector highly exposed to rising fuel costs and fluctuating daily income. Although jeepney drivers are among the most economically vulnerable workers in the transport system, limited research has explored how their understanding of inflation shapes their financial decisions and overall economic resilience. Addressing this gap, the study aimed to describe the demographic characteristics of drivers, assess their financial stability, evaluate their level of inflation awareness, and determine whether a meaningful relationship exists between these variables. A quantitative correlational design was used with the jeepney drivers selected by stratified random sampling and asked to respond to a validated survey tool and with the following data obtained on demographic factors, financial behaviors, and perceptions of inflation. Analysis of the responses showed that the jeepney-driving workforce is largely composed of older individuals who have remained in the occupation for many years, shaping their financial habits and exposure to economic pressures. Drivers demonstrated the ability to manage essential financial responsibilities, though their stability remained sensitive to income unpredictability and operational

costs. Their awareness of inflation was generally limited to basic concepts, affecting how effectively they adjust their financial decisions during economic shifts. The study further found that understanding inflation alone does not guarantee stronger financial conditions. There is a need to emphasize the necessity for financial education programs that combine economic awareness with practical financial management skills to help jeepney drivers navigate inflationary challenges more confidently.

Keywords: Inflation awareness, financial stability, jeepney drivers, economic behavior, financial literacy

Inflation continues to be a major economic challenge that affects the cost of living, purchasing power, and financial health of many people, especially those in lower-income groups. Jeepney drivers in Caloocan City are among the most affected since their daily income is easily influenced by changes in fuel prices, vehicle maintenance expenses, and the number of passengers they get. Without a clear understanding of inflation and how it affects their finances, these drivers may struggle to budget properly, save money, or adjust to changes in the economy.

Inflation hits everyone like those in the buy and sell business, but jeepney drivers often get overlooked, even if they get equally hurt by inflation. There are lots of reasons why prices go up such as things costing more to make, when there is not enough to go around, people buying things differently, and the government's money policies also playing a part. Basically, inflation means prices keep going up, so one’s money is unable to buy as much anymore. Economists measure inflation by looking at how much prices increase over a certain period. In the Philippines, inflation has been shaped by historical events like colonial trade, wars, and government policies.

Inflation has long been a problem affecting many, including jeepney drivers and daily commuters. While fare hikes might give short-term relief to drivers, they also put more pressure on commuters. The government needs to think beyond quick fixes and plan for long-term solutions. Recently, inflation in the Philippines rose to 6.1% in June 2025, nearly double compared to last year (2024), driven mainly by higher gas prices that also pushed up the cost of everyday goods. When prices go up but wages do not keep

pace, the buying power of people goes down. This is especially tough for jeepney drivers, who already have tight budgets. Inflation reduces what their money can buy and puts a strain on their finances.

Jeepneys, often called the "Kings of the Road," are the main way many Filipinos get around. Public transportation like jeepneys helps people reach their jobs, schools, clinics, and other places. Because jeepneys charge the lowest fares, they are important for both passengers and the drivers themselves. Beyond being just transportation, jeepneys are a symbol of Filipino culture. Still, jeepney drivers are some of the most vulnerable to inflation's effects. According to the Manila Standard (September 10, 2023), many drivers only take home around P300 to P400 a day, barely enough for basic needs. In busy cities like Caloocan, heavy traffic slows down trips, meaning drivers can complete fewer trips in a day. This directly cuts into their income, making it even harder to support their families and live decently.

This research aims to examine how inflation awareness relates to the financial stability of jeepney drivers in Caloocan City. Specifically, it will assess how well drivers understand inflation trends, whether they adjust their financial practices based on this knowledge, and how their level of awareness influences their ability to sustain their livelihood. Financial stability, in this context, refers to the capacity of individuals to consistently meet their financial obligations, manage expenses, and maintain sufficient resources to withstand economic shocks or unexpected changes in income and costs. Inflation awareness, meanwhile, refers to an individual's understanding of how rising prices affect purchasing power, daily expenses, and long-term financial planning, as well as their ability to anticipate and adapt to these changes in order to protect their economic well-being.

The study is expected to provide insights that can inform the development of programs and policies designed to strengthen financial literacy and enhance the economic resilience of jeepney drivers. By understanding the link between inflation awareness and financial stability, stakeholders can better support drivers in managing their finances and securing long-term economic well-being.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Causes of Inflation

In Manila, during the pandemic, many jeepney drivers have been forced to roam the streets, begging for money just to feed their hungry families (Lopez, 2020). As Bondoc (2020) pointed out, these drivers leave their homes and risk their safety to find ways to survive and to support their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted people's jobs and incomes. Government measures, such as closing borders and banning public transportation to slow the spread of the virus, have made life even harder for jeepney drivers. Without steady earnings and with debts piling up, some drivers and their families have resorted to living inside their jeepneys to save on daily expenses (Arab News, 2020). George San Mateo, former president of the PISTON group, described jeepney drivers as pandemic victims who urgently need to go back to work to survive (Calleja, 2020). Despite health risks, they continue to brave the streets, often begging for alms just to put food on the table.

The Department of Energy, as reported by Nikkei Asia (2022), linked the recent sharp rise in global oil prices to the Ukraine conflict. This caused gasoline prices in the Philippines to jump to double digits for the first time on March 15, 2022, with diesel rising by 13.15 pesos per liter and gasoline by 7.10 pesos. Over about eleven weeks, diesel and gasoline prices climbed by 30.65 and 20.35 pesos respectively. PISTON leader Mody Floranda described the soaring fuel costs as a "national disaster" and called for transport strikes nationwide in key cities.

Cabacungan et al. (2023) identified several reasons behind inflation spikes during the pandemic, such as supply chain interruptions, increased government spending, and the weakening peso. Business closures and job losses in sectors like tourism and hospitality led to higher unemployment. The study also pointed out that the large informal labor market and weak social safety nets made inflation and unemployment problems worse. It recommended that the government implement policies to improve goods and services supply, reduce excessive spending, and support low-income families and small enterprises.

The International Monetary Fund's Global Financial Stability Report (April 2022) highlighted the ongoing global economic challenges marked by high inflation, worsened by COVID-19 disruptions and the Russia-Ukraine war. It reviewed the aftermath of the global financial crisis, noting that long periods of low interest rates initially spurred growth but also increased vulnerabilities. To address inflation, central banks worldwide are tightening monetary policies, although the speed and approach differ between developed and developing countries.

The outlook remains uncertain due to risks like unexpected inflation spikes, a deeper economic slowdown in China due to COVID-19 and real estate problems, and continued fallout from the Ukraine conflict. Policymakers' strategies vary but are heavily influenced by global interest rate hikes, especially those led by the US (IMF, 2022).

Inflation Awareness and Its Economic Implications

Inflation means a general rise in prices over time, which reduces the buying power of money (Mishkin, 2020). Studies show that being aware of inflation is particularly important for people working in informal jobs because it affects their financial choices (Bachmann *et al.*, 2019). The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP, 2022) stresses that financial literacy—including understanding inflation—helps people manage their money better by adjusting how they spend and save as prices rise.

Inflation and the Transport Sector

Inflation hits the transportation sector hard, especially public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers, because fuel and repair costs are always changing (International Transport Forum, 2021). Mendoza and Cruz (2020) showed that higher fuel prices – a big part of inflation – really cut into jeepney drivers' earnings. If they do not plan their money carefully, it's tough for them to cover vehicle maintenance, boundary fees, and everyday expenses.

The Relationship Between Inflation Awareness and Financial Stability

Previous studies have shown that better money skills, including understanding inflation, lead to better financial security.

Fernandes et al. (2014) found that people who understand money better tend to make smarter choices, like cutting back on unnecessary spending or finding extra ways to earn money when the economy changes. The Asian Development Bank (2022) stresses the need for focused financial education programs for vulnerable groups like jeepney drivers to help them better cope with inflation-related financial pressures.

Jeepney Drivers' Income

The IBON Foundation (2018) looked into the heavy income losses jeepney drivers and their families suffer due to rising fuel prices and the increased cost of basic goods, especially after the TRAIN (Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion) law's oil excise taxes took effect. The study, focused on Caloocan City, found that from January to September, drivers lost a total of Php18,855, with about Php13,104 linked to the TRAIN law. Although fare hikes offer some relief, the foundation warns these increases do not fully make up for income losses. They recommend a mix of immediate and long-term measures to ease the financial burden on both commuters and jeepney drivers amid inflation and fuel price hikes.

Additional Impacts of Inflation

Abad (2022) showed how inflation lowers the buying power of ordinary people, especially those with low incomes. Households with more children feel the impact more intensely. The study suggests that governments should keep inflation low to protect vulnerable groups, particularly larger families with limited income. It also calls for targeted assistance to those most hurt by rising prices.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) also points out how inflation harms middle-class and low-income households. Their "Global Wage Report 2022-2023" notes a sharp fall in real wages worldwide, marking the first negative wage growth this century. Advanced G20 countries saw a 2.2% drop in real wages in early 2022, while emerging G20 nations experienced a small rise of 0.8%, still below pre-pandemic levels.

Tong et al. (2022) discussed how inflation forced many Americans to cut back on essentials like healthcare and social activities. Some sought extra work or new opportunities to make

ends meet. Low-income households suffer the most. The Federal Reserve raised interest rates to fight inflation, but this move may disproportionately hurt poorer families. Tong et al. (2022) recommend government aid programs to help these groups manage inflation's impact.

Financial literacy is widely defined as the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that enable individuals to make informed financial decisions and manage their resources effectively. Lusardi and Mitchell (2014) emphasize that financial literacy includes understanding basic concepts such as inflation, interest, budgeting, and saving skills that are especially important for low-income and informal workers whose earnings fluctuate daily. Higher financial literacy is associated with better saving habits, reduced debt, and stronger resilience during economic shocks (Klapper et al., 2015).

From a behavioral economics perspective, individuals do not always make rational financial decisions. Instead, their choices are shaped by limited information, cognitive biases, and short-term priorities (Thaler & Sunstein, 2008). Informal workers such as jeepney drivers often operate under daily cash-flow pressure, which encourages short-term, survival-oriented financial behavior rather than long-term planning. Their economic decisions—how they allocate income between fuel, maintenance, household needs, and savings—are influenced by perceived income stability, financial knowledge, and awareness of broader economic conditions such as inflation.

Research focusing on jeepney drivers provides further insight into how financial literacy and economic behavior interact. Beltran et al. (2024) found that jeepney drivers' financial decisions are shaped by unstable income, fluctuating fuel prices, and boundary arrangements, which often force them to prioritize immediate needs over long-term financial planning. Similarly, Baltazar et al. (2024) documented that many jeepney drivers rely on informal loans, daily budgeting adjustments, and short-term coping strategies when faced with economic shocks, highlighting the role of limited financial literacy in reinforcing financial vulnerability.

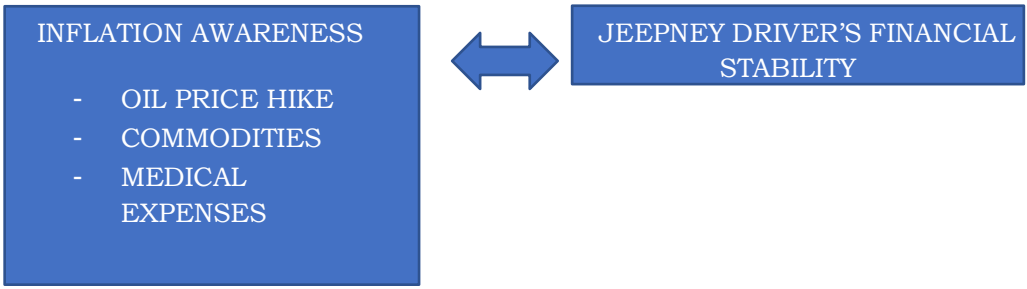
Studies on the Public Transport Modernization Program also show that jeepney drivers' decisions are influenced by their understanding of economic risks and institutional changes.

Espinosa (2023) noted that drivers weigh the perceived costs and benefits of modernization, vehicle replacement, or exiting the sector based on their financial capacity and economic expectations. These findings suggest that financial literacy including inflation awareness—plays a significant role in shaping drivers' economic behavior and long-term financial stability.

Together, these theoretical perspectives support the present study's focus on inflation awareness as a key dimension of financial literacy. When jeepney drivers understand how inflation affects purchasing power, operational costs, and real income, they may be more capable of adjusting their budgeting, saving, and income strategies. Conversely, limited inflation awareness may contribute to reactive, short-term decisions that increase financial vulnerability. Examining this relationship among Caloocan City jeepney drivers addresses a gap in the literature on how financial literacy influences the financial stability of informal transport workers.

Conceptual Framework

Figure 1
Conceptual Framework of the Relationship of Inflation Awareness and Caloocan City Jeepney Drivers' Financial Stability



The framework shows the variables including oil price hikes, transportation fares, commodities, and medical expenses that contribute to the inflation awareness of the jeepney drivers.

Objectives of the Study

The study aimed to:

- determine the demographic profile of the respondents
- examine the level of financial stability of Caloocan City jeepney drivers
- assess the level of inflation awareness among Caloocan City jeepney drivers
- determine the relationship between inflation awareness and the financial stability of Caloocan City jeepney drivers

Significance of the Study

The study is expected to benefit the following:

- Jeepney drivers can obtain awareness that they need in encountering this problem and to help them with solutions to their financial problem due to inflation.

- Commuters better understand the consequences of the inflation rate, which raises the costs of using public transportation.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

This research focused on exploring the relationship between inflation awareness and the financial stability of jeepney drivers in Caloocan City, specifically those operating along the Monumento to Muñoz route. The study aimed to determine how well drivers understand inflation and how this awareness affected their ability to manage income, savings, and overall financial well-being, particularly in response to economic conditions during the year 2023.

The survey included 100 drivers, chosen randomly to make sure there was a mix of ages, experience levels, and incomes. A structured survey tool was used to find out how well they understand inflation and how financially stable they are. The study did not include other drivers like tricycle, taxi, or bus drivers, or jeepney drivers from other routes or cities. The study did not include bigger economic issues or government policies that might affect inflation or how people handle their money.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employed a quantitative research approach particularly correlational research design, a quantitative method that examines relationships between variables (Bhandari, 2023).

Sample and Population

The Slovin's formula was used to determine the sample size of 80 respondents. Stratified random sampling was used as well to determine who among the jeepney drivers within the Caloocan City-Monumento area participated.

Sample Size Determination Using Slovin's Formula

Slovin's formula was used to determine the appropriate sample size with a 5% margin of error for the population of jeepney drivers in Caloocan City. The following computation was made.

n=N1 + Ne2

n =1001 + 100(0.05)2

n = 80

where,

n = sample size

N = Population

e = margin of error

Data Gathering Tools/Materials

A standardized survey tool was used to collect demographic data, assess drivers' awareness of inflation, and measure their present financial stability.

Data Gathering Procedure

The respondents were jeepney drivers from Monumento around Caloocan City. A survey questionnaire tool was used in an in-person survey. The questions in the instrument were based on the CFPB Financial Well-Being Scale, the research topic, and the statement of the problem.

Instrument Validation

The questionnaire consisted of three parts: demographic profile, inflation awareness, and financial stability. To establish content validity, the instrument was reviewed by a panel of experts composed of a research adviser, a statistics specialist, and a social science instructor familiar with transport-sector studies. The evaluators evaluated the instrument for its clarity, relevance, and alignment of each item with the study's objectives and comments were incorporated to ensure that all items accurately measured the intended constructs.

A pilot test was then conducted with a small group of jeepney drivers from a nearby route who were not included in the main study to assess the comprehensibility of the questions, identify ambiguous or confusing items, and determine the approximate time needed to complete the survey. Feedback from the pilot respondents led to minor revisions in wording and sequencing to improve clarity and ease of response.

To assess reliability, the researchers computed the internal consistency of the Likert-scale items using Cronbach's alpha. The results indicated acceptable reliability levels for both the inflation awareness and financial stability scales, confirming that the items within each section measured the same underlying construct consistently.

Data Analysis

To thoroughly examine and interpret the data, correlation analysis was used to explore the strength and direction of relationships among variables.

Likert Scale:

The researchers used the Likert scale to gain information about Caloocan City jeepney drivers' perceptions of inflation and its impact on their financial stability. This approach allowed drivers to express their opinions on inflation awareness and financial well-being using a variety of response choices. The Likert scale also allowed the collection of detailed data on drivers' knowledge of inflation and its financial impacts, intending to identify correlations between the two variables. Lastly, this method provided useful insights into the economic issues faced by Caloocan City jeepney drivers.

Table 1
Scale, limits, and verbal description of the Likert scale questionnaire

SCALE	LIMITS	VERBAL DESCRIPTION
1	1.00 - 1.80	Never
2	1.81 - 2.60	Rarely
3	2.61 - 3.40	Sometimes
4	3.41 - 4.20	Often
5	4.21 - 5.00	Always

Table 2
Scale, limits, and verbal description of the Likert scale questionnaire

SCALE	LIMITS	VERBAL DESCRIPTION
1	1.00 - 1.80	Not Aware
2	1.81 - 2.60	Slightly Aware
3	2.61 - 3.40	Moderately Aware
4	3.41 - 4.20	Highly Aware
5	4.21 - 5.00	Extremely Aware

Table 3
Interpretation of Pearson correlation coefficient value

Interval Coefficient	Relationship Level
0.80-1.00	Strongly Agree - Lubos na Sumasang-ayon
0.60-0.79	Agree - Sumasang-ayon
0.40-0.59	Neutral - Hindi Tiyak
0.20-0.39	Disagree - Hindi Sumasang-ayon
0.00-0.19	Strongly Disagree - Lubos na di Sumasang-ayon

Ethical Consideration

The study underwent ethical review by the Ethical Research Committee of BED Caloocan and was granted ethical clearance in April 2024. Informed consent was obtained from each respondent. Anonymity was ensured.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Statement of the Problem 1: Demographic Profile

Table 4
Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	%
20-30 years old	10	12.5
30-40 years old	18	22.5
40-50 years old	52	65
Total	80	100

Table 4 shows that jeepney drivers come from different age brackets, but most of them belonged to the 40-50 age group. This shows that most jeepney drivers here are middle-aged, which could mean they have more experience or have been in this line of work for a longer time. Only 12.5% constitute the 20 to 30 age group suggesting that younger drivers are fewer along the Monumento to Muñoz route. Eighteen drivers or 22.5% were in the 30 to 40 age group, indicating a moderate number of drivers who might still be in the earlier or middle stages of their driving careers.

Overall, the age distribution suggests that jeepney driving in Caloocan City is mostly carried out by older adults, with fewer young drivers joining the profession. This trend might affect the future workforce in this sector because the dominance of middle-aged and older drivers suggests that fewer young individuals are entering the profession. As these experienced drivers eventually retire or reduce their working hours, there may be a shortage of replacements to sustain the demand for public transportation. The limited presence of younger drivers could also mean that the sector will struggle to adapt to modern technologies, evolving commuter needs, and regulatory changes. Over time, this imbalance may lead to challenges in maintaining service reliability, workforce continuity, and the long-term sustainability of jeepney operations in Caloocan City.

There is no female driver among the respondents plying this route. This indicates that the jeepney driving profession, at least along the Monumento to Muñoz route in Caloocan City, is predominantly or exclusively male-dominated within the context of this study. No female respondents were recorded. Compared to jeepney driving, female participation is more visible in formalized transport modes like ride-hailing services (e.g., Grab), taxis, and delivery platforms. The absence of women in jeepney driving is largely due to cultural perceptions, safety concerns, and the informal, physically demanding nature of the work.

Statement of the Problem 2: What is the level of financial stability of the Caloocan City jeepney drivers?

Table 5
Descriptive analysis on respondents' mean rating towards financial stability

Item	Weighted Mean	SD	Interpretation
I could handle a major unexpected expense without difficulty.	3.70	1.011	Often
I am securing my financial future.	3.56	1.077	Often
Because of my money situation, I feel like I will never have the things I want in life.	2.56	1.066	Rarely
I can enjoy life because of the way I'm managing my money.	3.43	1.088	Often
I am just getting by financially.	2.43	1.088	Rarely
I am concerned that the money I have or will save won't last.	2.21	1.133	Rarely
Giving a gift for a wedding, birthday or other occasion would put a strain on my finances for the month.	2.31	1.154	Rarely
I have money left over at the end of the month.	3.61	1.013	Often
I am behind with my finances.	2.43	1.053	Rarely
My finances control my life.	2.53	1.158	Rarely
General Weighted Mean	2.88	.452	Sometimes

Table 5 shows how the jeepney drivers rated their own financial stability, using weighted means (WM) and standard deviations (SD) to understand their situation better. This indicates how they feel about managing their money and financial conditions.

Many of the respondents shared that they seldom feel restricted by money problems, as seen in the weighted mean of 2.53 and a standard deviation of 1.158 related to a feeling of being controlled by their finances. This indicates that while financial concerns exist, they do not dominate the respondents' daily decisions or create a constant sense of pressure. In general, they feel that they can manage their finances with a fair degree of freedom, suggesting that money does not heavily dictate their choices or limit their independence.

Also, the results indicate that most drivers usually have some money left after their monthly expenses, reflected by a weighted mean of 3.61 and a standard deviation of 1.013. This suggests that their income usually covers their needs and even leaves a bit extra. This extra money might be saved, used in emergencies, or spent on other needs, which shows some resilience in their finances.

Looking at the overall picture, the average financial stability score of all participants is 2.88 with a standard deviation of 0.452. This means that on average, the drivers are "moderately stable" financially—they are not struggling badly, but their stability is not steady either. Their financial condition could change depending on things like fuel price increases, inflation, or daily income changes.

In short, the findings reveal that most jeepney drivers have a fair degree of financial stability. They generally manage their finances well and sometimes have a small surplus. However, there is still some risk and uncertainty, pointing to the importance of better financial education and support to help them stay more secure over time.

Statement of the Problem 3: What is the level of inflation awareness of driver-respondents?

Table 6
Descriptive analysis on respondents' mean rating towards inflation awareness

Item	Weighted Mean	SD	Interpretation
I am able to know that inflation impacts the cost of living	2.19	1.233	Slightly Aware
I consider myself very knowledgeable about the factors contributing to inflation	2.56	1.112	Slightly Aware
I believe inflation significantly affects my personal finances	2.41	1.260	Slightly Aware
I frequently seek information about inflation and its effects	2.63	1.216	Moderately Aware
I am very confident in my ability to explain inflation to someone else	2.73	1.263	Moderately Aware
General Weighted Mean	2.50	.972	Slightly Aware

Table 6 shows the summary of how aware the jeepney drivers are about inflation and how it affects their daily lives. The focus is on their understanding of what inflation means and its impact on important things like the cost of living.

Based on the data, most of the respondents only have a small idea that inflation affects how much they spend on daily needs. This is shown by a weighted mean (WM) of 2.19 and a high standard deviation (SD) of 1.233. This means that while some drivers realize inflation causes prices to go up, many still don't fully understand how inflation reduces their buying power or makes everyday goods and services more expensive over time.

When it comes to their basic knowledge or definition of inflation, the respondents rated themselves a bit higher, with a weighted mean of 2.73 and an SD of 1.263. This suggests that many have a moderate awareness of what inflation is, but their understanding is still quite basic. They may notice price increases but don't completely get the reasons behind it or how it affects the economy.

Looking at all the responses, the overall awareness score for inflation was 2.50, with a standard deviation of 0.972. This score falls under "slightly aware." Hence, most jeepney drivers in the study only have limited knowledge about inflation what causes it and how it impacts their personal finances and the economy in general.

This gap in understanding is important because inflation influences things like fuel prices, vehicle repairs, and everyday expenses. If drivers don't fully get how inflation works, it may be harder for them to plan their budget, save money, or adjust their finances when prices rise. That's why financial education programs focusing on inflation are really needed. These can help jeepney drivers learn how to manage their money better during tough economic times.

Statement of the Problem 4: Is there a significant relationship between inflation awareness and financial stability of jeepney drivers?

Table 7
Relationship between respondents' financial stability toward their inflation awareness

Indicator	r	p	Remark	Interpretation
Financial Stability	-.419**	<.001	Moderate	With Significant Relationship
Legend: ** (significant at 0.01); * (significant at 0.05); ns (not significant)				

Table 7 shows the results from the Pearson r correlation test, which was used to check the relationship between the jeepney drivers' financial stability and their awareness of inflation. This test helps to see if there's a significant connection between these two important factors.

The results reveal a moderate negative correlation, with a correlation value (r) of -0.419 and a p-value less than 0.001. Since the p-value is smaller than the 0.01 significance level, this means the relationship found is statistically significant. In simpler terms, there is strong proof that financial stability and inflation awareness are linked among the jeepney drivers who took part in the study.

The negative correlation means that when financial stability goes up, inflation awareness tends to go down, and vice versa. This suggests that drivers who feel more financially secure may not pay much attention to inflation or may feel less affected by it. This could be because they have enough savings or resources to handle rising prices. Meanwhile, those with less financial stability are likely more aware or concerned about inflation since price increases hit their budgets harder, affecting their daily needs and ability to save or maintain a steady income.

One way to understand this is that people who don't have much financial flexibility feel the pressure of inflation more directly, so they pay closer attention to how prices change. On the other hand, those who are financially comfortable may not notice inflation's effects right away, which could explain their lower level of concern or awareness.

CONCLUSION

The demographic profile of the respondents shows that jeepney driving in Caloocan City is sustained primarily by an older, long-established workforce. This pattern suggests that the occupation remains a stable source of livelihood for many who have been in the sector for years, while fewer younger individuals are entering the field. Understanding this profile provides important context for interpreting their financial behaviors, economic pressures, and responses to inflation.

The assessment of financial stability indicates that drivers can manage their day-to-day financial responsibilities, though their situation remains sensitive to fluctuations in income and rising operational costs. Their financial condition reflects a balance between meeting essential needs and coping with the unpredictability of their earnings. This highlights the importance of

strengthening financial planning skills and creating more supportive economic conditions for transport workers.

The evaluation of inflation awareness reveals that drivers possess only a basic understanding of how price changes affect their daily expenses and long-term financial outlook. While they recognize that inflation influences their livelihood, many lack deeper knowledge of its causes, patterns, and broader economic implications. This limited awareness affects how effectively they adjust their financial decisions when economic conditions shift.

Finally, the examination of the relationship between inflation awareness and financial stability shows that understanding inflation alone does not automatically lead to stronger financial conditions. Instead, awareness must be paired with practical financial skills and accessible support systems to translate knowledge into improved financial well-being. This underscores the need for targeted financial education programs that equip jeepney drivers with both the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate economic challenges more confidently.

RECOMMENDATION

The study found that jeepney drivers only have a basic to fair idea about inflation and consider their financial situation is just be fine. To help jeepney drivers, a financial literacy program tailored to their needs would be beneficial. This program should explain inflation and its impact on their daily lives, and provide practical advice on budgeting, saving, and smart spending, as well as long-term financial planning. This will better equip them to handle financial challenges, especially during periods of rising prices.

Regular workshops or seminars would reinforce the program's lessons and keep drivers updated on economic changes, providing opportunities for questions and discussions about their financial concerns.

Finally, encouraging even small savings is crucial, especially for those experiencing financial hardship. Having savings can be a big help when unexpected expenses come or when prices rise suddenly. Teaming up with local cooperatives or microfinance groups can make it easier for drivers to save safely and regularly.

Starting groups or associations for jeepney drivers can help them support each other. These groups can be a place to share tips about managing money and discuss ways to handle inflation together. They can also help spread important information about financial help and updates on prices.

Since this study only looked at jeepney drivers in one area and one route, it would be helpful to study other places and types of public transport too. Also, following up to see how well financial literacy programs work overtime will give better ideas on what helps jeepney drivers the most.

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