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## A Bibliometric Analysis: The Dynamics of Zakat and Poverty Research

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**Abstract:** *This study performs an exhaustive bibliometric analysis to delineate the global dynamics, thematic progression, and intellectual framework of zakat and poverty research from 2009 to 2025, utilizing Scopus-indexed publications. Following PRISMA-guided screening procedures, 290 English-language journal articles were chosen. We used bibliometric methods, with the help of VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel, to look at publication trends, important authors, popular journals, networks of collaboration between countries and institutions, and patterns of keyword co-occurrence. The results show that the number of publications is growing quickly and significantly, with Malaysia and Indonesia being the primary contributors to the field. Institutional networks reveal robust academic clusters in Southeast Asia, whereas journal coupling points to the importance of publications like the Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research and the International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management. Keyword mapping shows six main thematic clusters: poverty alleviation, zakat governance, Islamic microfinance, financial inclusion, digital innovation, and sustainable development. Overlay visualization shows that the topics have changed from traditional ones like charity, welfare, and poverty to more modern ones like fintech, blockchain, productive zakat, and the SDGs. Even though the field is growing quickly, there are still gaps in high-impact scholarship, governance frameworks, and global collaboration.*

**Keywords:** *Bibliometric Analysis; Islamic Social Finance; Poverty; VOSviewer; Zakat*

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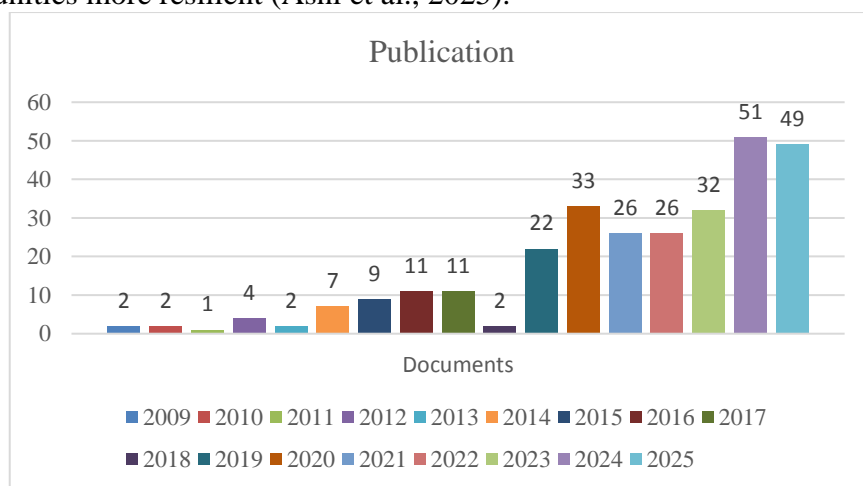
### INTRODUCTION

Zakat has been historically viewed as one of the most important pillars of Islamic social finance, which serves as a religious duty but at the same time an economic tool to minimize poverty, stimulate social justice, and enhance the welfare of the communities. Over the past few years, the academic interest in zakat and the potential of the practice to alleviate socio-economic inequalities has only grown, as the world aims to become inclusive in its development, and Islamic social finance tools are reconciled with the overall sustainability agenda. Such scholarly concern is evident by the fact that the number of publications dealing with zakat has grown remarkably over the last ten years, suggesting that zakat is becoming a separate and fast-developing subject. According to (Wahyudi et al., 2022), The study of zakat has undergone a significant development, and it is mostly located within the fields of Social Science, Business, Management, Accounting,

Economics, and Finance. It is also shown in the literature that there is extensive geographical coverage, with a significant contribution being made by Malaysia, Indonesia, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom to show that zakat scholarship has a global applicability and collaboration.

Available literature unveils the main themes in the study of zakat, as they mainly concern poverty reduction, zakat fund distribution, governance and management, social welfare, and education. Some of the keywords used frequently, like "zakaat," "zakaat institution," "poverty alleviation," "zakat distribution," "social welfare," "education," "efficiency," and "human," depict the multidimensional nature of research in this field (Wahyudi et al., 2022). Nonetheless, even with the growing academic production, there is still a lack of significant articles with extensive citation, and few journals, including the Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research, have been found to have a consistent impact in the field (Alshater et al., 2021). This emphasizes the need for more meaningful and theoretically informed research that can define the global intellectual landscape of zakat studies.

Concerning social economic factors, zakat has been generally recognized as a practical tool for alleviating poverty, unemployment, and income disparity in Muslim-dominated nations. Zakat assists in redistributing the wealth of the rich to the needy groups to help them access minimum needs, generate means of living, and minimize socioeconomic inequalities. It is empirically demonstrated that properly run Zakat institutions can lead to wealth balancing and go a long way in reducing poverty (Rusydziana et al., 2025; Subhan, 2018). The most recent innovative models, including the one between Zakat Management Institutions (ZMI) and TEKUN in Malaysia, also demonstrate how Zakat can be used to facilitate sustainable microentrepreneurship. Zakat institutions are the financiers, and TEKUN are the overseers of beneficiary selection, monitoring, and capacity building—turning aid recipients into self-reliant entrepreneurs and making communities more resilient (Asni et al., 2025).



**Figure 1.** 2009-2025 Annual and Cumulative Works (Scopus Database)

According to the data of annual and cumulative publications in 2009-2025, there is an evident and rapidly increasing upward trend in the field, which suggests the increased attention of scholars and the establishment of their role in the

academic world of the global community. In the initial years of 2009-2013 there were few publications, and their quantity varied between 1 and 4 documents per year, indicating limited academic involvement in the field back then. But from 2014 to 2017, there has been an increase in the number of publications, with 9-11 documents being published annually, a positive indication that the topic of interest is starting to grow. An even stronger growth trend has been observed starting in 2018, and since then the number of publications in the form of documents became 22 in 2018 and 33 in 2020. The same trend would continue until 2021 and 2022, where it would be stable and produce 26 documents annually, which would be further raised to 32 documents in 2023. The highest research output is projected to be seen in the years 2024 and 2025 with 51 and 49 publications, respectively, a factor that indicates the great momentum and scholarly applicability of the research field. In general, this tendency is the representation of a dynamic and rapidly evolving sphere, where various fields contribute more and more and this tendency is maintained.

According to recent bibliometric studies, the research on zakat is being diversified and made more interdisciplinary, such as by incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the institutionalization of the religion, the use of digital innovations, and the intellectual organization of Islamic social finance (Ag Omar & Sharofiddin, 2024; Alshater et al., 2021). However, there are a number of issues, including lack of personnel, poor infrastructure, lack of governance, and the possibility of misuse or ineffectiveness in the distribution of funds that are faced in the management of zakat. To ensure the best socioeconomic impact of zakat, scholars suggest making it transparent and accountable and involving the community (Asni et al., 2025; Rusydiana et al., 2025).

The general literature on poverty studies also offers useful comparative information regarding the dynamics of zakat and poverty reduction. An example of this is urban poverty studies in which interdisciplinary cooperation has increased on policy-based studies, concentration of poverty, and health issues as considered in slum settings (Panori et al., 2019). In the meantime, general poverty studies have shown a consistent growth of annual rates, and such significant thematic topics as COVID-19, child poverty, gender inequality, health, and food security have dominated the recent scholarly discussion (Chansanam & Li, 2023). Such trends have been significantly charted, and the presence of influential research themes in the poverty studies through bibliometric methods has become an important tool to showcase the usefulness of these methods in synthesizing large volumes of literature.

The history of zakat and poverty studies indicates a fast-emerging academic curiosity in the two spheres of study, in that the number of publications about zakat has vastly increased in the past 10 years, accompanied by a corresponding expansion in poverty studies across the world. It has published over 400 articles focusing on zakat in such fields of study as Social Science, Business, and Economics (Wahyudi et al., 2022), Malaysia, Indonesia, and the United States are becoming contributors, which indicates a robust and growing system of foreign cooperation (Supriani et al., 2022). Simultaneously, poverty studies have registered a 10.18 percent growth rate annually since the year 2006 (Chansanam & Li, 2022),

There has been a particularly significant increase in the number of publications since 2015, especially regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda (Yu & Huang, 2021). Themes that prevail in this literature are poverty reduction, zakat giving, empowerment of the community, and economic effects of zakat and microfinance projects (M. Kabir Hassan, Muneer M. Alshater, Hasanul Banna, 2023; Ribeiro et al., 2022), and an increase in concern with accountability and quality in zakat accounting (Anas & Sigid, 2024). Niche journals like the *Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research* and prominent writers like Ahmad Kudhori and Hedi Pandowo have been critical in defining the recent discourse of the economic value and management of zakat (Anas & Sigid, 2024). Even with these improvements, the current research landscape still needs more comprehensive studies that look at the political, cultural, and environmental aspects of social change to better understand zakat's many roles in society (El Ayyubi et al., 2023).

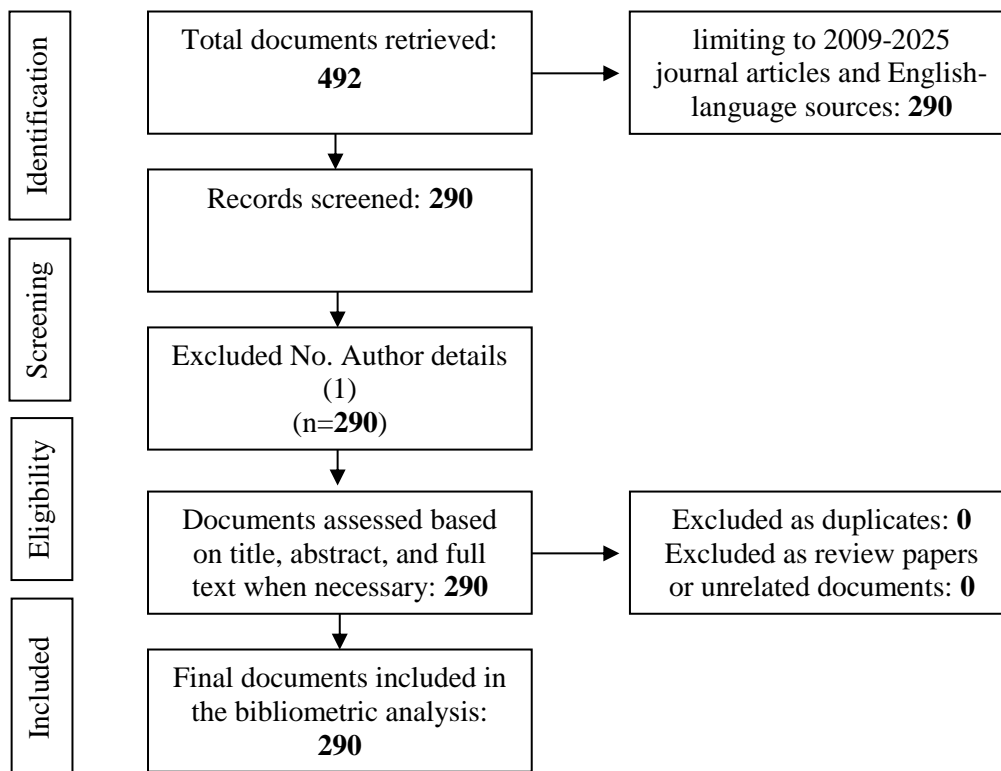
Despite extensive research on zakat, poverty alleviation, and poverty studies, a comprehensive bibliometric analysis systematically mapping the dynamics, thematic evolution, and intellectual structure of zakat and poverty research remains limited. The lack of a comprehensive overview hinders scholars, policymakers, and zakat practitioners from fully comprehending the evolution of this domain and pinpointing prospective research trajectories. In light of this context, the current study seeks to fill this void by performing a global bibliometric analysis of zakat and poverty research utilizing Scopus-indexed data. This study analyzes publication trends, prominent authors and journals, collaborative networks, thematic clusters, and nascent research frontiers. This research enhances the knowledge base of Islamic social finance by providing an evidence-based and visually mapped comprehension of the field while also offering strategic insights for augmenting the role of zakat in poverty alleviation.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study uses bibliometric analysis and bibliometric visualization. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method that examines the patterns and characteristics of research by analyzing a set of publications, serving both descriptive and evaluative purposes (Dupi, Muhamad., 2025; Dupi & Baloch, 2025b). A bibliometric visualization method is applied to present a structural picture of a research area (Garfield, 2009).

### **Software and tools used in the analysis**

This study uses the Scopus database for analysis. This study applies two techniques in general, namely 'Preferred'



**Figure 2.** PRISMA Methodology Flowchart and Bibliometric Analysis

The Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) are used for systematic reviews of articles included in the analysis, and Bibliometric Analysis is used to create a knowledge map using VOSviewer software through co-citation and co-authorship analysis.

### Data exploration and plan

Bibliometric analysis generally consists of four stages, namely data collection, data preprocessing, statistical calculation, and application analysis. Before conducting bibliometric analysis, keywords are considered the basis on which the analysis stands. For this purpose, the authors studied more than 100 articles published both recently and previously that had a sufficient number of citations, obtained from the Scopus database, to record the authors' keywords that were considered central themes, namely "Zakat and Poverty." Thereafter, these keywords were used based on trials between November 25, 2025, and refined into the final search string. The authors saved the final search string and document list for future needs.

TITLE-ABS-KEY ( ( zakat AND ( poverty OR "poverty alleviation" OR empowerment OR "productive zakat" OR "Islamic social finance" OR "Islamic microfinance" OR fintech OR "financial inclusion" OR SDGs ) ) ) AND PUBYEAR > 2008 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( SRCTYPE , "j" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ar" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , "English" ) )

This query string initially yielded 492 documents, and after limiting it to journal articles published between 2009 and 2025 in English, it yielded 290 documents. The data was downloaded on November 25, 2025, from Scopus in CSV

format. This evidence indicates that this is a temporal trend analysis, and over time, the number may increase as more publications from authors become available. Furthermore, this study is limited to journal articles, which are considered the most prestigious academic publications. Therefore, the first stage of data collection has been completed.

The next step was data preprocessing using the PRISMA methodology as shown in Figure 1 (it should be noted that the authors only followed the steps in the review stage and did not conduct a systematic literature review in accordance with the PRISMA methodology) and by following the study (Maia et al., 2019). This study initially identified 492 documents and finally 290 documents for further screening. Documents were screened using the Scopus database and MS Excel 365 to detect duplicates, potential review articles, and other articles that were not relevant by checking the titles, abstracts, and, if necessary, the full text. Therefore, the second stage of data preprocessing has been completed.

The next stage involves statistical calculations that include overtime publication growth, development, quantitative analysis, and descriptive analysis that are useful in bibliometric analysis (Mingers & Leydesdorff, 2015). This stage is based on the use of a combination of the Scopus database and MS Excel. These calculations illustrate the results in the form of the most productive authors, their most frequently cited articles, the most productive academic institutions and their countries, and publications from a single country. Thus, the third stage of statistical calculations has been completed.

**Table 1.** Annual and Cumulative Publications from 2009 to 2025

No	Year	Documents	Percentage (%)
1	2025	49	16,90
2	2024	51	17,59
3	2023	32	11,03
4	2022	26	8,97
5	2021	26	8,97
6	2020	33	11,38
7	2019	22	7,59
8	2018	2	0,69
9	2017	11	3,79
10	2016	11	3,79
11	2015	9	3,10
12	2014	7	2,41
13	2013	2	0,69
14	2012	4	1,38
15	2011	1	0,34
16	2010	2	0,69
17	2009	2	0,69
<b>Total</b>		290	100

Source: Scopus

The next stage involves application analysis. This stage uses MS Excel and VOSviewer for country bibliographic pairs, institutional bibliographic pairs,

journal bibliographic pairs, publication bibliographic pairs, author bibliographic pairs, and co-occurrence of author keywords. This stage integrates the final dataset of 290 articles, which were completed through the steps outlined in the PRISMA flowchart and exported to VOSviewer. VOSviewer focuses on holistic and timely developments in the phenomenon of interest, depicting a bibliometric knowledge map (van Eck & Waltman, 2010, 2017). The knowledge map shows the relationship between authors and their countries based on collaboration and the most prominent keyword co-occurrence. Bibliometric studies, in addition to other analyses, usually focus on two types, namely co-authorship and co-occurrence analysis (Pascal et al., 2011). The first shows the strength of the relationship between two affiliated countries based on the number of documents published, and the total relationship strength shows the total strength of one country relative to another. The second part explains the strength of the relationship between author keywords that frequently co-occur in publications; for more details, see (van Eck & Waltman, 2017).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher presents the analysis's findings using a deductive approach. In order for readers to follow the information from general to more specific information, the results of bibliometric analysis are presented in a deductive manner, or starting from general findings to more specific findings. Examples of such findings include country bibliographic pairs, Institute bibliographic pairs, journal bibliographic pairs, publication bibliographic pairs, author bibliographic pairs, and co-occurrence of author keywords (Dupi & Baloch, 2025a; Karakus et al., 2019).

**Table 2.** Top 10 Highly Cited Works in Zakat and Poverty Research

No.	Document Title	Authors	Source	Year	Citations
1	<i>An artificial intelligence and NLP based Islamic FinTech model combining zakat and Qardh-Al-Hasan for countering the adverse impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and individuals</i>	(Syed et al., 2020)	<i>International Journal of Economics and Business Administration</i> , 8(2), pp. 351–364 <i>Isra</i>	2020	96
2	<i>An integrated approach for building sustainable Islamic social finance ecosystems</i>	(Tahiri-Jouti, 2019)	<i>International Journal of Islamic Finance</i> , 11(2), pp. 246–266	2019	77
3	<i>Zakat as a poverty reduction mechanism among the Muslim community: Case study of Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia</i>	(Ali & Hatta, 2014)	<i>Asian Social Work and Policy Review</i> , 8(1), pp. 59–70	2014	74
4	<i>The role of Islamic social finance during Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia's economic recovery</i>	(Ascarya, 2022)	<i>International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management</i> ,	2022	72

No.	Document Title	Authors	Source	Year	Citations
			15(2), pp. 386–405		
5	<i>Zakat institution in Malaysia: Problems and issues</i>	(Ab Rahman et al., 2012)	<i>Global Journal Al Thaqafah</i> , 2(1), pp. 35–41	2012	63
6	<i>Zakat and waqf as instrument of Islamic wealth in poverty alleviation and redistribution: Case of Malaysia</i>	(Abdul Razak, 2020)	<i>International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy</i> , 40(3-4), pp. 249–266	2020	50
7	<i>Toward diffusion of e-Zakat initiatives amid the COVID-19 crisis and beyond</i>	(Bin-Nashwan, 2022)	<i>Foresight</i> , 24(2), pp. 141–158	2022	49
8	<i>Reconceptualising zakat in Indonesia: Worship, philanthropy and rights</i>	(Retsikas, 2014)	<i>Indonesia and the Malay World</i> , 42(124), pp. 337–357	2014	45
9	<i>Digital zakah campaign in time of Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia: a nemographic study</i>	(Hudaefi & Beik, 2021)	<i>Journal of Islamic Marketing</i> , 12(3), pp. 498–517	2021	43
10	<i>Enhancing socio-economic justice and financial inclusion in Nigeria: The role of zakat, Sadaqah and Qardhul Hassan</i>	(Zauro et al., 2020)	<i>Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research</i> , 11(3), pp. 555–572	2020	43

Source: Scopus

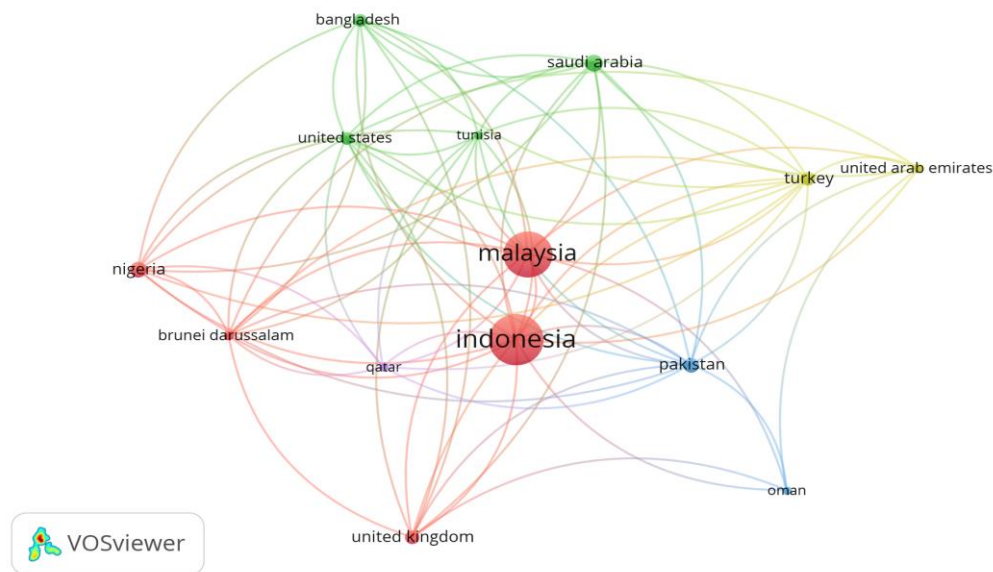
**Table 3.** Top 10 Highly Relevant Studies in Zakat and Poverty Research

No.	Document Title	Authors	Source	Year	Citations
1	<i>Amil behavior utilizing productive zakat for alleviating poverty and empowerment of mustahiq to become muzakki in Central Java, Indonesia</i>	(Rofiq & Chariri, 2020)	<i>International Journal of Business and Management Science</i> , 10(2), pp. 203–216	2020	0
2	<i>The potential of Islamic social finance to alleviate poverty in the era of COVID-19: The moderating effect of ethical orientation</i>	(Umar et al., 2022)	<i>International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management</i> , 15(2), pp. 255–270	2022	42
3	<i>Zakat-Based Microfinance: Insights from the Melaka Islamic Religious Council (MAIM)</i>	(Abdullah Thaidi et al., 2024)	<i>Journal of Fatwa Management and Research</i> ,	2024	0

No.	Document Title	Authors	Source	Year	Citations
4	<i>Islamic Social Finance as Alternative Mechanism for Well-being of the Community: A Bibliometric Analysis</i>	(Mohd Hussin et al., 2024)	29(3), pp. 199–218 <i>Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences</i> , 22(1), pp. 6509–6533	2024	2
5	<i>The improvement model of microenterprises of post-disaster through empowerment of productive zakat</i>	(Arifin & Anwar, 2021)	<i>Journal of Governance and Regulation</i> , 10(4), pp. 156–163	2021	13
6	<i>Takeaways from Islamic social finance and sustainable development goals discourse: Review and bibliometric analysis on future directions for Zakat, Waqf and Islamic microfinance</i>	(Ma & Sukmana, 2025)	<i>Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research</i>	2025	0
7	<i>Fintech Adoption and Its Investment Impact in Islamic Social Finance: The Case of Zakat</i>	(Amri et al., 2024)	<i>Qudus International Journal of Islamic Studies</i> , 12(2), pp. 213–254	2024	3
8	<i>Social Securities Scheme, Financial Inclusion, and Its Impact on Poverty Alleviation in Indonesia: Case of Zakat Recipients</i>	(Effendi et al., 2025)	<i>International Journal of Business and Society</i> , 26(2), pp. 690–703	2025	0
9	<i>Financial inclusion enhancement through the adoption of Islamic microfinance in Nigeria</i>	(Abdullahi & Othman, 2021)	<i>International Journal of Ethics and Systems</i> , 37(3), pp. 485–505	2021	23
10	<i>Optimizing Poverty Alleviation in Indonesia: The Impact of Zakat</i>	(Mahfudz et al., 2024)	<i>Economy Strategy and Practice</i> , 19(1), pp. 32–43	2024	0

Source: Scopus

### Country Bibliography Pair



**Figure 3.** Network View of Country Publisher Pairs

The image above, which displays a network visualization, shows bibliographic pairs between countries. At this stage, we used criteria whereby a country must have at least 4 publications and 17 citations. Of the 45 countries, 14 countries met these criteria. With a total link strength of 1250, 1217 citations, and 108 publications, Malaysia leads the world in total link strength. In second place is Indonesia with a total link strength of 1102, 1083 citations, and 134 publications. In addition, to display other countries, researchers will sort them as follows: the first number is the total link strength, the second number is the number of citations, and the third number is the number of publications. These countries are Saudi Arabia (255, 211, 15), Turkey (229, 65, 10), Nigeria (223, 213, 13), United States (192, 81, 9), Bangladesh (190, 160, 9), Pakistan (189, 78, 12), United Kingdom (136, 129, 10), Tunisia (134, 47, 4), Brunei Darussalam (133, 126, 5), United Arab Emirates (82, 78, 5), Qatar (36, 17, 4), and Oman (33, 23, 4).

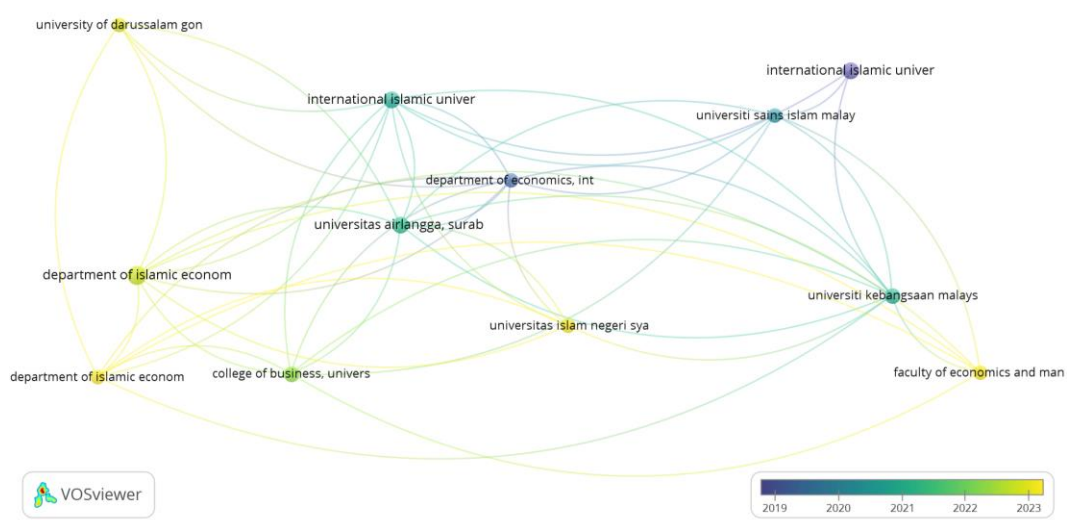
The grouping of 14 countries clearly divides scientific collaboration into five groups. Cluster 1, which includes Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, and the United Kingdom, has the most people working together. This relationship is probably because of historical ties, institutional links, and shared research interests in Islamic economics and finance. Cluster 2, which includes Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United States, is made up of countries that have strong traditions in Islamic economic studies and those that have many academic resources. This leads to more diverse collaborations between regions. Cluster 3, encompassing Oman and Pakistan, demonstrates a more targeted bilateral partnership, potentially grounded in highly focused joint research agendas. Cluster 4, which includes Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, shows that these two rapidly growing centers of Islamic finance and innovation research work well together. Lastly, Cluster 5 shows that Qatar is a single-member group. This means that even though the country publishes a lot, its collaboration style is more

independent and less connected to the global network as a whole. In general, these results show how international research collaboration in the field being studied is changing and becoming more complex.

### Institution Bibliography Pair

Illustration 4 shows the institutional bibliography visualized using the overlay method. Researchers used a threshold at this stage, namely a minimum number of publications from an institution of 5 publications that have been cited by at least 12 sources. Of the 439 institutions, only 12 met this threshold. The researchers ranked the institutions based on total link strength, with 3. The Department of Islamic Economics, Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia, ranks first with a total link strength of 68,131 citations and 11 publications. This was followed by 2. International Islamic University Malaysia, Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with a total link strength of 53, 69 citations, and 8 publications.

The first number is the total link strength, the second number is the number of citations, and the third number is the number of publications. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia (49, 61, 7), Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia (48, 63, 8), Faculty of Economics and Management, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia (41, 12, 5), Department of Islamic Economic Laws, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Surakarta, Indonesia (41, 31, 5), College of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Sintok, Malaysia (38, 124, 6), Department of Economics, International Islamic University (31, 49, 5), Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Malaysia (17, 46, 5), University of Darussalam Gontor, Ponorogo, Indonesia (13, 120, 5), Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, South Tangerang, Indonesia (10, 17, 5), International Islamic University Malaysia, Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (3, 92, 8).



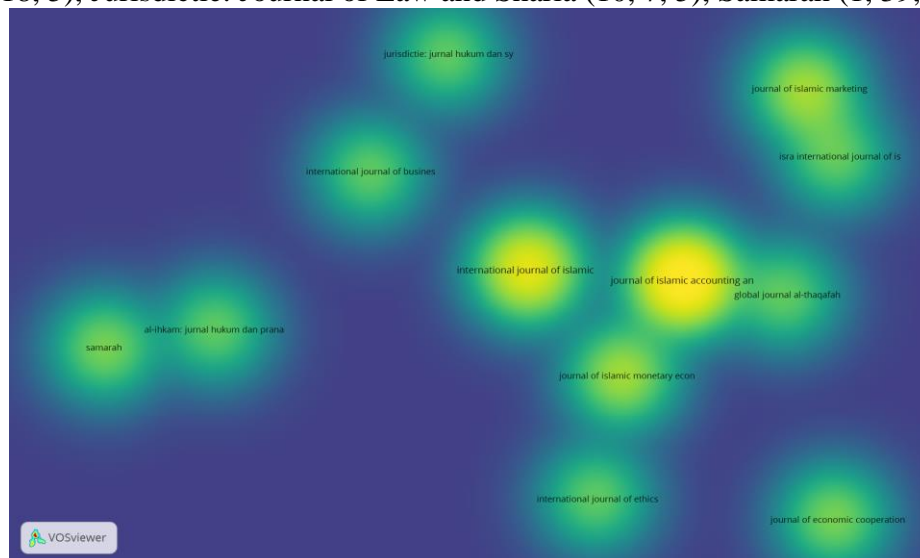
**Figure 4.** Display of Overlays on Institution Bibliographic Pairs

Figure 4 shows an overlay visualization of institutional bibliographic coupling. The colors of the nodes show the average year of publication, and the thickness of the connecting lines shows how strong the bibliographic ties are between institutions. The figure indicates that the Department of Islamic Economics

at Universitas Airlangga, the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) are all in the middle of the network. This diagram shows that they have had a strong and lasting impact on collaboration over the past few years. Other institutions, like Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia and the University of Darussalam Gontor, seem less important, but they still have important bibliographic links, especially in the years 2021 to 2023. The visualization shows that the research ecosystem in Southeast Asia is becoming more stable overall. Major Malaysian and Indonesian institutions are the main drivers of knowledge integration and scholarly productivity in Islamic economics and finance.

### Journal Bibliography Pair

In Figure 5, there is a visualization of density in two journal bibliographies. The yellow color of a journal indicates its density. A journal's yellow color intensifies with the relevance of its articles. At this stage, researchers use a threshold, which states that a journal must have at least 5 articles that have received at least 7 citations. Of the 158 journals, only 12 reach this threshold. The researchers ranked the journals based on total link strength, with the Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business ranking highest with a total link strength of 86, 204 citations, and 19 publications, followed in order by the Journal of Islamic Monetary Economics (55, 73, 8), the International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management (45, 288, 13), Journal of Islamic Marketing (34, 117, 8), Global Journal al-Thaqafah (27, 85, 5), International Journal of Ethics and Systems (25, 53, 5), Al-Ihkam: Journal of Law and Social Institutions (17, 88, 5), Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development (13, 29, 6), ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance (12, 105, 5), International Journal of Business and Social Science (11, 18, 5), Jurisdictie: Journal of Law and Sharia (10, 7, 5), Samarah (1, 39, 6).



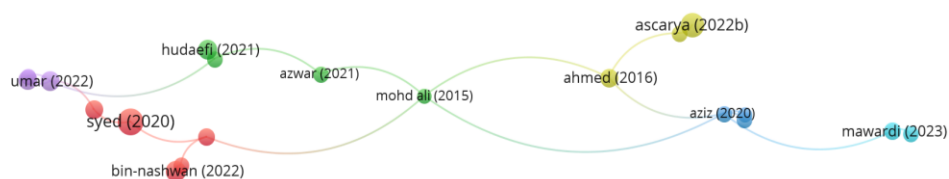
**Figure 5.** Plotting Density Versus Pairwise Journal Bibliography

The graph in Figure 5, "Plotting Density Versus Pairwise Journal Bibliography," shows how journals in the fields of Islamic economics, business, law, and ethics are grouped together by theme and density. The brighter, high-density areas, especially the cluster around the Journal of Islamic Accounting and the International Journal of Islamic, show that these journals are often cited together, making them important

sources in the bibliographic network. Other groups, like the Journal of Islamic Marketing, the ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance, and the Global Journal al-Thaqafah, show that there are different but related areas of research, each of which adds to more specialized subfields. Journals such as Samarah, al-Ihkam, and the International Journal of Ethics emerge in medium- to low-density areas, indicating more specialized contributions or relatively weaker bibliographic connections. The density map shows a segmented but connected intellectual structure overall. It highlights important centers of scholarly influence that shape the conceptual and methodological foundations of modern interdisciplinary Islamic studies.

### Bibliographic pairs of publications

Figure 6, which shows a network visualization, shows bibliographic pairs from publications. Researchers are using a threshold at this point, which means that an article must have at least 22 citations. Of the 290 publications, only 38 publications met the threshold. Aziz (2020) ranked first with 25 citations and a total link strength of 5, followed by Herianingrum (2024) with 27 citations and a total link strength of 4, then sorted as follows Documents (total link strength, citations): erianingrum (2024, 4, 27), ascarya (2022a, 4, 28), umar (2022, 4, 42), mohd ali (2015, 4, 23), ahmad (2023, 3, 31), mawardi (2023, 3, 32), ascarya (2022b, 3, 72), ahmed (2016, 3, 37), bin-nashwan (2023, 2, 24), azwar (2021, 2, 24), hudaefi (2021, 2, 43), widiaستی (2021, 2, 25), syed (2020, 2, 96), sohag (2015, 2, 33), mahmud (2014, 2, 23), ali (2014, 2, 74), embong (2013, 2, 35), rizal (2023, 1, 23), bin-nashwan (2022, 1, 49), mutamimah (2021, 1, 24), saad (2020, 1, 42), Abdul-majeed alaro (2019, 1, 25), retsikas (2014, 1, 45), latief (2010, 1, 33), syahbandir (2022, 0, 22), alaeddin (2021, 0, 29), abdullahi (2021, 0, 23), Abdul razak (2020, 0, 50), zauro (2020, 0, 43), handoko (2020, 0, 30), tahiri-jouti (2019, 0, 77), abduh (2019, 0, 29), wulandari (2016, 0, 37), zainal (2016, 0, 25), abdullah (2015, 0, 35), halimatusa'diyah (2015, 0, 26), ab rahman (2012, 0, 63).



**Figure 6.** Visualization of Bibliographic Publication Pairs

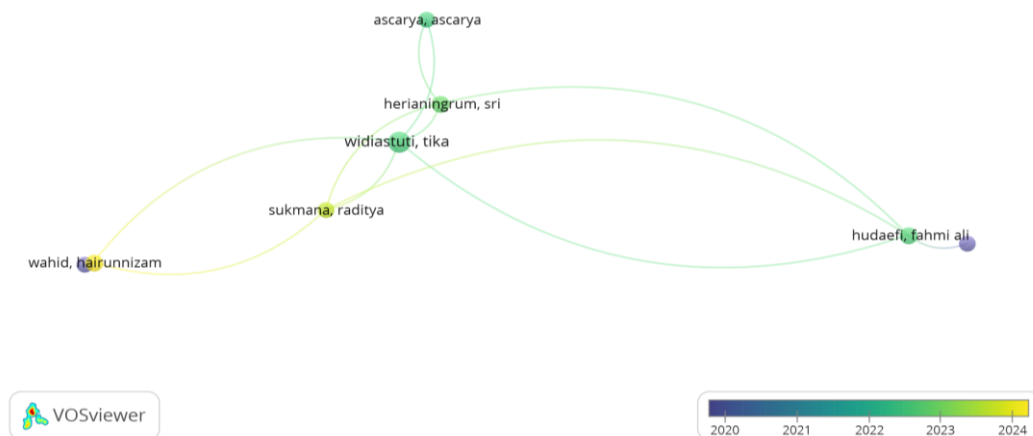
Figure 6 shows the network of bibliographic publication pairs. When you add the cluster list, it becomes easier to see how the literature is organized into six thematic clusters. Cluster 1, which includes authors like Ahmad (2023), Bin-Nashwan (2022; 2023), Embong (2013), and Syed (2020), is one of the densest groups. This grouping shows that the themes are very strong and that the authors often cite each other's work on foundational or widely discussed topics. Cluster 2, which includes works by Azwar (2021), Herianingrum (2024), Hudaefi (2021), and

Mohd Ali (2015), is a group of works that are very similar and seem to add to a shared conceptual core. They often serve as a bridge between older and newer research developments. Cluster 3, which includes aziz (2020), mutamimah (2021), and rizal (2023), shows a research stream that is more focused and has some connections between the studies.

Cluster 4, comprising Ahmed (2016) and Ascarya (2022a; 2022b), constitutes a focused scholarly trajectory that indicates conceptual coherence and methodological advancement within a specific subfield. Cluster 5—abdul-majeed alaro (2019), saad (2020), and umar (2022)—is a small group that adds to a unique but less connected thematic niche. Finally, Cluster 6, which includes mawardi (2023) and widiastuti (2021), is the smallest and most peripheral cluster. This classification suggests that these are new or exploratory research areas that are still building connections with the larger body of work. These clusters together show a complex intellectual landscape where some authors and publications are important links between different areas of study, while others add to more specialized or new lines of research. This shows how the scholarly field is constantly changing and growing.

**Author's bibliographic pairing**

Illustration 7, which shows an overlay view, shows bibliographic pairs for authors. We set thresholds at this point, with the minimum number of publications per author being 4 and the minimum number of citations per author being 1. Out of 769 authors, only 9 meet these requirements. At first, Widiastuti and Tika were in first place with 54 links, 115 citations, and 9 publications. Herianingrum, Sri came in second with 48 link strength, 56 citations, and 5 publications. The rest will be written like this: Author (total link strength, citations, documents), widiastuti, tika (54, 115, 9), herianingrum, sri (48, 56, 5), sukmana, raditya (26, 43, 4), hudaefi, fahmi ali (20, 70, 5), abduh, muhamad (12, 51, 4), ascarya, ascarya (4, 120, 4), wahid, hairunnizam (3, 1, 5), johari, fuadah binti (1, 71, 4), muneeza, aishath (0, 33, 4).



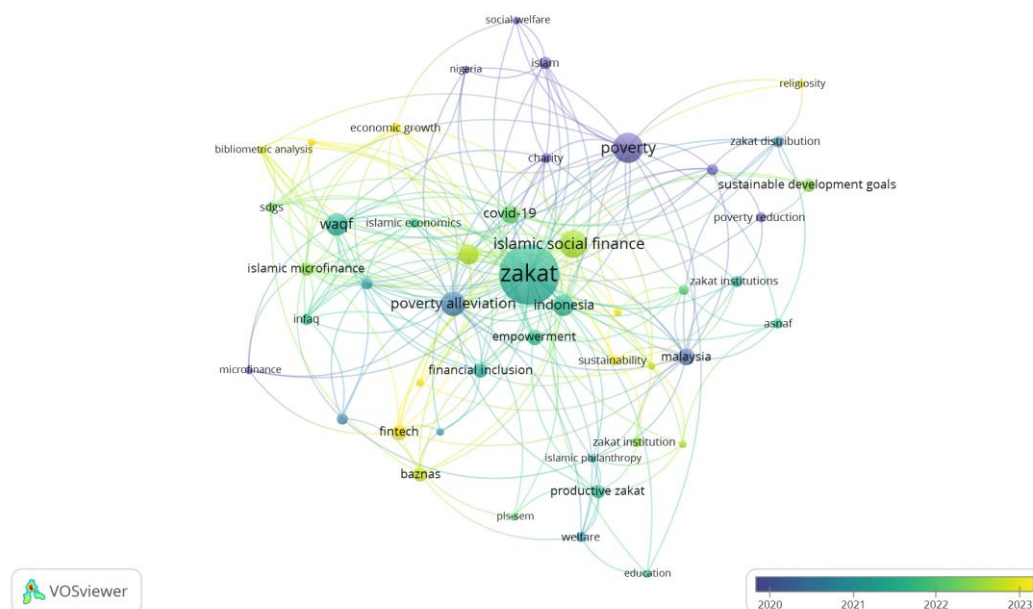
**Figure 7.** Overlay Visualization of Author Bibliographic Pairs

The authors' collaboration network shows three distinct clusters, each of which shows a different way that academics work together, but all of which are still connected to each other. Cluster 1, which includes Ascarya, Herianingrum, Sri, and Widiastuti, Tika, seems to be the main hub for collaboration. It has strong link



zakat (9, 9), Sustainability (9, 6), Sustainable development goals (8, 9), Education (7, 4), Social welfare (7, 4), Zakat institutions (7, 7), Technology (6, 4), Islamic economy (5, 4), Islamic fintech (5, 4), Microfinance (5, 4), PLS-SEM (4, 4), Poverty reduction (4, 5), Religiosity (3, 4), Zakat institution (3, 5).

The keyword mapping divided into six clusters shows that the research landscape on zakat, Islamic finance, and socio-economic empowerment has a multidimensional structure with closely related thematic focuses. Cluster 1 focuses on important topics like productive zakat, education, sustainability, technology, and the relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia. This shows that people are becoming more interested in combining zakat with sustainable development and modern governance. Cluster 2 stresses the importance of zakat, infaq, and waqf in helping people get more money, grow their businesses, and get out of poverty through financial tools like microfinance and Islamic microfinance. Cluster 3 focuses on social issues, especially in developing countries, like poverty, welfare, empowerment, and Islamic values. Cluster 4 broadens the conversation to include Bangladesh and Islamic social finance, with an emphasis on zakat distribution, religious beliefs, and plans to reduce poverty. Cluster 5 shows new trends in fintech, blockchain, and financial inclusion in the zakat and Islamic finance ecosystem. This cluster is a sign of a digital transformation that is becoming more important. Cluster 6, on the other hand, focuses on methodological and macro-level topics like bibliometric analysis, Islamic banking, and how they fit in with the SDGs. In summary, these clusters show that research on zakat is moving toward a more complete view that includes social, economic, technological, governance, and global development aspects. This strengthens zakat's strategic role in promoting sustainable development based on Islamic principles.



**Figure 9.** Visualization of Overlay against Co-Occurrence of Author Keywords

Figure 9 shows an overlay visualization of author keyword co-occurrences. This shows how the intellectual structure and themes of zakat and Islamic social

finance research have changed over time. The fact that "zakat" is at the center of the network shows that it is the main idea that connects keywords like "Islamic social finance," "poverty alleviation," "Indonesia," "financial inclusion," and "sustainability." Previous research themes (shown in darker colors) focused on basic problems like poverty, Islamic values, and welfare. As the timeline moves toward more recent years (shown by green-yellow tones), the focus shifts to modern and innovative topics like fintech, blockchain, productive zakat, sustainable development goals, and COVID-19. This shows how the industry has changed to deal with global crises and new technologies. The close connections between keywords show that modern scholarship is multidimensional, with socio-economic development, digital transformation, and Islamic philanthropic tools all working together to make each other stronger. Overall, the visualization shows that research on zakat is becoming more mature. It is now seen not only as a way to give to charity, but also as a way to promote financial inclusion, resilience, and sustainable development within the larger Islamic social finance ecosystem.

## CONCLUSION

This bibliometric analysis offers a thorough and evidence-based overview of the worldwide research landscape concerning zakat and poverty from 2009 to 2025, illustrating that academic inquiry in this field has markedly increased in both quantity and thematic variety. The annual increase in publications, with the most in 2024–2025, shows that zakat studies have become a dynamic and rapidly growing field that combines Islamic social finance, socio-economic development, and sustainability. The analysis further indicates that Malaysia and Indonesia function as the primary knowledge centers, bolstered by significant institutional contributions from prominent universities and journals that influence the intellectual foundations of the discipline.

The results show that there are several main themes, such as poverty reduction, zakat distribution, governance, Islamic microfinance, financial inclusion, and the use of new technologies like fintech and blockchain. Recent studies show a clear shift toward modern issues, especially the role of Islamic social finance in dealing with global crises like COVID-19, moving forward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and building resilience through productive zakat and empowerment-based models. Co-authorship and country collaboration networks demonstrate growing international cooperation, although some regions remain comparatively isolated, indicating potential for expanded global engagement.

Even though more and more scholars are interested in the field, it still has structural problems, such as a lack of high-impact publications, broken collaboration patterns, and gaps in theoretical development, especially in governance, accountability, and the socio-political aspects of zakat management. This study addresses a significant deficiency by methodically delineating publication trends, prominent authors, essential journals, thematic progression, and nascent research frontiers. The results collectively highlight that zakat is increasingly acknowledged not only as a charitable tool but also as a strategic, institutionalized framework for socioeconomic empowerment and sustainable development.

Future research ought to enhance cross-national comparative studies, examine the incorporation of digital transformation within zakat ecosystems, and analyze the socio-political and behavioral determinants that influence the efficacy of zakat institutions. To improve zakat scholarship and make the most of its potential to help end global poverty, it will be important to make methods more rigorous and work together across disciplines.

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