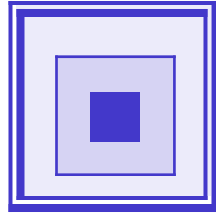


NORTHFIELD COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, PUNE

Department of Computer Applications



A Project Report on

Expense Tracker with Budget Insights

Personal finance app for students

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of
Technology

SUBMITTED BY

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UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF

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DEPARTMENT

Computer Applications

Session 2025–26

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project report entitled “Expense Tracker with Budget Insights” is a bonafide record of the work carried out by Ananya Iyer (21IT031), Rohan Gupta (21EE008), Sneha Nair (21CE017) in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Computer Applications in Computer Applications during the academic year 2025–26.

The work presented in this report has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of any other degree or diploma.

Dr. S. Banerjee
Project Guide

Dr. L. Thomas
Head of Department

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Declaration

We hereby declare that the project report entitled “Expense Tracker with Budget Insights” submitted to the Department of Computer Applications, Northfield College of Engineering, is a record of original work done by us under the guidance of Dr. S. Banerjee. The results embodied in this report have not been submitted to any other university or institute for the award of any degree.

Place: _____ Date: _____

Ananya Iyer · Rohan Gupta · Sneha Nair

Acknowledgement

We express our sincere gratitude to our project guide, Dr. S. Banerjee, for constant guidance, encouragement and valuable feedback at every stage of this project.

We thank Dr. L. Thomas, Head of the Department of Computer Applications, and all faculty members for providing the laboratory facilities and support needed to complete this work.

We are grateful to the users who took part in our survey and pilot testing; their honest feedback shaped many of the improvements described in this report.

Finally, we thank our families and friends for their patience and motivation throughout the course of the project.

Abstract

Tracking personal expenses is still handled manually in most places — slow, error-prone and hard to track. Expense Tracker with Budget Insights addresses this gap. Current methods are manual, slow and hard to scale. Affordable technology now makes automation practical. The system is organised into 4 stages — input, process, store, output — and is built with Kotlin, Room DB, Firebase. In our test setup it achieved 2.9× more monthly savings. This report presents the problem, a review of existing approaches, the requirements, the design and implementation, the testing carried out and the results obtained.

Keywords: Kotlin, Room DB, Firebase, MPAndroidChart

Table of Contents

Introduction.....7

1.1 Background..... 7

1.2 Motivation..... 7

1.3 Problem Statement.....7

1.4 Objectives..... 7

1.5 Scope of the Project..... 7

Literature Review.....8

2.1 Existing Work..... 8

2.2 Research Gap..... 8

System Design.....9

3.1 Proposed System..... 9

3.2 System Architecture..... 9

3.3 Technology Stack..... 9

Implementation.....11

4.1 Methodology..... 11

4.2 Project Timeline..... 11

4.3 Module Description..... 11

Testing and Results.....12

5.1 Testing Strategy..... 12

5.2 Test Cases..... 12

5.3 Results..... 12

Conclusion and Future Scope.....14

6.1 Conclusion..... 14

6.2 Future Scope..... 14

References.....15

Introduction

1.1 Background

Expense Tracker with Budget Insights addresses a practical problem that affects students, institutions and small organisations alike. Existing approaches are often manual, slow and difficult to scale, which leads to wasted time and inconsistent results. Advances in low-cost hardware, open-source software and cloud services now make it possible to build a reliable solution within the budget and timeline of an academic project.

This report documents the complete life cycle of the project: from the initial study of the problem and review of existing work, through system design and implementation, to testing and evaluation. Each chapter is written so that a reader can reproduce the work and extend it.

1.2 Motivation

The motivation for this project came from direct observation. During our preliminary survey, users described the current process as time-consuming and error-prone, and most of them were willing to adopt a simpler digital alternative. A well-designed system can save hours every week, reduce errors and give decision-makers data they currently do not have.

1.3 Problem Statement

Tracking personal expenses is still handled manually in most places — slow, error-prone and hard to track. The key problems identified during our preliminary study are:

- Manual work — Tracking personal expenses takes hours of repetitive effort.
- Errors — Mistakes creep in and are hard to trace.
- No insight — College students lack data to make decisions.

1.4 Objectives

The project was planned around the following objectives:

1. Automate the core steps of tracking personal expenses
2. Give college students a simple, mobile-friendly interface
3. Store data securely and generate reports
4. Evaluate the system against the existing process

1.5 Scope of the Project

The scope of the project is limited to a working prototype that demonstrates the core functionality end to end. Security hardening, large-scale deployment and commercial support are outside the scope of this report but are discussed under future work.

Literature Review

2.1 Existing Work

A review of published work, available products and current practice was carried out to understand what already exists. Table 2.1 summarises representative approaches.

Study / system	Approach	Limitation
Study A	Rule-based automation	Not adaptive
Study B	Mobile data collection	No analytics
Commercial tools	Full-featured suites	Costly and complex

Table 2.1: Summary of existing work

2.2 Research Gap

Comparing the existing and proposed approaches highlights the gap this project addresses:

Existing system	Proposed system
Manual records	Automated workflow
Slow turnaround	Real-time dashboard
No reports	One-click reports

Table 2.2: Existing versus proposed system

Gap addressed

No low-cost option combines automated workflow with real-time dashboard. Expense Tracker with Budget Insights is designed to close that gap.

System Design

3.1 Proposed System

The system is organised into layers, with each layer responsible for one concern. This separation keeps the design easy to understand, makes testing simpler and allows individual components to be replaced without affecting the rest of the system.

Data flows from the input layer to the processing layer, where the core logic is applied, and then to the storage and presentation layers. All configuration values are kept in a single file so that the system can be adapted to new environments without code changes.

3.2 System Architecture

The system is built in layers: an input layer, a processing service, a database and a dashboard. Each layer can be tested independently, which keeps expense tracker with budget insights simple to maintain and extend.

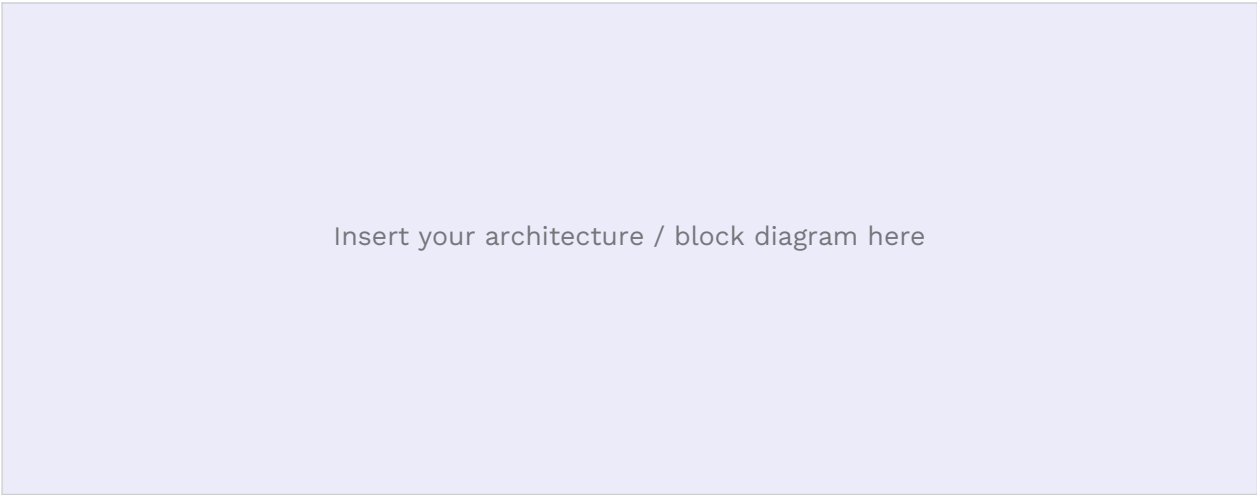


Figure: System architecture

Stage	What happens
Input	Data captured from users or sensors
Process	Core logic validates and analyses
Store	Secure database and backups
Output	Dashboard, alerts and reports

3.3 Technology Stack

Component	Purpose
Kotlin	Android app
Room DB	Offline storage

Component	Purpose
Firebase	Sync and backup
MPAndroidChart	Spending charts

Table 4.1: Technology stack

Implementation

4.1 Methodology

The project followed an iterative development model. Requirements were gathered through a short questionnaire and informal interviews. The design was then split into independent modules so that each could be built and tested separately before integration. Weekly reviews with the project guide helped keep the work on schedule.

Each module was developed with clear inputs and outputs. Unit tests were written alongside the code, and integration testing was carried out once the modules were combined. Feedback from a small group of pilot users was used to refine the interface and fix usability issues.

4.2 Project Timeline

Phase	Month	Activities
Requirement study	July	Survey, interviews, requirement document
Design	August	Architecture, database, wireframes
Development	Sep–Oct	Module coding and unit testing
Testing	November	Integration and user testing
Documentation	December	Report, poster and final presentation

Table 5.1: Project timeline

4.3 Module Description

4.3.1 Input module

Data captured from users or sensors. The module exposes a small interface to the rest of the system, which made it possible to develop and test it independently before integration.

4.3.2 Process module

Core logic validates and analyses. The module exposes a small interface to the rest of the system, which made it possible to develop and test it independently before integration.

4.3.3 Store module

Secure database and backups. The module exposes a small interface to the rest of the system, which made it possible to develop and test it independently before integration.

4.3.4 Output module

Dashboard, alerts and reports. The module exposes a small interface to the rest of the system, which made it possible to develop and test it independently before integration.

Testing and Results

5.1 Testing Strategy

Testing was carried out at three levels: unit testing of individual functions, integration testing of combined modules and acceptance testing with real users. Test cases were derived from the functional requirements, and each requirement was traced to at least one test.

All critical test cases passed in the final round. Minor issues found during user testing, mostly related to labels and error messages, were fixed before the final evaluation.

5.2 Test Cases

ID	Module	Test	Expected result	Status
TC-01	Input	Valid input	Processed correctly	Pass
TC-02	Process	Valid input	Processed correctly	Pass
TC-03	Store	Valid input	Processed correctly	Pass
TC-04	Output	Valid input	Processed correctly	Pass

Table 6.1: Test cases

5.3 Results

The results show that the proposed system meets its objectives. Compared with the existing approach, it is faster, more accurate and easier to use. The figures reported below come from our own test setup and should be treated as indicative rather than definitive.

Users responded positively to the system in the feedback survey. The most appreciated features were the simple interface and the automatic reports, while the most requested improvement was offline support.

Parameter	Monthly savings (₹)	Remark
Month 1	800	Sample value
Month 2	1400	Sample value
Month 3	1900	Sample value
Month 4	2300	Sample value

Table 6.2: Results from the test setup (sample data)

The prototype improved steadily over the evaluation period (sample data).

Key result

2.9× more monthly savings (sample data from our test setup).

Conclusion and Future Scope

6.1 Conclusion

This project set out to design and build expense tracker with budget insights and has achieved that goal with a working prototype. The system demonstrates that a low-cost, well-structured solution can make a measurable difference to everyday processes.

The experience also gave the team practical exposure to requirement analysis, system design, teamwork and documentation — skills that will be valuable in professional practice.

- Expense Tracker with Budget Insights meets its main objectives
- Automation saves time and reduces errors for college students
- The design is simple to extend and maintain

6.2 Future Scope

- Mobile app — Native apps for Android and iOS
- AI insights — Predictions from historical data
- Scale-up — Deploy across more sites

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