# DETS "Daily Expense Tracking System"

**Ms. Arpita Raju Pol[1] Ms.Vishakha Suresh Wankhede[2] Ms.Samruddhi Mahesh Surve[3] Mrs. Reena Gharat[4]**
[1,2,3]Student [4]Lecturer
[1,2,3,4]Department of Computer Technology
[1,2,3,4]Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Technology, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

*Abstract* — Keeping track of daily expenses is an essential part of managing personal finances, but many people find it challenging. Without a proper system, it's easy to lose track of where money goes, leading to overspending and financial stress. The "Daily Expense Tracking System" is designed to help users organize and monitor their spending in a simple and efficient way. This web-based application makes it easy to log expenses, categorize them, and generate reports to better understand spending habits. Built using PHP and MySQL for the backend, and HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for the frontend, the system offers a seamless experience. It consists of two main sections: the User Module and the Admin Module. The User Module allows individuals to record expenses, sort them into categories, and view reports that provide insights into their financial behavior. The Admin Module helps manage users, monitor the system, and oversee expense categories. By automating the process of expense tracking, this system reduces errors and makes financial management more accessible. Users can quickly generate reports for specific time periods, helping them make smarter financial decisions. With a focus on data security and ease of use, the system offers a reliable way to stay in control of personal finances. The goal of this project is to provide a user-friendly and efficient solution for expense tracking, helping people build better financial habits and plan for the future.

***Keywords:*** Tracking, Web Based Application, Expenses

## I. INTRODUCTION

Managing daily expenses can be a challenge, especially when trying to keep track of every small purchase. Many people struggle with overspending or losing track of where their money goes. Without a proper system, financial planning becomes difficult, leading to stress and uncertainty.

This project aims to simplify expense tracking by creating a user-friendly web-based system. The Daily Expense Tracking System allows users to log their expenses, categorize them, and generate reports to better understand their spending patterns. By providing a structured way to monitor expenses, the system helps users develop better financial habits and make informed decisions about their money.

The system is designed with two main roles: users and administrators. Users can enter their daily expenses, filter them by category, and view reports that highlight their financial activity. On the other hand, administrators oversee the system, manage users, and maintain categories to ensure smooth operation. The backend is built using PHP and MySQL, while the frontend is developed with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to provide a seamless experience.

With this system, individuals can gain better control over their finances, reduce unnecessary spending, and plan for the future more effectively. By making expense tracking simple and accessible, this project offers a practical solution for anyone looking to manage their money with ease.

## II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Keeping track of expenses has always been an important part of managing money, whether for individuals or businesses. Over time, different methods have been used, starting with simple pen-and-paper records and evolving into digital tools that make financial tracking much easier.

In the past, people maintained handwritten logs or used basic spreadsheets to record their spending. While these methods worked, they were often time-consuming, prone to mistakes, and didn't offer much insight into spending patterns. With the rise of technology, expense tracking has become more convenient through mobile apps and web platforms. Apps like Mint, PocketGuard, and Expensify now help users track their expenses automatically, set budgets, and even analyze financial habits.

Research shows that digital expense trackers can significantly improve financial awareness. Studies suggest that people who consistently track their spending tend to save more and manage their money better. These tools help individuals identify unnecessary expenses and make smarter financial decisions.

However, despite the benefits, many existing apps have their downsides. Some users find them too complicated, others struggle with limited customization, and privacy concerns remain a common issue. This project aims to tackle these challenges by creating a simple, easy-to-use, and secure web-based expense tracker. With features like real-time logging, clear categorization, and data visualization, this system is designed to make managing personal finances easier and more effective for everyone.

## III. METHODOLOGY

Building a user-friendly expense tracking system requires a well-structured approach to ensure it meets users' needs efficiently. This process involves several key stages, from understanding user expectations to designing, developing, and continuously improving the system. The following methodology outlines each step in a way that keeps both functionality and user experience at the core of development.

### *A. Understanding User Needs*

Before writing a single line of code, it's essential to understand what users actually want from an expense tracking system. Many existing applications are either too complex or lack essential features, leading users to feel frustrated or overwhelmed. To avoid these issues, surveys and user feedback play a crucial role in shaping the system's design.

By collecting real-world insights, we can identify:

- Common struggles users face when tracking expenses manually or with other apps.
- Features that are most important to users, such as automated categorization, budget setting, or data visualization.
- Privacy and security concerns that must be addressed to ensure trust.

Once these insights are gathered, we can move forward with a clear vision of what the system should deliver.

### B. System Design and Planning

After understanding user expectations, the next step is to design a system that is both simple and powerful. The key to a successful design lies in balancing functionality with ease of use.

Key considerations during this phase include:

- User Interface (UI) Design: Creating an intuitive and visually appealing layout that allows users to navigate effortlessly. A clean, uncluttered design ensures users can track their expenses without confusion.
- Database Structure: Organizing financial data efficiently so that transactions can be stored securely and retrieved quickly when needed.
- Security Measures: Implementing encryption and authentication mechanisms to protect user data from unauthorized access.

The planning phase also includes defining the core functionalities, such as adding, editing, and categorizing expenses, generating reports, setting budgets, and providing spending insights.

### C. Development and Implementation

With a solid plan in place, the development phase begins. This step involves turning ideas and designs into a fully functional application.

The development process includes:

- Frontend Development: Building an interactive and easy-to-use interface using modern web technologies like HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Backend Development: Creating a secure and efficient system for storing and processing expense data using server-side technologies.
- Feature Integration: Implementing essential functions such as:
  - Adding expenses with custom categories
  - Setting monthly budgets and receiving alerts when spending exceeds limits
  - Visualizing financial data with charts and reports
  - Allowing users to export or back up their data for safekeeping

Throughout this phase, developers ensure that the system remains lightweight, fast, and responsive across different devices.

### D. Testing and Refinement

Before releasing the system, rigorous testing is conducted to ensure smooth performance, usability, and security. This phase involves multiple testing methods:

- User Testing: A group of real users test the system to provide feedback on functionality, ease of use, and any areas that need improvement.
- Performance Testing: The system is tested under different conditions to check how it handles large amounts of data, multiple users, and various device types.
- Security Testing: Data protection measures are reviewed to identify and fix any potential vulnerabilities.

Any issues found during testing are addressed, and refinements are made to enhance the user experience before moving forward.

### E. Deployment and User Training

Once the system passes testing, it is ready to be launched. However, introducing a new financial tool can be overwhelming for some users, so providing a smooth onboarding experience is essential.

To help users get started, we provide:

- A simple step-by-step guide on how to use the system.
- In-app tutorials and tooltips to explain key features.
- A help section or chatbot support to address common questions.

Making the system accessible and easy to understand ensures that users can quickly adapt and benefit from it without frustration.

### F. Continuous Improvement

The journey doesn't end after deployment. A great expense tracking system should evolve based on user feedback, technological advancements, and emerging financial trends.

Key steps in ongoing improvement include:

- Monitoring User Behavior: Tracking how users interact with the system helps identify areas that need enhancement.
- Regular Updates: Adding new features, fixing bugs, and improving existing functions to keep the system up to date.
- User Support and Engagement: Encouraging users to share their experiences and suggestions so that future updates align with their needs.

## IV. Implementation

When implementing the Daily Expense Tracker System, we focus on two key parts: Frontend (what users see and interact with) and Backend (where the actual data processing happens). Below is a breakdown of how both are structured:

### A. Frontend (User Interface & Experience)

The frontend is responsible for providing a user-friendly experience, making it easy for users to track and manage their expenses. It includes:

#### 1) Technologies Used:

- HTML & CSS – To structure and style the webpages.
- JavaScript – For interactive elements like form validation, dynamic updates, and smooth user experience.
- Bootstrap (optional) – To make the UI responsive and visually appealing.

2) *Key Frontend Features:*
- User Registration & Login – Secure authentication system for users to create accounts and log in.
- Dashboard – A visually appealing dashboard where users can see a summary of their expenses (daily, monthly, yearly).
- Expense Management – Forms to add, edit, or delete expenses easily.
- Expense Reports – Graphs, tables, and filters to analyze spending habits over different time periods.
- Profile Management – Users can update their details, change passwords, and recover forgotten credentials.
- Admin Panel – Admins can manage users, categories, and view reports.

### B. *Backend (Server-Side & Database Management)*

The backend is where all the logic happens data processing, authentication, and database management.

1) *Technologies Used:*
- PHP – Handles server-side processing (form submissions, database queries, authentication).
- MySQL – The database system that stores all user data, expenses, and categories.
- Apache (via XAMPP) – The web server that runs the PHP scripts.

2) *Key Backend Features:*
- User Authentication – Secure login/logout system, password recovery, and profile management.
- Expense Data Handling – Storing and retrieving user expenses in an optimized way.
- Admin Management – Admins can add expense categories, manage users, and generate reports.
- Security Measures – Password encryption, SQL injection prevention, and user session management.
- Report Generation – Fetching and displaying expense data based on date filters.

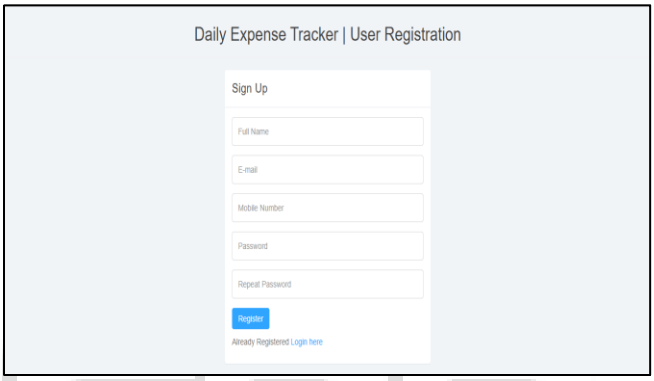
### C. *How the Frontend & Backend Work Together*

1) A user enters data (e.g., adding an expense) via a form in the frontend.
2) The request is sent to the backend (PHP script), which processes the input.
3) The backend communicates with the MySQL database, storing or retrieving data.
4) The result (like an updated expense list) is sent back to the frontend and displayed.

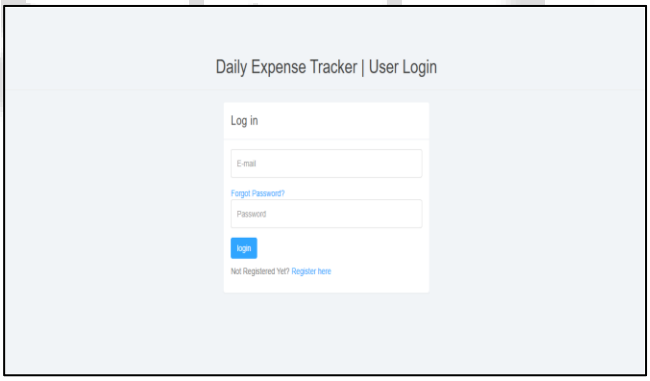
## V. OUTPUT SCREEN OF PROJECT:

### A. *Home Page*

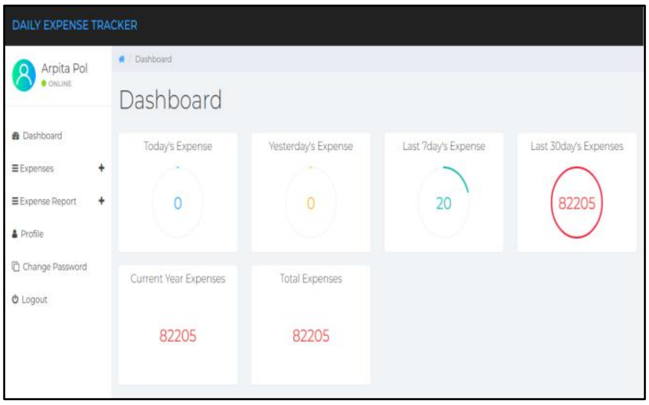

### B. *Registration Page*




### C. *Login Page*

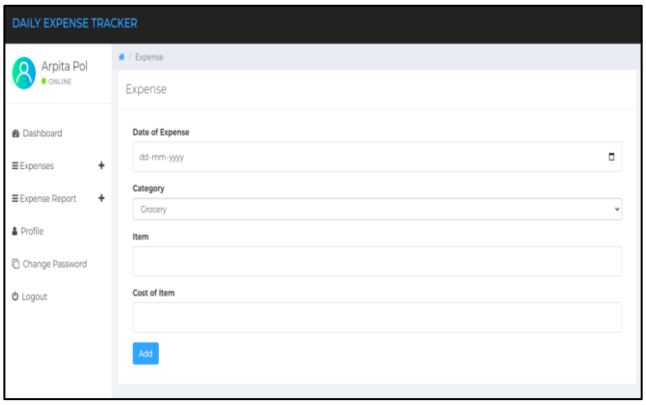



### D. *Dashboard*

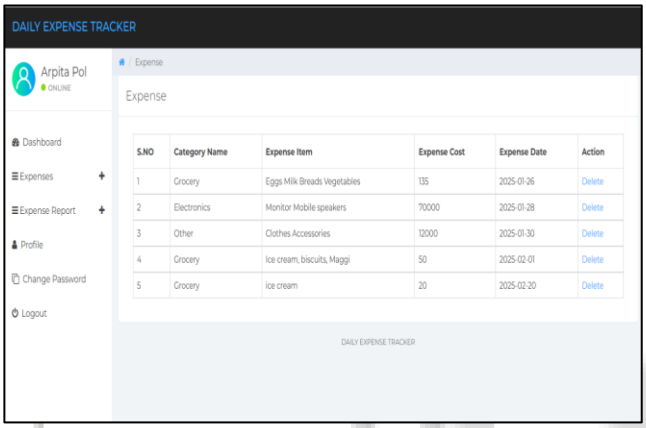


## E. Add Expense

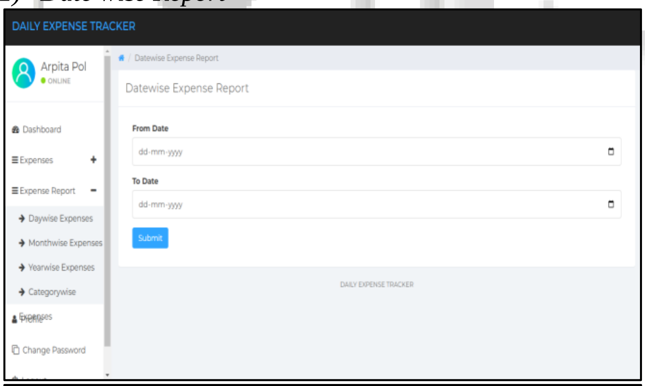


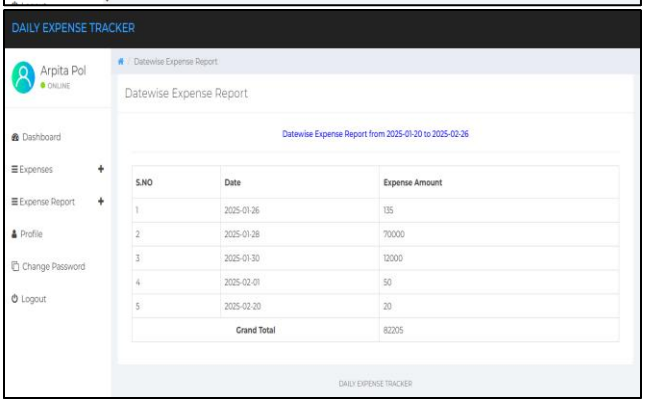

## F. Manage Expense



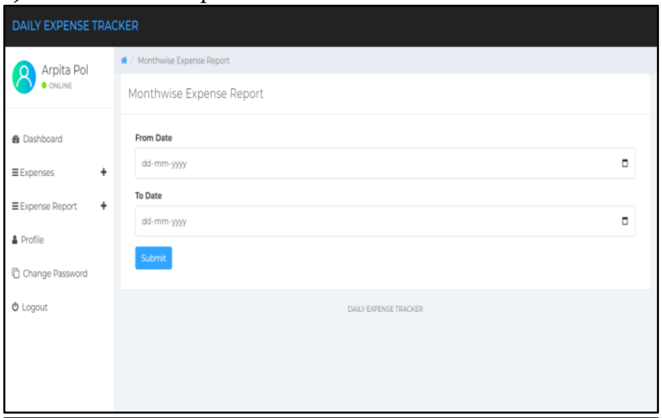

## G. Expense Report

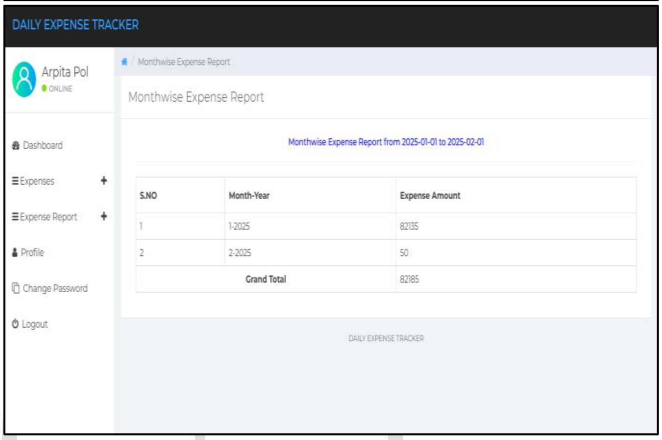
### 1) Date wise Report



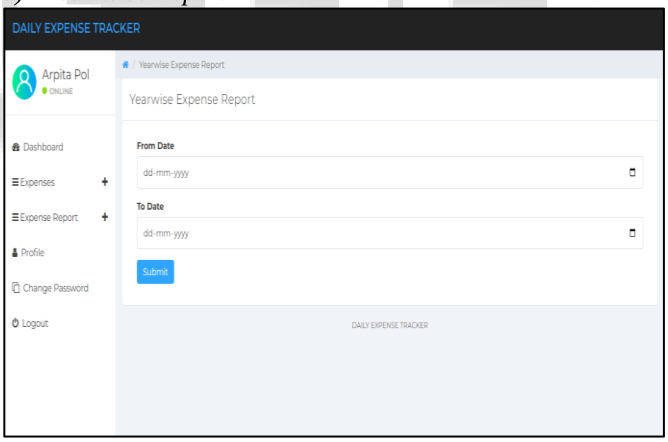



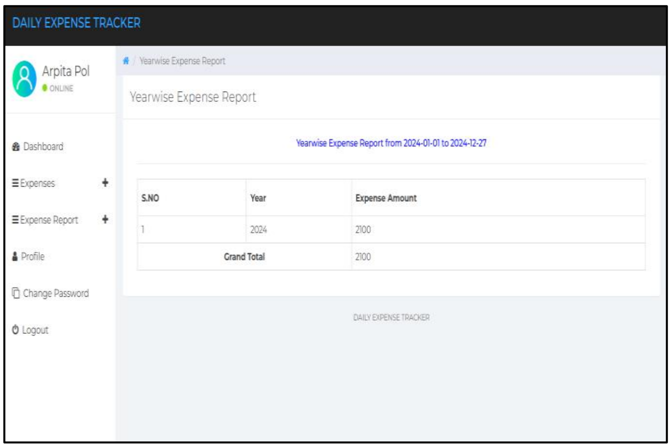

### 2) Month wise Report



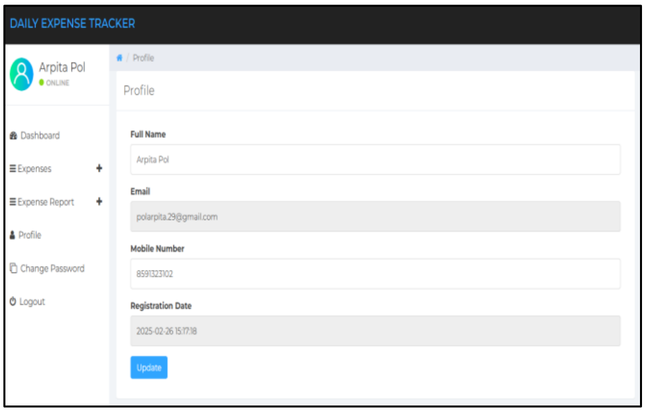

### 3) Year wise Report



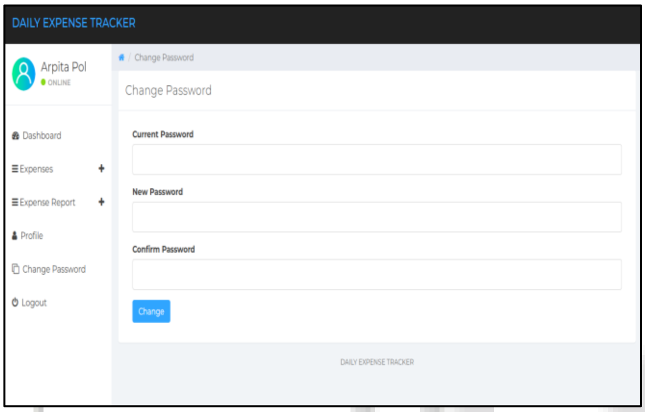



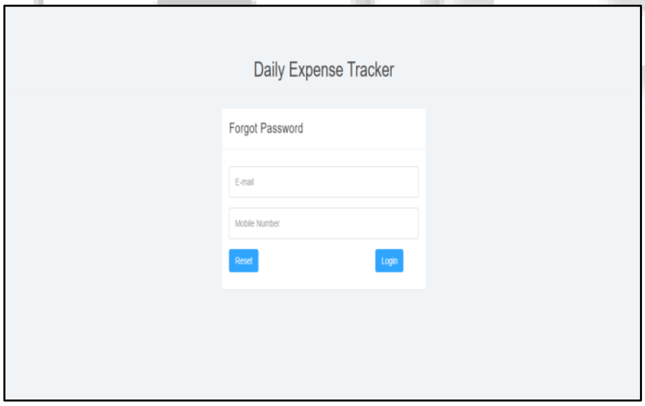
## H. Profile



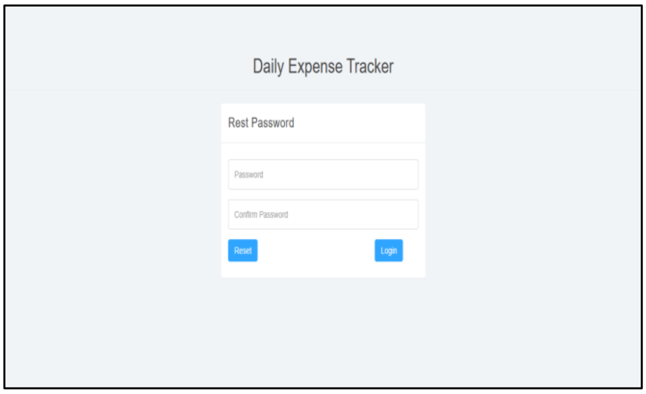

## I. Change Password




## J. Forgot Password

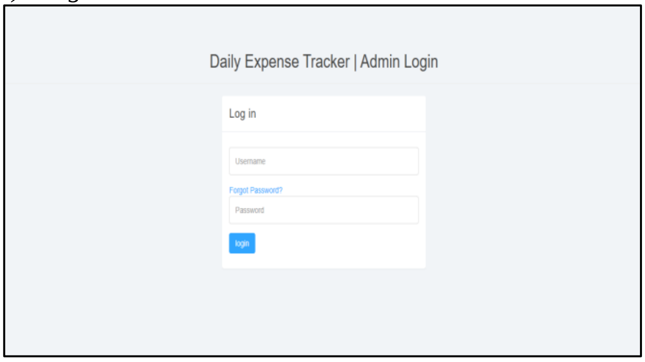



## K. Reset Password

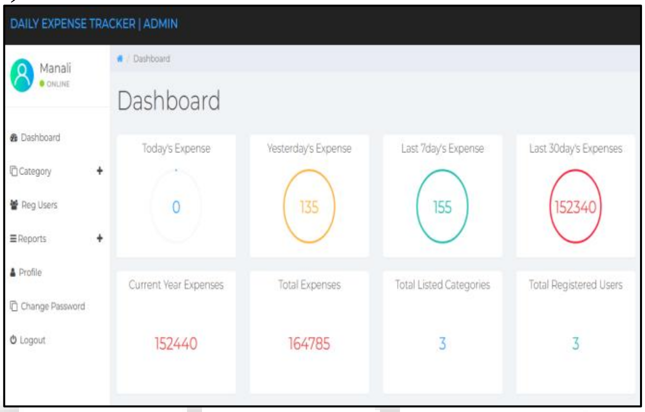



## L. Admin Modules

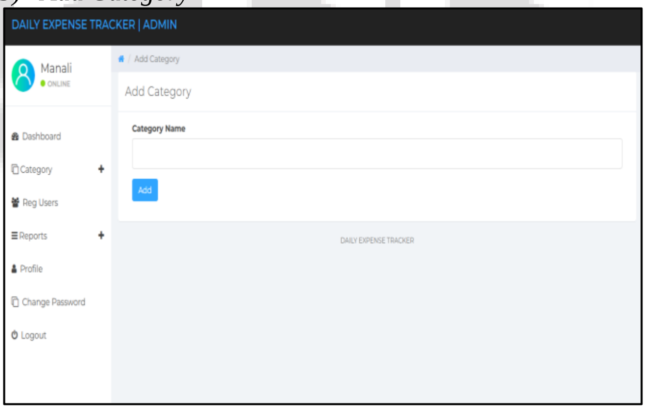
### 1) Login



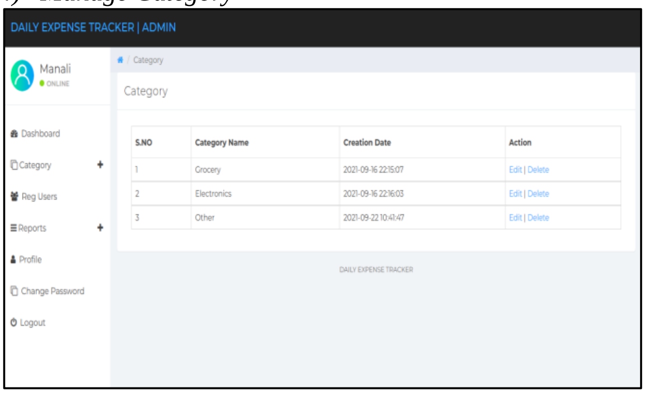

### 2) Dashboard



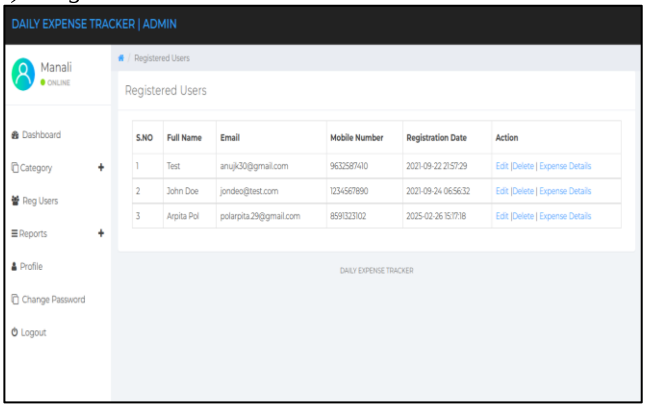

### 3) Add Category



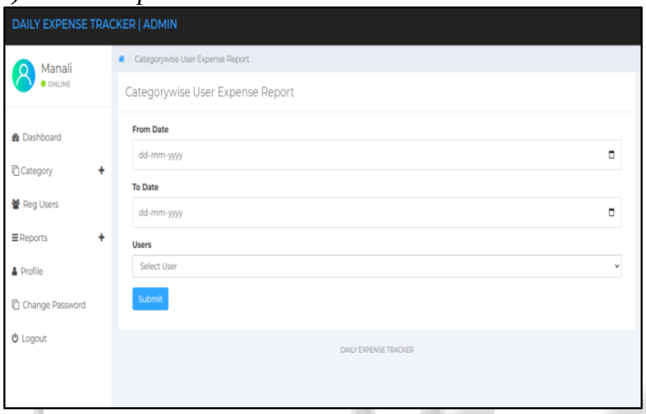

### 4) Manage Category



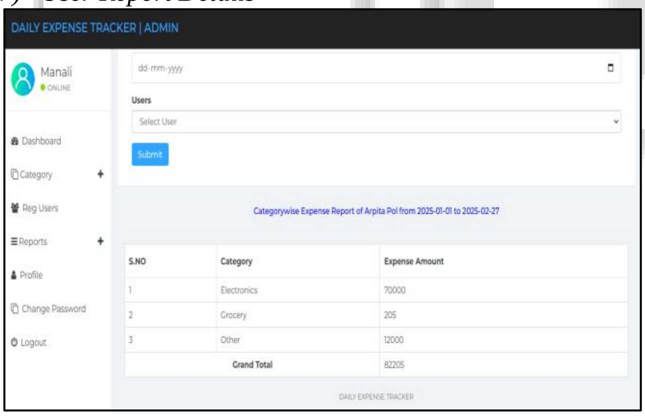
5) *Registered Users*



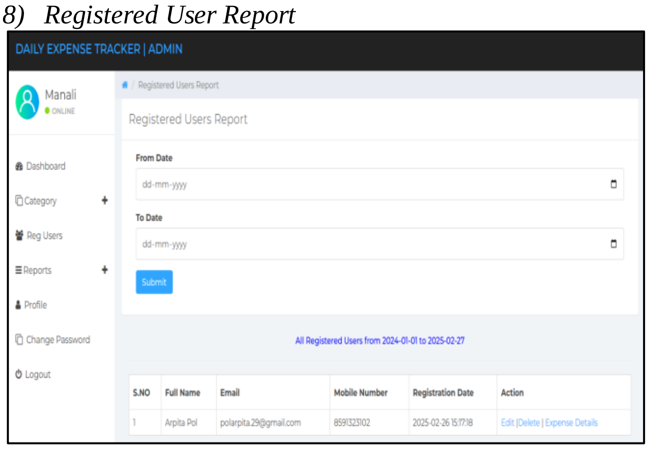

6) *Users Report*




7) *User Report Details*




8) *Registered User Report*




## VI. Testing and Validation of the Software

Testing and validation are crucial to making sure the Daily Expense Tracking System works smoothly, does what it's supposed to, and keeps user data safe. Here's how we ensure everything runs perfectly:

### *A. Unit Testing – Checking the Basics*

Before anything else, we test each small function on its own. This means checking if adding, editing, or deleting an expense works correctly. For example, when a user adds a new expense, does the total balance update properly? If not, we fix it right away.

### *B. Integration Testing – Making Sure Everything Connects*

It's not enough for individual parts to work; they also need to communicate correctly. This test ensures that when a user enters an expense, it's saved properly in the database and displayed correctly on the app.

### *C. Functional Testing – Does It Do What It Should?*

We go through all the features to make sure they behave as expected. If the system promises to let users filter expenses by category, we test that function to confirm it actually works.

### *D. UI Testing – The Look and Feel*

The design should be user-friendly and glitch-free. We check if buttons respond, text fields work, and navigation is smooth because no one likes a clunky app!

### *E. Security Testing – Keeping User Data Safe*

Security is a big deal, so we test for vulnerabilities. We ensure passwords are encrypted, sensitive data is protected, and there's no risk of hacking or unauthorized access.

### *F. Performance Testing – Can It Handle the Load?*

If the app slows down when a user logs hundreds of expenses, that's a problem. We simulate high usage to make sure it stays fast and responsive, no matter how much data is added.

### *G. User Acceptance Testing (UAT) – The Final Reality Check*

Before launching, we let real users test the system. If they can track their expenses easily without confusion or errors, we know we're good to go. If not, we make the necessary tweaks to improve usability.

In short, we don't just build the system and hope for the best we test every part to make sure it's reliable, secure, and easy to use

## VII. Decision

### *A. Strengths & Weaknesses*

Every system has its high points and challenges, and our Daily Expense Tracking System is no different. Here's a real-world look at what works well and what might need improvement.

1) *Strengths – What Makes It Great?*

- User-Friendly Interface – The system is designed to be simple and intuitive, so anyone can track expenses without needing a tech background. Navigation is smooth, and the design is clutter-free.

- Real-Time Expense Tracking – Users can instantly log expenses, and the system updates their balance immediately. No delays, no confusion.
- Secure and Reliable – We've built in strong security measures, ensuring that user data stays safe and protected from unauthorized access.
- Multiple Filters & Categories – Users can sort their expenses by category (food, bills, shopping, etc.), making it easier to analyze spending habits.
- Cloud Storage for Backup – If a user loses their phone or switches devices, their data remains safe and accessible from anywhere.

*2) Weaknesses - Areas for Improvement*

- Limited Customization – While the system covers basic expense tracking, it might not be flexible enough for users who want advanced budgeting features or fully customizable reports.
- Internet Dependency – Since the system relies on cloud storage, it might be less useful for users with poor internet access or those who prefer offline tracking.
- Limited Multi-Currency Support – If a user frequently deals with multiple currencies, they might face difficulties in managing their finances effectively.
- Feature Overload for Some Users – While advanced users might love all the filtering and categorization options, some people just want a basic expense tracker without extra features getting in the way.

At the end of the day, our Daily Expense Tracking System is a strong and reliable tool, but like any software, there's always room for improvement. We'll continue refining it based on user feedback to make it even better!

## VIII. Future Scope

The Daily Expense Tracking System has a lot of to grow and improve. Here's what could come next:

- Smarter Suggestions – The system could learn spending habits and give tips to save money.
- Voice & Chat Features – Imagine just telling your app, "I spent $10 on coffee," and it logs it for you!
- Bank Sync – No more manual entries—expenses could be added automatically from your bank or digital wallet.
- Works Worldwide – If you travel, it could convert currencies for you instantly.
- Helps You Save – The app might suggest how much to save and even help track investments.
- Fun & Rewarding – Earn rewards or set challenges to control spending better.
- Safer Data – Using advanced security like blockchain to keep your finances protected.
- No Internet? No Problem! – Log expenses offline and sync when you're back online.
- Easy-to-Read Reports – Get visual breakdowns of where your money is going.

With these features, this app could go from just tracking expenses to helping people make smarter financial decisions every day!

## IX. Conclusion

Managing money can be overwhelming, especially with daily expenses adding up in ways we don't always notice. A Daily Expense Tracking System helps bring clarity and control to personal finances by making it easy to track spending, identify patterns, and plan for the future. Instead of wondering where your money went at the end of the month, this system allows you to see your spending in real-time and make informed financial decisions.

What makes this system truly valuable is its potential to grow and evolve. Future enhancements like AI-powered insights, voice command integration, automatic bank synchronization, and customizable savings goals could turn it from a simple tracker into a powerful financial assistant. Imagine getting smart spending suggestions, reminders to save, or even alerts about potential overspending—all designed to make financial management effortless and stress-free.

Ultimately, the Daily Expense Tracking System isn't just about logging transactions; it's about empowering individuals to take charge of their finances. By providing an easy-to-use and intuitive platform, this system can help users build better spending habits, reduce financial stress, and work towards a more secure future. With the right improvements, it has the potential to become an essential tool for anyone looking to improve their financial well-being.

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