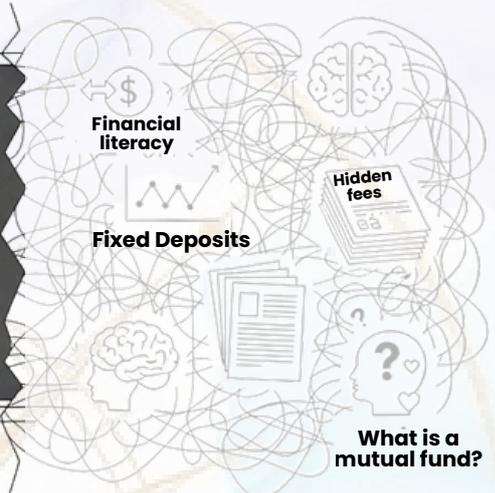
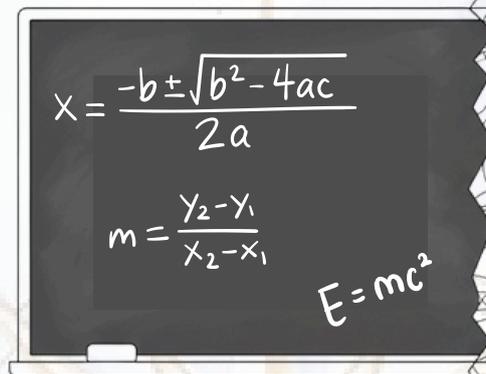


The Learning Compass - Vol 1 - Issue 8

**Let's
Explore
This
Together**



Financial
literacy

Fixed Deposits

Hidden
fees

What is a
mutual fund?

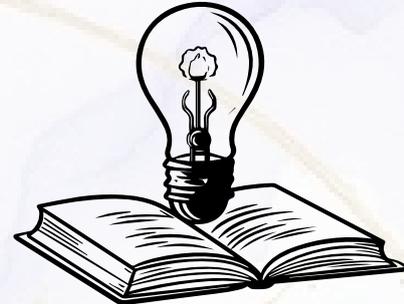
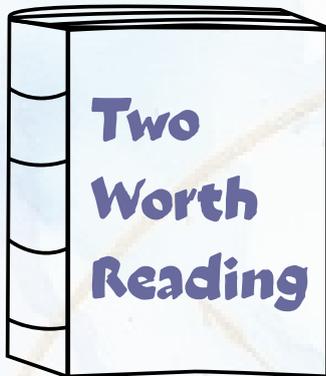
We teach students to solve quadratic equations but not to understand compound interest. We drill them on probability theory but leave them vulnerable to predatory lending. We're graduating students who can calculate percentages in textbooks but can't distinguish between a mutual fund and a fixed deposit.

Financial literacy is more than just another subject added to a crowded curriculum; it serves as a link between academic learning and life competence. It is at this point that mathematics transitions from abstract to consequential. Where psychology meets arithmetic. Where discipline becomes as important as mathematical formulas.

Consider this: a student masters linear equations in Class 9 but doesn't understand why paying only the minimum on a credit card means paying three times the original amount. Another excels at statistics but has no framework for evaluating insurance policies or retirement planning. These aren't failures of mathematical ability; they're gaps in applied knowledge that formal education simply ignores.

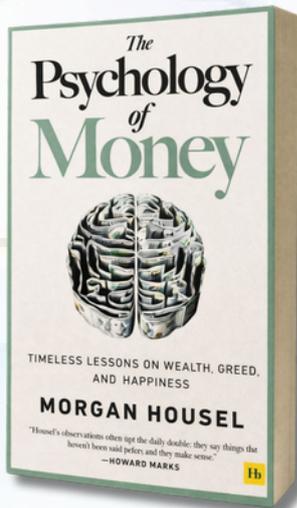
What makes financial literacy uniquely valuable is that it exposes the gap between textbook problems and real-world complexity. In school, compound interest has clean numbers and clear timelines. In life, it comes with hidden fees, variable rates, and emotional temptations. Financial literacy teaches students that human behaviors like impulsivity, fear, and overconfidence matter as much as calculation. That discipline and delayed gratification often determine outcomes more than mathematical prowess.

Here's the uncomfortable truth: most teachers and school leaders haven't received financial literacy education either. We can't teach what we don't know. Yet this skill determines whether our students and we ourselves achieve financial security, fall into debt traps, or make informed decisions about careers, investments, and major life choices. Every other subject we teach assumes students will use it someday; however, financial literacy is the subject they'll use immediately and continuously for the rest of their lives.



1. Perspective to Consider: "The Psychology of Money" by Morgan Housel

Morgan Housel argues that financial success has less to do with intelligence or mathematical ability and more to do with behaviour and psychology. His research across decades of financial data shows that people with average intelligence but exceptional discipline consistently outperform brilliant people with poor self-control. The insight that matters for educators: we can teach compound interest formulas, but if we don't address the psychological dimensions—instant gratification, peer pressure, emotional spending, fear-based decisions—we're only equipping students with half the tools they need. Financial literacy isn't just cognitive; it's deeply emotional and behavioural.



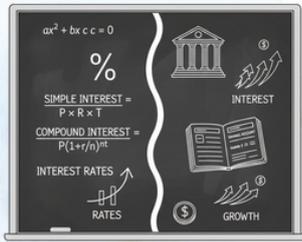
2. Financial Education for Youth: The Role of Schools

Financial literacy is vital in school education because young people now encounter complex financial choices and risks early, yet global surveys show low financial understanding. Schools offer the most equitable and efficient platform to reach all students, including vulnerable groups, and to build sound financial habits from the early years. Embedding financial education within the curriculum, supported by clear learning goals, teacher training, and effective assessment, strengthens lifelong decision-making skills. By prioritising financial literacy, school leaders can equip future adults to navigate an increasingly demanding financial world with confidence and responsibility.



Three to Try

Try This Tomorrow: The "Real-World Math" Friday Protocol



Every Friday, dedicate the last 15 minutes of math class to apply the week's conceptual understanding to the real-life financial scenarios like rate of interest concepts into banking.

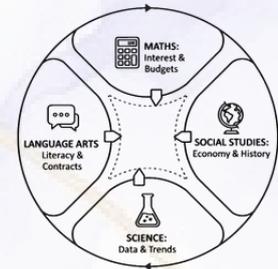
Question to Ask

NEXT 5 YEARS



"What financial decisions will my students face in the next five years, and have I equipped them to make those decisions wisely?" Map the timeline: first job, first bank account, first credit card, first apartment, first major purchase. Now audit the concept taught: does your curriculum address the inflection points before students encounter them?

Tool/Resource: Spaced Repetition Systems



Financial literacy can be woven into existing subjects.

In maths: investment growth, budgeting constraints, etc. In social studies: examine economic systems, tax structures, and income inequality.

Science can examine cost-benefit decisions. Languages and arts can analyse financial persuasion and advertising.

On My Radar



1. What if the resistance to teaching financial literacy isn't pedagogical but cultural?



2. Smartphones and constant connectivity are linked to declining sustained attention spans in students.



3. The argument that "parents should teach this" ignores that many parents lack, say, financial literacy themselves



4. Human flourishing and situating education in that vs education for market needs.

What's one financial concept you wish someone had taught you before you needed it? Hit reply and share; let's map the financial knowledge gaps we're inadvertently creating.

Elevating Education to Excellence for Impact,

H. Anand

Chief Education Officer

