

Comparative Analysis of Investment Objectives: A Study Comparing the Investment Objectives of Different Types of Investors, Such as Individual Investors, Institutional Investors, And Retirement Funds

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ABSTRACT:

The research is about individual investors with a wider range of investment objectives than institutional investors and retirement funds. Institutional investors and retirement funds typically have more specific investment objectives, such as preserving capital, generating a steady income stream, and meeting specific liability obligations. Individual investors are more likely to focus on growing their wealth over time and generating income. Institutional investors are more likely to focus on preserving capital and generating a steady income stream. Retirement funds are more likely to focus on providing investors with a comfortable retirement.

KEYWORDS: Investment, investment objective, individual Investor, institutional investor, retirement investor.

INTRODUCTION:

In the realm of finance, an investment is defined as the acquisition of an asset or item with the primary objective of generating income or experiencing appreciation. Appreciation, in this context, denotes the increase in value of said asset over some time. It is important to note that when an individual engages in the act of purchasing a good as an investment, the intention is not to consume the good immediately, but rather to utilize it in the future as a means of accumulating wealth.

The concept of investment invariably involves the allocation of a certain resource in the present, be it time, effort, money, or an existing asset, with the expectation of reaping a greater reward in the future than the initial input. For instance, an investor may opt to procure a monetary asset in the present, with the belief that said asset will yield income in the future or can be subsequently sold at a higher price, thereby generating a profit.

The act of investing is aimed at generating income and augmenting value over some time. Investments can encompass a diverse range of mechanisms that are utilized for generating future income, such as the

acquisition of bonds, stocks, or real estate property. Furthermore, the purchase of a property that can be utilized for producing goods can also be regarded as an investment.

In essence, any action that is undertaken to augment future revenue can be deemed as an investment. For instance, when an individual decides to pursue further education, the aim is often to enhance knowledge and improve skills. The initial investment of time and money in attending classes and paying tuition fees is expected to yield increased earnings throughout the student's career.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF INVESTMENTS:

- **Stocks/Equities** - A stock represents partial ownership in a publicly or privately held company. This ownership entitles the stockholder to receive dividends from the company's profits. If the company experiences growth and attracts other investors to purchase its stock, the value of the stock may increase, allowing it to be sold for a profit.
- **Bonds/Fixed- Income Securities** - A bond is a financial tool that typically requires an initial investment and provides regular payments throughout its term. Once the bond reaches maturity, the investor receives their original investment back. Bonds function similarly to loans, allowing organizations to secure funding. Various government entities and businesses utilize bonds as a means to raise capital, offering investors the opportunity to earn returns on their contributions.
- **Index Funds and Mutual Funds** - When making investment decisions, rather than choosing individual companies, it is common to utilize index funds, mutual funds, or other types of funds that combine multiple investments into one. In mutual funds, a company actively manages the investments, while index funds typically do so passively. In other words, the professionals managing a mutual fund aim to outperform a target benchmark, whereas index funds strive to replicate the benchmark. This can result in higher expenses for investors in mutual funds compared to more passive options.
- **Real Estate** - Real estate investments are typically considered investments in physical and tangible areas that can be utilized. This includes the ability to build on land, utilize office buildings, store inventory in warehouses, and provide housing for families through residential properties. These types of investments can involve obtaining land, developing it for specific purposes, or purchasing sites that are already prepared for occupancy.
- **Commodities** - Commodities can serve as an investment since they are frequently utilized as resources in society. For instance, oil, gas, and other energy sources are in high demand during times of economic prosperity as companies require more energy to transport goods and produce more merchandise. Similarly, consumers tend to have increased energy needs for travel during these times. As a result, the cost of commodities may vary and potentially generate profits for investors.

Investing is a strategy of utilizing funds in the present with the expectation of gaining a larger sum in the future. While this approach may not always yield the desired results and can result in financial losses, it remains the primary method for individuals to build savings for significant expenses or their retirement. With a wide range of options such as stocks, bonds, real estate, commodities, and newer alternative investments made possible by technology, investing has become more accessible, transparent, and efficient.

Investment objectives are the goals that investors seek to achieve by placing their money in various assets. These objectives can vary depending on the type of investor, their risk tolerance, and their time horizon. Individual investors typically have a wide range of investment objectives, such as:

- Growing their wealth over time
- Generating income
- Saving for retirement
- Funding education
- Leaving a legacy for their heirs

Institutional investors, such as pension funds, insurance companies, and endowments, typically have more specific investment objectives, such as:

- Preserving capital
- Generating a steady stream of income
- Meeting specific liability obligations

Retirement funds such as 401(k)s and IRAs, have the primary objective of providing investors with a comfortable retirement.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

- Nazir, S., Ahmed, K., Yaseen, S. S., & Khan, I. S. (2023). A Comparative Study of Investment Preferences and Financial Attitude of Retail Investors before and during the Covid-19: A Case Study of Jammu and Kashmir. In this paper, the researcher adopted the purposive sampling technique through which 105 responses were gathered. The questionnaire designed was based on 5 5-point Likert scale. This study used various statistical techniques to determine the significance of the Covid-19 pandemic on investment preferences and investor's investment objectives. Furthermore, it was also seen that investors intended to invest in less risky investment avenues during COVID-19 to minimize the losses incurred due to the prevailing uncertainty in the market.
- Nedorezova, E. S., Evseev, O. S., & Lunin, I. A. (2020, March). Comparative Study of Mutual Investment Funds and Other Collective Investment Tools. In this research paper, the article defines the main collective investment institutions. It is observed that mutual investment funds have several benefits, as well as drawbacks, as compared to other collective investment institutions. The article provides a definition of investment institutions, a comparison of their main features, as well as a characteristic of investment tools of mutual investment funds, joint stock investment funds, and private pension funds.
- Sukharev, O., & Voronchikhina, E. (2020). Financial and non-financial investments: Comparative econometric analysis of the impact on economic dynamics. The purpose of the study is to determine the degree of influence of investments in financial and non-financial assets on the rate of economic growth in a comparative aspect for the US, German, and Russian economies. It is determined by the level of development of the financial sector, which can either support growth or slow it down. The study also revealed a sharp increase in the financial market bias in the Russian economy compared to the United States and Germany, which significantly affects the rate of economic growth, depending on changes in financial investment. This unbalanced influence requires macroeconomic policy measures to correct the structural imbalance between financial and non-financial investments.
- Jansson, M., & Biel, A. (2009). Psychological Influences on Investors Intention to be Socially Responsible Investors: A comparison of what influences SRI intentions among different types of investors. This study investigates determinants of equity investments according to socially responsible criteria among Swedish investors such as investment institutions, institutional investors, and private

investors. In total 38 investment institutions, 60 employees from 19 investment institutions, 453 private investors, and 71 institutional investors participated in a questionnaire study. The study aimed to investigate financial beliefs and psychological factors that may promote or impede SRI among different types of investors. It was found that while Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) among private and institutional investors was guided by self-transcendent values, this was not the case among fund managers working in investment institutions. Fund managers were affected by beliefs about the long-term returns of SRI. The results indicate that private and institutional investors/beneficiaries give a wider interpretation of fiduciary duty than institutional investors do.

- Birla, A. "A Comparative Study of Mutual Fund Schemes of ICICI, HDFC " (2023). The study that Mutual Funds as an investment option has displayed growth potential market and performed much better than the traditional market options in the long term helps investors to think about that investment.
- Chaurasia, P. (2017). 'A Study of Investment Objectives of Individual Investors'. In this study, Every investor has a unique choice of investment avenues based on customized needs and goals. Every investment avenue has its own unique set of characteristics. This study explores the association of demographic characteristics with the investment objectives affecting the choice of investment avenues of individual investors. The investors' decisions depend on the risk and return relationship of various investment avenues influenced by the psychology of the investors. Except objective of Tax benefit, all the other investment objectives under study have been found to have a significant relationship with the gender of the investors.
- Thomas. Ph.D. Sfhea. Fcimc, Basil. (2020). The investment objective of Mutual fund investors is the first and foremost aspect for a mutual fund investor when investment decisions are made. An investment objective is referred to as a collective sum of all the factors considered by an investor while investing in a particular avenue where he needs to capitalize on reaping desired returns in the future. Through this paper, the author analyses the objectives of mutual fund investors by considering various factors such as time horizons and demographic profiles to evaluate their financial behavior. The current research revealed that the investment objectives of mutual fund investors vary with their time horizon of investment as it doesn't vary with demographic features.
- S n, Selvaraj. (2011). An analysis of financial behavior of investors in mutual fund investment. In this paper, The analysis in respect of objectives has been done and weights have been assigned to ranks in increasing order to signify high importance and low importance. Presently, as more funds are entering the industry, strategic marketing and financial decisions of these companies are vital for their survival. Investors have become more alert and choosy. Hence the success of mutual funds depends on a complete understanding of the psychology of the small investors. The present study is an attempt to understand the financial behavior of mutual fund investors in connection with scheme preference and selection which would help the mutual fund industry to ascertain the investor expectation and changing perception.
- Handayani, A., & Rokhim, R. (2023). A Comparative Study of Financial Performance between Sustainable and Conventional Investment. This study aims to examine the attractiveness of sustainable investments to investors and assess the potential disparity in returns between sustainable and conventional investments in Indonesia. It addresses the fundamental question of whether a statistically significant difference exists in the financial performance of these two investment types. This research contributes to the existing scientific literature on sustainable investing, providing valuable insights to

investors in making well-informed decisions that encompass both environmental considerations and financial objectives.

- Soni, S., Bankapue, D., & Bhutada, M. (2015). Comparative analysis of mutual fund schemes available at Kotak Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund. In this paper, an investor decides to follow all these options for his investment, quite strictly, preferably he would come to a rational conclusion about an option of Mutual Funds. However, when an investor decides to opt for Mutual Funds, he proceeds with the assumption that the performance of mutual funds is relatively good, and the return on mutual funds is better as compared to the returns on fixed deposits with banks or posts. The performance of mutual funds is good because of proper portfolio and risk management and it is linked and dependent on the stock market. As Robert Arnott has commented, "In investing, what is comfortable is rarely profitable".

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In this research paper, I'm using secondary data for A Comparative Analysis of Investment Objectives: A study comparing the investment objectives of different types of investors, such as individual investors, institutional investors, and retirement funds.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

Investment objectives are monetary goals that encourage investors to place their money in a certain investment. Before making a long-term investment, investors must be confident of their objectives. They can realistically prepare and adjust expectations in this way. As a result, it aids investors in decision-making, efficient resource allocation, and long-term performance evaluation of their investment portfolios.

INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS:

An individual investor, sometimes known as a retail investor, is someone who makes investments, typically through a mutual fund, bank, or internet broker. They make investments to achieve their investing objectives, such as saving for retirement, a child's education, or to increase their overall wealth.

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR:

An institutional investor is a sizable business that makes investments on behalf of other people. These investors exist in a variety of shapes and sizes, including pension funds, mutual funds, banks, hedge funds, insurance firms, and others. An illustration of this sort of institutional investor is a mutual fund, where a fund management purchases and sells assets on behalf of the individual investors who purchase the fund.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR:

A legal body acting as a fund's representative or manager is always an institutional investor; the organization itself, not the manager, is what qualifies.

Institutional investors only do business based on their profession and manage assets according to the objectives and interests of their clients.

Every time an institutional investor manages a single fund, there are many more funds under their management.

by purchasing and selling a significant amount of securities, one can affect stock prices.

may increase market efficiency by doing research and spotting pricing inefficiencies.

possess a sizable voting share in the businesses they invest in, enabling them to have an impact on corporate governance standards.

RETIREMENT INVESTOR:

Bonds, annuities, and income-producing stocks can provide retirement income in addition to Social Security, a pension, savings, and other investments for those who are approaching or have reached retirement.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL/ RETAIL INVESTORS AND INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS:

Definition - A firm or organization that aggregates and invests money on behalf of other investors is referred to as an "institutional investor" in this context.

Individual investors who deal in securities through middlemen and brokerage firms are referred to as retail investors.

Scope - Possesses the ability to engage in securities and markets of all kinds, including alternative private investment vehicles like hedge funds and private equity.

Retail investors cannot access some markets, such as swaps, future markets, and private equity.

Influence – Influence affects the market's supply and demand for securities.

Individual/ retail investors do not possess sufficient authority to affect stock prices.

Regulations - Regulations governed by less protective rules compared to institutional investors, subject to stricter requirements

Limits on buying - Institutional investor purchase restrictions are unlikely to restrict purchases to any certain firm or share price.

Individual/ retail investors are more likely to buy in stocks of firms with lower share prices, ensuring a large number of acquisitions for diversification

EVOLUTION OF RETAIL INVESTORS AND INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS

The retail financial specialists utilize a few of the same reserves as organization speculators and numerous directors will offer regulation and retail forms of the same procedure, there are contrasts in venture targets and administrative administrations. These crucial there are numerous items and markets organization speculators can get to that, to date, are less common or truant from the retail advertise.

One important difference is how active and passive management are used and organized. Individual investors have usually had more of their investments managed actively, especially when it comes to stocks. Twenty years ago, almost all of the institutional market used active funds.

Efficient markets are characterized by the quick and accurate incorporation of all available information into asset prices. This means that it is difficult for active managers to consistently outperform the market, as they are competing against a multitude of other investors who have access to the same information. Robust research has shown that, on average, active managers fail to deliver sustained outperformance after accounting for their higher fees and trading costs. This has led to a decline in investor confidence in active management and a shift towards passive investment strategies, such as index funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Passive strategies aim to replicate the performance of a specific market index, rather than attempting to beat it. They offer lower fees, tax efficiency, and broad diversification. As a result, they have gained popularity among investors who are looking for a more cost-effective and reliable way to achieve market returns. The reduction in active management can also be attributed to the increasing availability of information and the rise of technology, which has made it easier for investors to access and interpret market data. This has leveled the playing field and reduced the informational advantage that active managers once

had. However, it is important to note that there are still skilled active managers who are able to outperform the market over certain periods. This is often attributed to factors such as their expertise in niche markets, ability to identify mispriced securities, or a disciplined investment process. But finding such managers consistently is a challenge, and even when they are identified, there is no guarantee that their outperformance will persist in the long term. In summary, the reduced popularity of active management in recent years can be attributed to the weight of research suggesting that, on average, active managers struggle to outperform the market net of additional costs. The rise of passive strategies, increased availability of information, and technology advancements have further contributed to this trend. This statement suggests that institutional investors, such as pension funds or asset management firms, have been moving a significant portion of their investments into passive management strategies. Passive management refers to investment strategies that aim to replicate the performance of a specific market index or asset class rather than actively selecting individual securities. The reason for this shift is the desire to reduce costs. Passive investing typically involves lower fees compared to actively managed funds, which require more manpower and research to select and trade securities. Therefore, institutions are reallocating their assets in order to take advantage of the cost savings associated with passive management. This trend has likely been driven by a growing body of evidence showing that index funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) can deliver competitive returns over the long term, often outperforming actively managed funds. Additionally, the ongoing debate over active versus passive management has shed more light on the potential limitations of active strategies, including higher fees and the difficulty of consistently beating the market. However, it is important to note that the extent of this shift may vary across different institutional investors and their specific investment goals. While some institutions may have fully embraced passive management, others may still prefer active management for certain asset classes or investment objectives, depending on factors like risk tolerance and market conditions.

This means that investors are still using active management, but they are being more cautious and choosy in terms of when and how they use it. They are likely considering factors such as performance track records, fees, and market conditions before employing active management strategies.

This shift in focus can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, developed market equities have become highly competitive, making it difficult for passive strategies to outperform the market consistently. As a result, asset managers are looking for alternative investment opportunities that offer the potential for higher returns. Secondly, there is a growing recognition of the potential in emerging markets and other non-developed regions. These markets often present unique investment opportunities that are not available in developed markets. By focusing on these areas, asset managers can diversify their portfolios and potentially generate higher returns. Additionally, active investment mandates with specific objectives allow asset managers to tailor their strategies to meet the needs of their clients. Whether it's targeting specific sectors, themes, or investment styles, these mandates provide asset managers with more flexibility and control over their investment decisions. Furthermore, the rise of alternative investments, such as private equity, real estate, and hedge funds, has also contributed to the shift away from traditional index tracking. These alternative investments offer unique risk-return characteristics and the potential for higher returns compared to traditional equities. Overall, the shift in asset managers' focus to areas outside developed market equities and active investment mandates reflects a desire to find new sources of alpha and generate superior returns for their clients.

These funds, often referred to as passive or index funds, aim to replicate the performance of a specific market index, such as the S&P 500. They do so by holding a diversified portfolio of securities that mirror

the composition of the index. By investing in index-like funds, institutional managers can provide their clients with exposure to a broad range of stocks or other assets, while minimizing the need for active management. One popular type of index-like fund is the exchange-traded fund (ETF). ETFs trade on stock exchanges, allowing investors to buy and sell shares like they would stocks. These funds are designed to track specific indexes and provide investors with diversification, liquidity, and low costs. Institutional managers have also created variations of index-like funds, such as smart-beta funds and factor-based funds. These funds follow a rules-based approach and select securities based on specific factors like value, momentum, or quality. By doing so, they aim to outperform traditional market-cap-weighted indexes. Furthermore, institutional managers have introduced sector-specific index funds that focus on specific industries or sectors of the market. These funds allow investors to gain exposure to a particular segment of the economy or capitalize on specific investment themes. Overall, the development of a wider range of index-like funds has provided institutional managers with more choices to meet the diverse investment needs of their clients. These funds offer efficient and cost-effective ways to gain exposure to various markets, sectors, or investment strategies. This can enable investors to focus their investments on specific segments or sectors within a broader market, allowing them to capitalize on specific trends or opportunities. By targeting specific parts of a market, investors can tailor their investment strategy to align with their individual goals and risk tolerance. This approach can potentially lead to higher returns and more efficient allocation of capital. Additionally, it allows investors to diversify their portfolios by spreading investments across different sectors or segments, reducing the overall risk exposure. These passive factor index funds aim to replicate the performance of certain factors or styles of investing, such as stocks that are undervalued (value), stocks of high-quality companies (quality), or stocks that have been performing well in the recent past (momentum). The use of these passive factor index funds has gained popularity because they offer exposure to specific investment factors in a transparent and low-cost manner. Instead of actively picking individual stocks, investors can simply buy a factor index fund that follows a predefined set of rules to select and weight stocks based on a particular factor. This approach is in contrast to active management, where portfolio managers aim to outperform the market by making decisions on stock selection and timing. Passive factor index funds, on the other hand, aim to capture the specific factor's return premium by systematically selecting and weighting stocks based on predefined criteria, without any subjective input from a portfolio manager. The growing popularity of passive factor index funds can be attributed to several reasons. Firstly, research has shown that certain factors have historically delivered excess returns over the long term. By investing in factor index funds, investors can access these potential return premia. Secondly, passive factor index funds often come with lower fees compared to actively managed funds. This is because the investment strategy is rule-based and requires less human intervention, reducing the costs of research and portfolio management. Lastly, passive factor index funds provide investors with transparency and consistency. The rules governing the selection and weighting of stocks in a factor index fund are predetermined and publicly available. This allows investors to understand the rationale behind the fund's holdings and evaluate its performance relative to the targeted factor. In summary, the use of passive factor index funds has become increasingly popular within equity markets due to their potential to capture specific factor premiums, lower fees relative to active management, and transparency in investment strategy.

These indices allow investors to actively adjust the composition of their portfolios, much like active managers, or to continuously invest in a variety of diversified factors over time. By investing in these funds, investors can benefit from features and factors that are typically associated with actively managed

funds. These features include the potential for higher returns compared to traditional benchmarks. The advantage of these funds is that they offer these benefits at a much lower cost.

CONCLUSION:

This study has conducted a comparative analysis of the investment objectives of different types of investors, using secondary data. Institutional investors and retirement funds have more focused investment objectives, such as generating returns for their members or policyholders.

The investment objectives of different types of investors are influenced by a variety of factors, including age, risk tolerance, time horizon, and investment goals. Individual investors may invest to save for retirement, purchase a home, grow their wealth, or achieve other financial goals. Institutional investors may invest to generate returns for their members or policyholders, such as pension funds and insurance companies. Retirement funds, such as 401(k)s and IRAs, may invest to help workers save for retirement. The evolution of investment objectives has been influenced by a number of factors, including the development of new financial products, changes in the economic environment, and demographic trends.

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