

Behavioral Biases in Influencing Generation Z Investment Decisions: The Moderating Role of Financial Literacy

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Abstract. The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of representativeness bias, herding bias and regret aversion on investment decisions with financial literacy as a moderating variable. The population in this study were Generation Z Investors in Semarang City. The number of samples used in this study were 98 Generation Z Investors in Semarang City. The data collection method used a questionnaire. The results showed that there was a positive and significant effect of representativeness bias, herding bias and regret aversion on investment decisions. The results also show that financial literacy as a moderating variable is able to moderate the influence of representativeness bias and herding bias on investment decisions, but financial literacy cannot moderate the influence of regret aversion on investment decisions. Suggestions that can be given are that investors can continue to develop knowledge and abilities to analyse financial information by attending educational training or investment-related seminars provided by accredited parties so that investors avoid making irrational decisions that can be detrimental in the future.

Keywords: Investment Decision; Bias Representativeness; Bias Herding; Regret Aversion; Financial Literacy

INTRODUCTION

Investment can be an alternative to an activity of spending a certain amount of funds to get benefits within a certain period of time (Fridana & Asandimitra 2020). In the investment world there are terms such as high risk, higher return (Chen & Zhang, 1998). An investor must recognise the risks he can bear because the level of risk borne is in accordance with the level of return he gets (Beatrice et al., 2021). Investment decisions involve a person's internal psychological considerations and judgements, especially in the face of future uncertainty (Ayudiasuti, 2021). Loppies (2022) say that investors do not always make investment decisions correctly or rationally, because they are influenced by factors that make investor behaviour deviate. The existence of psychological factors owned by investors will have an impact on the selection of their decisions so that investors make illogical or irrational decisions (Setiawan et al., 2018). Minimal knowledge in information analysis skills can also result in investors making the wrong decisions which are influenced by their behavioural biases (Shahani & Ahmed, 2022).

One of the phenomena that occurs in Indonesia is that many investors in investing in stocks act irrationally (Beatrice et al., 2021). Factors that influence irrational decisions such as rumours, limited information on risks and benefits of individual backgrounds and behavioural biases (Qasim et al., 2019). Adil et al. (2022) state that investors tend to make unfavourable decisions on their investments, resulting in poor investment performance. This happens because investors make decisions without being based on technical and fundamental analysis techniques, but because they follow the behaviour of other investors

(Wirawan et al., 2022). This phenomenon can occur due to the influence of behavioural finance on investment decisions. Behavioural finance examines the existence of behavioural bias in investors that affects decision making. Behavioural bias is divided into two categories, namely cognitive bias and emotional bias (Pompian, 2006). Cognitive bias can be interpreted as a deviation in decision making based on the thinking process, while emotional bias is defined as a deviation in decision making based on current feelings or emotions (Kartini & Nahda, 2021).

Representativeness bias is one of the cognitive biases that can influence an investor's decision (Parveen et al., 2020). Representativeness bias is a decision-making behaviour carried out by investors based on the past and causes errors in decision making (Shefrin, 2007). Representativeness bias occurs when investors make decisions only comparing them based on past events (Puspawati & Yohanda, 2020). Vitmiasih (2021) argues that representativeness bias is formed because investors are often faced with similar events, so they assume that the way to solve them is also relatively the same. Representativeness bias occurs because investors analyse information simply, judgments depend on track records, ignore information, and excessive trust (Khan et al., 2017).

Furthermore, herding bias is a bias that is often carried out by investors. Herding behaviour can be interpreted as the behaviour of investors to imitate other investors in making investment decisions without considering fundamental analysis (Hwang & Salmon, 2004). According to Puspawati & Yohanda (2022), herding bias is the irrational behaviour of investors who follow the behaviour of other investors in making investment decisions, causing bias. Investors rely more on collective information from several trusted people rather than personal information to buy or sell assets (Kengatharan & Kengatharan, 2014). Herding occurs when investors rely more on information that has been verified by many investors rather than their own abilities due to the belief that decisions made by the majority of investors cannot be wrong (Aristiwati & Hidayatullah, 2022).

In addition, regret aversion also affects investors' investment decisions. regret aversion occurs when an investor's desire to avoid the pain of regret as a result of a decision-making mistake that has occurred (Ogunlusi & Obademi, 2021). Regret aversion is a psychological bias due to investors not wanting to feel regret after making decisions (Sattar et al., 2020). Investors who have concerns about changes in stock prices after making a decision will behave regret aversion (Yuningsih & Taufiq, 2019). Investors who regret their decisions will have an impact on their decisions in the future (Zahera & Bansal, 2018).

According to research by Ayaa et al. (2022) representativeness bias has a positive influence on investment decisions. This research is in line with Yadav & Chaudhary, (2022) who said similar results. However, it is different from the results of research conducted by Shahani & Ahmed, (2022), which says that representativeness bias has no positive effect on investment decisions. It is stated that financial literacy has strengthened or weakened if included as a moderating variable (Adil et al., 2022). In other words, financial literacy can affect investment decision making. The purpose of this study is to find the effect of representativeness bias, herding bias, and regret aversion on investment decisions. Financial literacy serves as moderation included in the research model.

METHOD

This research uses a quantitative approach with a causality research design. The population in this study is generation Z investors in Semarang city who were born in 1996 - 2012 or have aged 11- 28 years who have invested in the capital market with a minimum age

of 17 years. The sample used in this study was taken using non probability sampling technique with the type of sampling using purposive sampling. The data analysis method used is descriptive analysis, validity test and reliability test. Testing in this study using the Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) method with Partial Least Square (PLS) technique.

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents

No	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1	Men	44	44,90%
2	Women	54	55,10%
	Total	98	100%
No	Education	Frequency	Percentage
1	SMA/SMK/MA	24	24,49%
2	D1/D2/D3	16	16,33%
3	S1	57	58,16%
4	S2/S3	1	1,02%
	Total	98	100%
No	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1	17	1	1.02%
2	18	3	3.06%
3	19	5	5.10%
4	20	20	20.41%
5	21	12	12.24%
6	22	9	9.18%
7	23	8	8.16%
8	24	5	5.10%
9	25	16	16.33%
10	26	10	10.20%
11	27	9	9.18%
12	28	1	1.02%
	Total	98	100%
No	Work Status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Students	57	58.16%
2	Public/Private Employee	36	36.73%
3	Self-employed	5	5.10%
	Total	98	100.00%
No	Duration of investment	Frequency	Percentage
1	<1 year	19	19.39%
2	1-2 year	45	45.92%
3	>2 year	34	34.69%
	Total	98	100.00%

Source: Processed Research Data (2024)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Determination Coefficient

The determination coefficient is used to assess how much influence the independent variable has on the dependent variable and the model's ability to explain the dependent variable. This study uses the R-square (R²) value to determine the value of the determination

coefficient. The r-square value of the structural model is 0.75 indicating a strong relationship, 0.50 indicating a moderate relationship, and 0.25 indicating a weak relationship (Latan & Ghazali, 2015). The following is table 2 which presents the determination coefficient value.

Table 2. Determination Coefficient Value

Variable	R - Square
Investment decisions	0.546

Source: SmartPLS 4.0 output (processed by author, 2024)

Table 2 shows the coefficient of determination value of 0.546 or 54.6%. The coefficient of determination value of 54.6% indicates that the investment decision variable can be explained by the variables of bias representativeness, bias herding, regret aversion, and financial literacy by 54.6%. While the remaining 45.4% is explained by other variables outside this research model. The coefficient of determination value of this study is included in the moderate category.

2. Predictive Relevance (Q2)

Predictive Relevance (Q2) can be used to measure the observation value of the overall model and parameter estimates in the study. The Q2 value > 0 indicates that the model has a good predictive relevance value, while if the Q2 value < 0, then the research model does not have a good predictive relevance value (Latan & Ghazali, 2015).

Table 3. Predictive Relevant Value

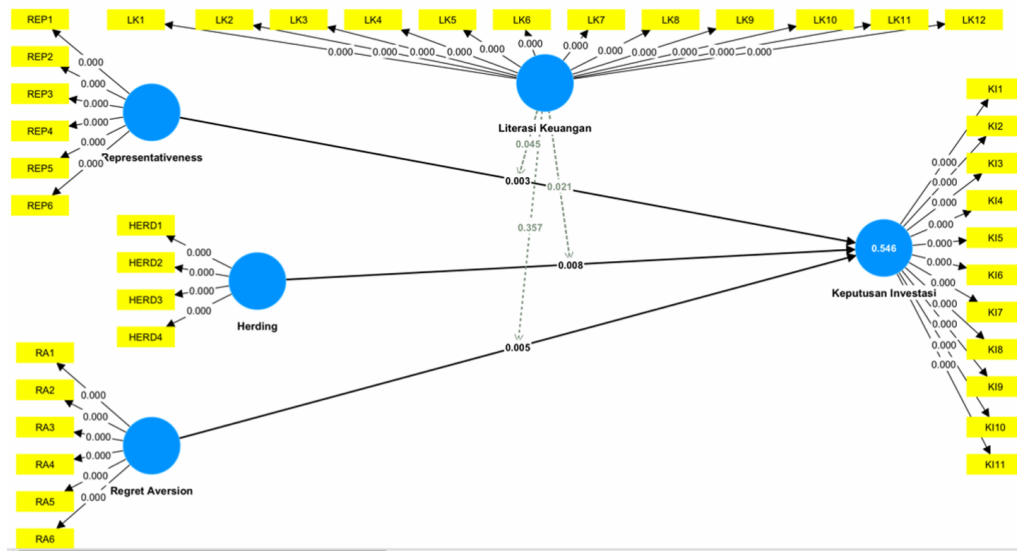
Variable	Q - Square
Investment decisions	0.463

Source: SmartPLS 4.0 output (processed by author, 2024)

Table 3 shows the results of the Q2 value of 0.463 so that it can be said that the model has good predictive relevance because the value of 0.463 has met the criteria, namely more than 0.

3. Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis testing is conducted to test and measure the research hypothesis based on the path coefficient value by looking at the original sample value, t-statistic, and p-value. According to Ghazali & Latan (2015), a hypothesis can be said to be significant if it meets the criteria, namely the t-statistic value > 1.96 and the p-value < 0.05 with a significance level of 5%. The following table 4 is the path coefficient value in this study.



Picture 1. Research model

The value of the results of processing the hypothesis testing data between variables can be seen in table 4

Table 4. Hypothesis Testing Results

Hypothesis	Variable	Original sample	T statistic	P values	Result
Ha1	Representativeness -> Investment decision	0.233	2.969	0.003	Significant
Ha2	Hearding -> Investment decision	0.162	2.660	0.008	Significant
Ha3	Regret Aversion -> Investment decision	0.230	2.841	0.005	Significant
Ha4	Financial literacy x representativeness -> Investment decision	-0.182	2.006	0.045	Significant
Ha5	Financial literacy x Hearding -> Investment decision	-0.182	2.314	0.021	Significant
Ha6	Financial literacy x Regret Aversion -> Investment decision	0.080	0.921	0.357	Not Significant

Source: Processed Research Data (2024)

Based on the hypothesis test in this study, the Original Sample (b) value is 0.233, which means that the direction of the relationship between the representativeness bias variable and investment decisions is positive, meaning that the higher the representativeness bias behavior, the better the investment decision making. In addition, the t-statistic value of 2.969 is greater than the t-table of 1.96, and the p-value of 0.003 is smaller than 0.05, indicating that there is significance in the research results. Therefore, it can be concluded that representativeness bias has an effect on investment decisions so that Ha1 which reads "Representativeness Bias has a positive and significant effect on investment decisions" is accepted.

The results of this study indicate that Generation Z investors in Semarang City have high representativeness bias behavior, which influences their investment decision making.

Generation Z investors in Semarang City also avoid stocks that have performed poorly in the past for their investment decisions. This is proven by the statement "I am not interested in stocks that have a bad track record in the past" with an index of 77.14% which is included in the high category. Investors prefer to buy stocks by relying on stereotyped assessments of stock groups. They believe that if one stock in the sector is profitable, then stocks in the same sector will also be profitable. This is also proven by the statement item "I am interested in investing in blue-chip stocks" with the highest index among other statement items, namely 78.98%.

The results of this study are in accordance with cognitive bias in behavioral finance theory according to research by Ayaa et al. (2022) which states that cognitive factors in a person can cause behavioral bias and influence investment decision making. Waweru (2008) said in his research that behavioral bias in decision making is caused by errors in interpreting information by investors, emotional attitudes and cognitive weaknesses of investors can arise when making a decision. This happened to Generation Z investors in Semarang City in their investment decision making was influenced by representativeness bias, which means that the greater the representativeness bias, the greater the investment decision made. This happens because investors use one stock as a benchmark to assess the performance of similar stocks without analyzing the information obtained first so that investors assess stocks in one work group or sector as having the same information (Parveen et al., 2020). The results of this study are in line with research conducted by (Ahmad et al., 2021; Ayaa et al., 2022; Kirera & Mburugu, 2019; Novianggie & Asandimitra, 2019; Yadav & Chaudhary, 2022) which states that representativeness bias has a significant positive effect on investment decisions.

Based on the hypothesis test in this study, the Original Sample (b) value is 0.162, which means that the direction of the relationship between the bias herding variable and investment decisions is positive, meaning that the higher the bias herding behavior, the higher the investment decision-making. In addition, the t-statistic value of 2,660 is greater than the t-table, which is 1.96, and the p-value of 0.008 is smaller than 0.05, indicating significance in the research results. Therefore, it can be concluded that bias herding has an effect on investment decisions so that Ha2 which states "Bias Herding has a positive and significant effect on investment decisions" is accepted. The results of this study indicate that Generation Z investors in Semarang City have bias herding behavior that influences their investment decision-making. This result is supported by the indicator statement "I make a decision to buy a type of stock based on the type of stock owned by a group of investors" which has an index of 56.94%. The statement indicator "I react quickly to follow investment decisions taken by other investors" is the statement indicator with the highest index of 61.43%. This indicates that investors still tend to determine the shares they will own not based on the results of the analysis of the information received. This kind of investor behavior occurs due to lack of information, experience and knowledge and time constraints in decision-making so that they trust information from others more (Luong & Ha, 2011). The results of this study are in accordance with behavioral finance theory which states that there are psychological factors that influence investor decision-making (Ricciardi & Simon, 2000). In line with the research of Setiawan et al. (2018) which explains that the causes of investment decision-making experiencing bias are errors in interpreting information by investors, emotional attitudes, and limited information obtained. Generation Z investors in Semarang City are influenced by herding bias in making investment decisions, which means that the higher the herding bias, the more it will affect the decisions made by investors. This

herding behavior occurs because investors trust the analytical abilities of other investors more, which are easily obtained through social media recommendation information, stock recommendation groups, or people close to them. The results of this study are in line with (Addinpujoartanto & Darmawan, 2020; Ahmad et al., 2021; Ahmad & Wu, 2022; Fridana & Asandimitra, 2020; Novianggie & Asandimitra, 2019; Qasim et al., 2019; Ramashar et al., 2022; Shahani & Ahmed, 2022; Wendy, 2021) which states that herding bias has a positive and significant effect on investment decisions.

Based on the hypothesis test in this study, the Original Sample (b) value is 0.230, which means that the direction of the relationship between the regret aversion variable and investment decisions is positive, meaning that the higher the regret aversion behavior, the higher the investment decision-making. In addition, the t-statistic value of 2.841 is greater than the t-table of 1.96, and the p-value of 0.005 is smaller than 0.05, indicating significance in the research results. Therefore, it can be concluded that regret aversion has an effect on investment decisions so that Ha3 which reads "Regret aversion has a positive and significant effect on investment decisions" is accepted. The results of the descriptive analysis of the regret aversion variable on investment decisions have an average index of 66.36%. This shows that Generation Z investors in Semarang City still experience regret aversion in determining their investment decisions. Generation Z investors only buy stocks that have low risk. Generation Z investors in Semarang City have a fear of regret if they experience losses. This statement is supported by the indicator of the statement "I will not buy stocks whose value shows a decline so that I do not feel regret later" which has the highest index of 68.78%. The majority of Generation Z investors in Semarang City aged 17-27 years who were respondents to this study were worried about buying shares in stocks that experienced losses and could result in regret. Investors choose to make decisions such as selling stocks when they are rising and holding stocks that have poor performance for a long time with the assumption that they will increase in the future. Investors believe that making this decision can minimize regret from the risks received. Reluctant behavior to regret can ignore profit opportunities that investors should be able to get (Ogunlusi & Obademi, 2021). This study is in accordance with Behavioral finance theory which shows that investor behavior towards uncertain and risky conditions in making investment decisions Mutawally & Asandimitra (2019) and investors have different reactions between getting profit or loss in their decisions Ramashar et al. (2022). Generation Z investors in Semarang City in this study try to avoid mistakes in making a decision because they are afraid of the risk of loss they will experience. Mistakes in making decisions and experiencing losses will cause trauma to investors. This study is in line with research conducted by (Addinpujoartanto & Darmawan, 2020; Hariono et al., 2023; Mahadevi & Asandimitra, 2021; Putri & Sudiyatno, 2023; Rahawarin, 2023) which states that regret aversion has a positive effect on investment decisions.

Based on the hypothesis test in this study, the Original Sample (b) value is -0.182, which means that the direction of the relationship between the financial literacy variable moderating the bias representativeness variable on investment decisions is negative (weakening), meaning that financial literacy can weaken the influence of bias representativeness on investment decisions. In addition, the t-statistic value of 2.006 is greater than the t-table of 1.96, and the p-value of 0.045 is smaller than 0.05, indicating that there is significance in the research results. Therefore, it can be concluded that financial literacy can moderate the influence of bias representativeness on investment decisions so that Ha4 which reads "Financial literacy can moderate the influence of bias

representativeness on investment decisions" is accepted.

Investors who have a high level of financial literacy will be less likely to behave in a representativeness bias that can take irrational actions in making investment decisions. Investors with higher financial literacy will easily obtain information from technical and fundamental analysis so that they can make more appropriate decisions. This situation will increase the level of investor confidence in making decisions according to the information that has been processed (Adil et al., 2022). Based on the results of the descriptive analysis, the index has an average of 78.83%, which is included in the high category, represented by the statement indicator "I choose to invest in instruments that are in accordance with my abilities and risks" of 78.98%. The results of this study are in line with research conducted by (Waqar et al., 2022) and (Safitri et al., 2023) which states that financial literacy can moderate the influence of representativeness bias on investment decisions. However, this study contradicts the research of Ahmad et al., (2021), Shahani & Afaq Ahmed, (2022) which states the opposite.

Based on the hypothesis test in this study, the Original Sample (b) value is -0.182, which means that the direction of the relationship between the financial literacy variable and the herding variable on investment decisions is negative (weakening), meaning that financial literacy can weaken the influence of herding bias on investment decisions. In addition, the t-statistic value of 2.314 is greater than the t-table of 1.96, and the p-value of 0.021 is smaller than 0.05, indicating significance in the research results. Therefore, it can be concluded that financial literacy can moderate the influence of herding on investment decisions so that Ha5 which reads "Financial literacy can moderate the influence of herding bias on investment decisions" is accepted.

The level of financial literacy possessed by Generation Z investors in the city of Semarang will affect the influence of herding on investment decisions. The higher the level of literacy possessed by Generation Z investors, the weaker the possibility of investors experiencing herding in making their decisions. (Novianggie & Asandimitra, 2019) stated that investors with a high level of literacy will analyze the information obtained to make decisions so as to avoid biased herding behavior. The results of the financial literacy moderation test on the influence of herding on investment decisions showed significant results. Financial literacy can weaken the influence of herding on investment decisions taken by Generation Z investors in the city of Semarang. This is because investors with a high level of literacy (higher financial literacy) do not accept information available on social media or a group of investors without analyzing it first. Financial literacy can be used as a reference in making more rational investment decisions than following recommendations from a group of investors. The existence of financial literacy can weaken psychological factors that cause behavioral bias in investment decision making (Adil et al., 2022).

This study found that financial literacy is able to significantly moderate the influence of herding on investment decisions. High or low levels of literacy will significantly affect the influence of herding on investment decision making. The findings of this study are in line with research (Adil et al., 2022; Fitriyani & Anwar, 2022; Shahani & Ahmed, 2022) which states that financial literacy is able to moderate the influence of herding bias on investment decisions.

Based on the hypothesis test in this study, the Original Sample (b) value is 0.080, which means that the direction of the relationship between the financial literacy variable moderating the regret aversion variable on investment decisions is positive (strengthening), meaning that financial literacy can strengthen the influence of regret aversion on investment

decisions. In addition, the t-statistic value of 0.921 is smaller than the t-table of 1.96, and the p-value of 0.357 is greater than 0.05, indicating that there is no significance in the research results. Therefore, it can be concluded that financial literacy cannot moderate the influence of regret aversion on investment decisions so that Ha6 which reads "Financial literacy can moderate the influence of regret aversion on investment decisions" is rejected.

The regret aversion behavior of investors will involve emotional factors in determining investment decisions. Investors will involve emotions such as fear of losses experienced so that they choose a strategy to avoid regret. Behavioral finance theory shows that investment decision-making can be influenced by beliefs and preferences that cause overreaction to information obtained and affect the risk accepted (Bakar et al., 2016). Therefore, although Generation Z investors in Semarang City have a high level of financial literacy, emotional factors will also influence investment decision-making, so that the financial literacy variable becomes significant in moderating the effect of regret aversion on investment decisions. The findings of this study explain that the level of financial literacy does not have a significant moderating effect on the effect of regret aversion on investment decisions. The level of literacy possessed by investors will not affect the effect of regret aversion on their investment decisions. This is in line with research conducted by (Hariono et al., 2023) which states similar results. The results of the study indicate that investors in Malang City do not make reasonable decisions so that financial literacy cannot moderate the influence of regret aversion on their investment decisions.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded in this study that, Representativeness Bias has a positive and significant effect on Investment Decisions, Herding Bias has a positive and significant effect on Investment Decisions, Regret Aversion has a positive and significant effect on Investment Decisions, Financial Literacy can moderate the effect of Representativeness Bias on Investment Decisions, Financial Literacy can moderate the effect of Herding Bias on Investment Decisions, and Financial Literacy cannot moderate the effect of Regret Aversion on Investment Decisions. The conclusion is that the representativeness, herding, and regret aversion biases owned by investors will affect their investment decision making. The greater the bias, the greater the investment decision taken. The purpose of this study is to examine the factors in investor investment decision making by considering the level of financial literacy as moderation. Based on the findings, it is proven that investment decisions are influenced by Representativeness Bias, Herding Bias, and Regret Aversion. By involving other variables besides financial literacy as moderation, it is expected to weaken the influence of the relationship between behavioral biases on investor investment decisions. Investors can continue to develop knowledge and ability to process and analyze financial information by attending educational training or investment-related seminars provided by accredited parties so that investors avoid bias in making decisions that result in irrational decisions and can be detrimental in the future.

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