



Two opposite models of financial transaction conduct are a cashless society and a cash-dependent economy, both of which reflect different economic processes, social effects, and formation pathways. The main basis on which a cashless society operates is based on digital payment systems (mobile wallets, Internet banking, and card networks) to facilitate economic transactions without money in the form of cash. By contrast, economies that depend on cash are still heavily dependent on the use of paper money and coins in their transactions to determine both formal and informal economic activity. Among the focal discrepancies between the cashless and cash-dependent systems are the comfort of transaction and cost-effectiveness. Researchers have reported that the digital payment infrastructures tend to provide much faster and more efficient processing of transactions, lower the cost involved in the handling of physical currency, and they also make commerce easier for both the consumer and the firm. Digital payments can save time used in handling cash, transport, and calculations, and in many cases can improve records and traceability, thereby increase tax compliance and decreasing activity in the informal sector (Putrevu & Mertzanis, 2024). Further, in most nations the pace of digital adoption increased dramatically during external shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic which shifted consumers towards electronic payments. Research on thousands of European consumers determined that cash users who had been using cashless methods before the pandemic and those who were using cashless methods also used cashless more, placing an even larger gap between them and cash users (Kotkowski & Polasik, 2021). However, access and inclusion are key areas of difference, with the cash-dependent model remaining relevant. Although digital financial systems can extend their services to formerly unbanked persons using mobile technologies, the fact that is recorded in



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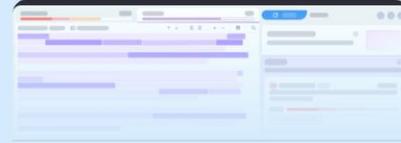
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