Optimizing Validation And Reimbursement Processes For International Travel: A Case Study of Valeo India Private Limited

Swetha Muthuraj[1], Dr. R. Jayadurga[2]
[1]Dept of MBA
[2]Assistant professor, Dept of MBA
[1,2] PSVPEC

Abstract- *This paper explores the challenges and solutions in optimizing expense validation and reimbursement processes for international travel, focusing on the case of Valeo India Private Ltd. The study highlights how globalization and digitization have forced companies to re-engineer their travel expense frameworks. A five-year data analysis reveals spending trends, policy impacts, and the effectiveness of automation in cost control, compliance, and employee satisfaction. The study concludes with recommendations for building resilient, technology-driven expense systems.*

Keywords- International Travel, Expense Management, Reimbursement, Automation, Compliance, Digital Tools, Financial Efficiency, Valeo India

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's globalized business environment, international travel is indispensable for meetings, client visits, and collaborations. However, the complexity of managing associated expenses—airfare, hotel, transportation, per diem, communication, and incidentals—has made reimbursement a major administrative and financial challenge.

Companies must comply with various tax laws, currency fluctuations, and policy frameworks while also addressing employee satisfaction. A manual, error-prone system not only delays reimbursements but exposes companies to fraud and inefficiencies.

To address these challenges, businesses like Valeo India Pvt Ltd are implementing automated, policy-driven frameworks for validating and reimbursing international travel expenses.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies emphasize the need for modernizing travel expense systems. Garcia and Rodriguez (2024) underscore the synergy between sustainability and financial control, advocating for eco-friendly and policy-driven travel programs. Mason (2024) and Ellis (2024) suggest that remote and hybrid models require more dynamic, data-integrated systems.

Other researchers, such as Roberts (2023) and Phillips (2022), highlight the need for AI and automation in detecting anomalies and enforcing compliance. Blake (2022) and Jackson & Turner (2021) stress that real-time validation and AI-based fraud detection offer significant ROI and accuracy.

III. COMPANY PROFILE

Valeo is one of the world's leading automotive technology companies and a strategic partner to automakers worldwide. Headquartered in France, Valeo designs cutting-edge solutions aligned with the future of mobility, including electrification, autonomous driving, advanced lighting systems, and interior experience reinvention. With a global footprint and strong commitment to sustainability, Valeo is a recognized Top Employer, fostering a culture of ethics,transparency, empowerment, professionalism, and teamwork.

IV. INDUSTRY PROFILE

Valeo is a leading global automotive supplier, driving innovation in electrification, ADAS, interior experience, and lighting. With 16 R&D and production sites in Germany, including a new facility in Wunstorf, it delivers full-stack solutions for Software-Defined Vehicles. The company focuses on smart, sustainable mobility by reducing CO_2 emissions and enhancing driving intuitiveness. Valeo also supports automakers and aftermarket operators with advanced spare parts and systems. Its strategic investments in R&D, software, and academic partnerships fuel innovation in next-gen mobility technologies. Committed to safety, sustainability, and technological excellence, Valeo aims to shape the future of global transportation.

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To track and optimize overseas trip expenses for validation, accuracy, and compliance over a period of time.
- To Enhance financial management with real-time travel expense tracking.
- To Reduce administrative delays for faster, more efficient reimbursements.
- To Analyse travel spending trends for data-driven cost optimization.
- To Streamline reporting and approvals to reduce manual workload.

VI. NEED OF THE STUDY

- Manual expense processes are time-consuming and error-prone.
- Weak verification increases risk of fraud and theft.
- Fluctuating exchange rates complicate accurate reimbursements.
- Delayed reimbursements lead to employee dissatisfaction.
- Varying tax laws challenge compliance and expense control.

VII. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- Simplifying procedures enhances reporting efficiency.
- Optimized validation controls travel expenses.
- Timely reimbursements reduce employee financial strain.
- Comprehensive records improve auditability and transparency.
- Data-driven insights identify cost-saving opportunities.

VIII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study follows a MIXED approach, using Valeo India's travel data from 2019 to 2024. The formula used:

NET EXPENSE = ADVANCE – ACTUAL EXPENSES + RETURNED AMOUNT

Actual expenses = Airfare + Hotel+ Onsite travel+ Per diem+ MobileLaundry+ Visa+ ATM withdrawals+ Miscellaneous+ Returned funds

Data was collected using Microsoft Excel and interpreted through trend analysis, year-on-year comparisons, and category-level insights.

IX. DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis revealed the following key findings:

- 2022 was a peak year across nearly all expense categories, reflecting post-pandemic recovery and resumed international operations.
- 2023 saw a sharp drop, suggesting cost controls or increased virtual engagement.
- 2024 expenses spiked again, driven by renewed initiatives and global business growth.

Notable fluctuations included:

- Per diem: ₹1.2 billion in 2022 to ₹6 million in 2023, back to ₹159 million in 2024.
- Mobile expenses: Jumped 29x from 2023 to 2024.
- ATM usage: Surged unpredictably, with a 110,000% increase from 2021 to 2022.

These swings suggest a highly dynamic strategy responding to global events and internal policies.

Hotel and airfare remained relatively stable with controlled volatility, while onsite travel and per diem saw exponential changes—indicative of new project launches or company expansion.

INTERPRETATION:

Between 2019 and 2024, Valeo's travel-related expenses experienced notable fluctuations, with sharp peaks in 2022 and 2024. Airfare, hotel, and mobile expenses rose significantly during these years, indicating increased travel and connectivity demands. Onsite travel and per diem costs surged especially in 2022 and 2024, suggesting intensified international operations or strategic expansions. These trends reflect Valeo's evolving business activities and dynamic operational needs across the five-year period.

X. FINDINGS

The expense data from 2019 to 2024 reveals considerable volatility across all travel-related categories. Airfare costs fluctuated, peaking at ₹2.15 Cr in 2022 before stabilizing at ₹1.92 Cr in 2024. Hotel expenses surged in 2022 and 2024 to nearly ₹1 Cr, indicating periods of high international engagement. Onsite travel costs skyrocketed from ₹19.2 L in 2019 to ₹89.8 Cr in 2024, reflecting major operational expansions. Per diem expenses showed extreme variation, hitting ₹120 Cr in 2022, possibly due to extended overseas assignments. Mobile costs rose consistently,

suggesting growing digital and communication needs during travel.

XI. CONCLUSION

Optimizing travel reimbursement is not just about cutting costs—it's about boosting efficiency, transparency, and employee satisfaction. Valeo India's case demonstrates how organizations can benefit from integrating cloud-based tools, policy-driven platforms, and analytics to stay competitive in a global marketplace.

REFERENCES

[1] Garcia & Rodriguez (2024). Sustainable Corporate Travel.
[2] Mason (2024). Expense Policy in Remote Work Era.
[3] Ellis (2024). Hybrid Models & Expense Policies.
[4] Roberts (2023). Eco-Compliant Travel Programs.
[5] Phillips (2022). AI in Fraud Detection.
[6] Martin (2022). Data Analytics for Expense Optimization.
[7] Jackson & Turner (2021). AI in Reimbursement Systems.
[8] Henderson (2021). Data Security in Expense Management.
[9] Stewart (2019). Expense Policies and Employee Retention.
[10] Smith (2017). Digital Tools for Expense Accuracy.