

Exploring The Nexus Between Students And The Islamic Financial Industry: A Bibliometric Study

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ABSTRACT

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This study explores the relationship between students and the Islamic finance industry through a bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer. The primary objective is to investigate how student involvement contributes to the development of this industry and how educational initiatives align with the practical demands of the Islamic financial market. Utilizing bibliometric data, this research analyzes publication trends, collaboration patterns, and academic contributions from institutions worldwide. Preliminary findings highlight Indonesia as a leading research hub, followed by countries such as Malaysia and the United Kingdom, with key institutions like Airlangga University and the International Islamic University Malaysia playing significant roles. Journals like the *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* show notable citation impact, indicating a broader academic influence. This study underscores the importance of university-industry collaboration to create a relevant research ecosystem, where students can act as change agents, fostering innovative solutions to meet global challenges in the Islamic finance sector. The findings also suggest potential improvements for Islamic finance curricula and increased academic-institutional partnerships to amplify research impact. This research offers a comprehensive overview of the intellectual dynamics within the field, providing insights for future educational policy and highlighting the value of cross-sector support for advancing Islamic finance.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The Islamic finance industry has seen remarkable growth over recent decades, driven by its principles of interest-free and equitable financial practices. This expansion is not only localized to Muslim-majority nations but has garnered global attention as a sustainable financial alternative. Research highlights the pivotal role of academia in shaping these principles and applying them across banking and investment sectors (Yaakub & Mujani, 2013). Education is essential for fostering a deep understanding of Islamic finance among younger generations, ensuring they become the driving force behind the industry's sustainable development in the future.

The global Islamic finance industry was estimated to be valued at approximately USD 2.44 trillion in 2021, with an annual growth rate of 10–12% over the past decade. This growth has been largely driven by increasing demand in key Muslim-majority markets such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia, which collectively account for over 80% of the industry's total assets (Butt et al., 2023). Furthermore, sukuk (Islamic bonds) and Islamic banking have emerged as the most dominant segments, reflecting heightened interest in

financial products adhering to Sharia principles. These trends underscore the critical need for educational systems to align with market demands, producing a workforce equipped to sustain and innovate within this rapidly expanding sector.

Despite the rapid growth of the Islamic finance sector, significant competency gaps exist between graduates' qualifications and market expectations. A global survey conducted by the Islamic Development Bank revealed that only approximately 30% of graduates from Islamic finance programs felt adequately prepared to enter the workforce, particularly in areas such as risk management and the application of financial technology within Sharia-compliant systems (Tijjani et al., 2020). These findings highlight the pressing need for curricula that integrate theoretical knowledge with practical skills and for closer collaboration between academic institutions and the industry. Such alignment is essential to ensure that graduates are not only proficient in fundamental concepts but also capable of directly contributing to innovation and operational efficiency in Islamic finance.

Student involvement is crucial in bridging the gap between academic theories and industry practices. Bibliometric analyses reveal that students actively engaged in academic research significantly contribute to understanding the application of Sharia-compliant finance principles. This participation also fosters innovation in product development and financial sustainability (Lanzara, 2021). Students well-versed in Islamic finance can introduce innovative solutions to address the modern challenges of the Islamic finance sector, particularly in light of the increasing demand for Sharia-compliant financial products.

Despite its resilience during global financial crises, the Islamic finance industry faces significant challenges in developing skilled human capital. Research highlights the lack of integration between academic curricula and industry needs as one of the primary obstacles. Universities in key Islamic finance hubs often struggle to align their programs with the practical demands of the market, leaving graduates underprepared for professional roles. This gap underscores the importance of updating academic programs to equip students with relevant, job-ready skills (Gulbrandsen & Smeby, 2005).

Students play a significant role in driving innovation within the Islamic finance sector through research and industry collaboration. One rapidly growing area is the application of financial technology (fintech) in Islamic finance, where students have the opportunity to develop innovative solutions such as blockchain-based systems to enhance transparency and efficiency in Sharia-compliant transactions (Zevender et al., 2022). This involvement not only prepares students for future professional roles but also strengthens the relevance of academic programs to meet the industry's evolving needs.

Bibliometric analysis serves as an essential tool for evaluating and mapping academic contributions to the development of the Islamic finance industry. This method allows researchers to identify trends, collaboration networks, and areas needing further exploration. A study emphasizes that bibliometric analysis not only enhances our understanding of academic contributions but also supports the formulation of strategic policies to advance the Islamic finance sector (Alshater et al., 2020).

1.2. Problem Statement

Despite the rapid global growth of the Islamic finance industry, a significant gap exists between academic outputs and industry requirements. Research indicates that graduates specializing in Islamic finance often lack practical skills necessary for immediate application in professional settings. This disconnect is attributed to limited alignment between higher education curricula and the evolving demands of the job market. Consequently, educational institutions frequently fall short in producing a workforce equipped to tackle real-world challenges in the field (Gulbrandsen & Smeby, 2005).

Shariah-compliant financial technology (fintech) has emerged as a significant global trend, yet its integration into Islamic finance education remains limited. Many educational institutions and industries have not fully leveraged these technologies to train the next generation of Islamic finance practitioners. This underutilization not only hinders innovation but also reduces the competitiveness of the Islamic finance sector in addressing dynamic global market demands (Zevender et al., 2022).

1.3. Objectives and Scope

This research aims to identify and analyze the relationship between students and the development of the Islamic finance industry through bibliometric analysis. The study seeks to determine the extent to which students' contributions, both in academic research and practical engagements, impact growth and innovation in this sector. Furthermore, it intends to map key themes in the existing literature and explore potential collaboration between educational institutions and the industry (Alshater et al., 2020).

This study focuses on bibliometric analysis to identify trends in academic literature discussing the role of students in the Islamic finance industry. It examines data from international journals, books, and proceedings published over the past two decades. Tools like VOSviewer are used to visualize connections among key research themes, institutional collaborations, and students' contributions to industry innovation. By adopting this approach, the study not only provides an overview of industry developments but also offers strategic insights for education and human resource development in Islamic finance (Lanzara, 2021).

2. Literature Review

The study by Manan et al. (2018) explores the competencies of students in meeting the workforce demands of the rapidly growing Islamic finance sector. The research highlights the urgent need for skilled talent, particularly graduates equipped with Shariah knowledge, analytical skills, and interpersonal abilities. Through a survey involving 112 final-year students, the study found that students possessed adequate competencies to enter the Islamic finance job market. Moreover, the study emphasized the importance of relevant higher education curricula to ensure graduates can directly contribute to innovation and industry development. The findings underscore the strategic role of higher education in shaping talented professionals necessary for driving the growth of the global Islamic finance industry.

The study by Umar et al. (2021) found that the role of academic institutions in enhancing Islamic financial literacy remains suboptimal, particularly in developing countries such as Nigeria. Using document analysis of academic curricula and professional training syllabi, the study revealed that only a few educational programs included courses on Islamic finance. Consequently, students' level of financial literacy in this domain was low, hindering their participation in the sector. The research emphasized the need for collaboration between academic institutions and professional organizations to expand access to Islamic finance education and ensure the sustainability of the industry by producing skilled and knowledgeable talent.

The study by Dwijayanty and Sukadwilinda (2019) investigated students' career interests in Islamic financial institutions and the factors influencing these interests. Using a descriptive method and surveys distributed to accounting students who had completed Shariah accounting courses, the study found that key motivators included mastery of Shariah knowledge, career development opportunities, and competitive compensation. These findings reinforce the importance of Shariah-based educational programs in attracting more students to pursue careers in the Islamic finance sector and meeting the industry's demand for skilled professionals.

Although the existing literature underscores the significance of education in developing the Islamic finance industry, there is a lack of empirical studies directly exploring the relationship between student engagement and industry innovation and growth. Most research focuses on individual literacy or factors without examining how collective student participation impacts the sustainability and innovation of the sector. Additionally, there is limited discussion about the gap between theoretical knowledge imparted in academic institutions and practical needs in the field, which may hinder students' direct contributions to the Islamic finance sector.

This topic is multidisciplinary, encompassing Islamic economics, educational economics, human resource management, and financial literacy. Furthermore, the integration of Shariah-based financial technology (fintech) represents a critical area for fostering innovation in the Islamic finance industry. Educational policy, curriculum development, and interaction between academic institutions and the industry are key elements in this research. The synergy between education, regulation, and market needs will enrich the discussion and provide solutions to the challenges faced by the Islamic finance industry in the future.

3. Methodology

3.2. Data Collection

This study employs a quantitative approach using bibliometric analysis to examine research trends related to the role of students in the Islamic financial industry. This approach was chosen for its ability to objectively depict patterns, relationships, and developments in research topics associated with Islamic finance and students' roles within the field. By utilizing data gathered from various scholarly articles, bibliometric analysis enables researchers to identify the most frequently studied areas, the interconnections between different studies, and the contributions of academic institutions to the development of the Islamic financial industry. This approach provides a clearer mapping of how scientific literature aligns with practices and innovations in the sector.

3.2. Analysis Techniques

The primary data source for this study is the Dimensions database, one of the leading platforms for accessing academic articles and scientific publications. To obtain relevant data, searches were conducted using keywords such as *students*, *education*, and *Islamic finance*. This database provides access to various types of literature, including journal articles, conference proceedings, and research reports spanning multiple disciplines relevant to the research topic. The choice of Dimensions as the data source was based on its extensive coverage and the quality of its content, encompassing international publications that enhance bibliometric analysis of the relationship between education, students, and the Islamic financial industry.

3.3. Validation

The data obtained from Dimensions was analyzed using VOSviewer, a software tool designed to visualize relationships between topics and collaborations among researchers, institutions, and countries. This tool maps the collaboration networks present in the literature and identifies dominant themes emerging in research related to Islamic finance. VOSviewer facilitates visual mapping that helps uncover research trends, such as frequently studied topics, influential authors, and key contributing institutions in the development of these topics. This analysis provides clear insights into the role of education and students in advancing the Islamic financial sector through research development and academic collaboration.

4. Results and Discussion

4.2. Key Findings

4.2.1. Identification of Country Bibliography

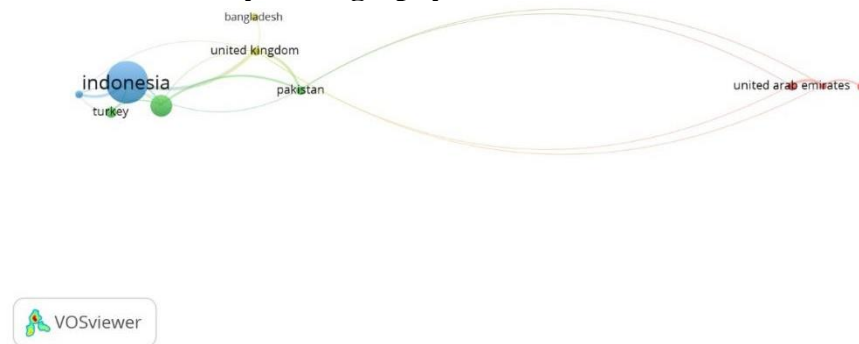


Figure 1 VOSviewer Identification of Country Bibliography
Source: processed by VOSviewer

Table 1 VOSviewer Identification of Country Bibliography

Verify selected countries				
Selected	Country	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	indonesia	79	114	158
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	united kingdom	4	27	134
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	pakistan	4	78	78
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	canada	2	52	72
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	malaysia	20	195	63
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	brunei	3	12	62
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	united arab emirates	4	134	55
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	turkey	6	7	19
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	saudi arabia	3	6	17
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	bangladesh	3	14	4

Source: processed by VOSviewer

The VOSviewer analysis shows that Indonesia has the highest link strength, with 158 links, as well as the largest number of documents and citations, totaling 79 documents and 114 citations. This indicates that Indonesia is the epicenter of research exploring the relationship between students and the Islamic financial industry. This Southeast Asian country's contribution highlights the region's strong commitment to advancing Islamic finance within a sustainable framework. Other countries with significant roles in this academic discourse include the United Kingdom (134 links, 4 documents, 27 citations), Pakistan (78 links, 4 documents, 78 citations), Canada (72 links, 2 documents, 52 citations), and Malaysia (63 links, 20 documents, 195 citations).

Meanwhile, other countries such as Brunei, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Bangladesh show more limited involvement, with lower numbers of documents, citations, and link strengths. Overall, these findings imply that the topic of the relationship between students and the Islamic financial industry has become a significant research focus, particularly in countries with established Islamic financial

sectors.

Indonesia's prominence in this research field can be attributed to its robust Islamic financial sector, which has become a cornerstone of its economic development. As the country with the largest Muslim population globally, Indonesia has strategically positioned itself to lead the discourse on Islamic finance education and its integration with the industry. The significant number of documents and citations originating from Indonesia reflects its academic institutions' focus on producing research that aligns with the nation's economic priorities, particularly in fostering a sustainable and inclusive Islamic financial system. This alignment is further supported by collaborative efforts among universities, policymakers, and industry players, making Indonesia a key reference point for other nations aspiring to develop similar frameworks.

In comparison, countries like Malaysia and Pakistan also play critical roles in advancing the relationship between students and the Islamic financial industry. Malaysia, with its established reputation as a global Islamic finance hub, has contributed extensively through both academic research and practical innovations. The high number of citations linked to Malaysian research highlights the impact and relevance of its studies in shaping global discourse. Similarly, Pakistan's contributions, despite a smaller volume of documents, showcase a concentrated effort in addressing specific areas within Islamic finance education. These findings underline the importance of regional expertise and collaborative international networks in driving the growth and sustainability of Islamic financial systems worldwide.

4.2.2. Identification of Institutional Bibliography

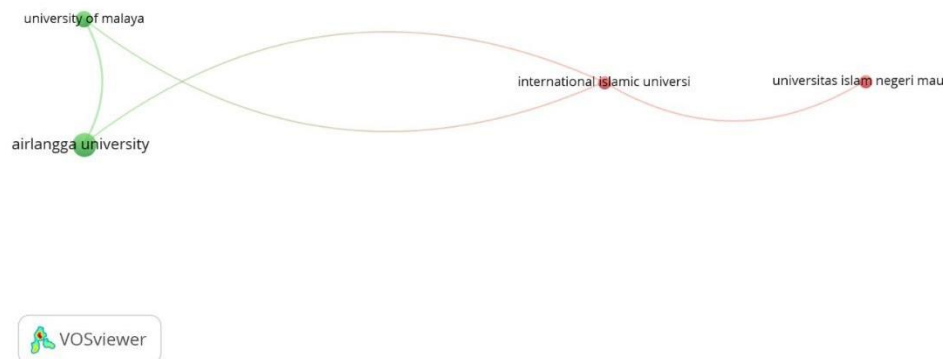


Figure 2 Identification of Institutional Bibliography

Source: processed by VOSviewer

Table 2 Identification of Institutional Bibliography

Verify selected organizations				
Selected	Organization	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	airlangga university	10	19	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	international islamic university malaysia	3	127	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	university of malaya	5	50	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	universitas islam negeri maulana malik ...	3	4	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	bandung islamic university	4	2	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	islamic university	3	14	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	national university of malaysia	3	1	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sriwijaya university	3	0	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	state university of surabaya	3	6	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	trisakti university	3	22	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	universitas ibn khaldun bogor	3	2	0

Source: processed by VOSviewer

Airlangga University has a dominant contribution, with 10 documents and 19 citations, indicating the central role of this institution in exploring the relationship between students and the Islamic financial industry. The International Islamic University Malaysia also stands out with 3 documents and 127 citations, reflecting the significance and impact of its research in this area. Meanwhile, the University of Malaya contributes with 5 documents and 50 citations. These findings underscore the important role of these universities as centers of excellence in advancing academic discourse on this topic.

The contributions of Airlangga University highlight its pivotal role in shaping the academic narrative on Islamic finance education in Indonesia. With 10 documents and 19 citations, the university has established itself as a leader in this research area, producing a significant volume of work that resonates within the academic community. This reflects not only the institution's commitment to Islamic finance as a strategic focus but also the depth of its academic engagement in preparing students for roles within this burgeoning industry. By fostering collaborations with practitioners and policymakers, Airlangga University is actively bridging the gap between theoretical frameworks and practical applications, ensuring that its research directly benefits the development of the Islamic financial ecosystem.

On an international level, the contributions of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and the University of Malaya underscore Malaysia's status as a global hub for Islamic finance. IIUM, with its impressive citation count despite a smaller number of publications, demonstrates the high quality and far-reaching influence of its research outputs. The University of Malaya's contributions, marked by both volume and impact, further reinforce Malaysia's academic leadership in this field. These institutions serve as key players in fostering regional and global collaborations, facilitating knowledge exchange, and setting benchmarks for impactful research. The growing network of cooperation among universities across Southeast Asia and beyond signals a bright future for academic exploration in Islamic finance, offering insights that could shape both industry practices and educational frameworks globally.

This analysis shows that while some institutions contribute more significantly to the literature, particularly in terms of citation impact, there is an increasing

collaboration among leading universities in advancing research related to the connection between students and the Islamic financial industry. This network of academic cooperation suggests a promising trend toward increased scholarly output and impact in this field in the coming years. Findings from this bibliometric analysis can be utilized to identify influential institutions, potential research partners, and major contributions in the Islamic financial industry sector.

4.2.3. Identification of Journal Bibliography

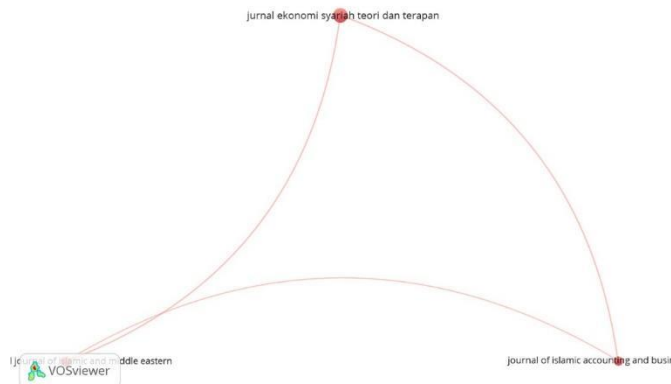


Figure 3 Identification of Journal Bibliography
Source: processed by VOSviewer

Table 3 Identification of Journal Bibliography

Verify selected sources				
Selected	Source	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	jurnal ekonomi syariah teori dan terapan	18	24	6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	international journal of islamic and mid...	4	212	5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	journal of islamic accounting and busi...	3	27	5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	al-ishlah jurnal pendidikan	4	3	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	al-kharaj jurnal ekonomi keuangan & b...	3	1	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	emerald emerging markets case studies	5	2	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	global journal al-thaqafah	3	7	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	isra international journal of islamic fina...	3	15	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	journal of emerging economies and isl...	3	10	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	jurnal ilmiah ekonomi islam	3	3	0

Source: processed by VOSviewer

The *Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah Teori dan Terapan* has the highest number of documents (18) but lower citations (24) compared to the *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management*, which has the highest citation count (212) despite only having 4 documents. This indicates that the *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* has a more significant impact in this field, even with a smaller number of contributions. The total link strength of these journals also varies, with the *Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah Teori dan Terapan* showing the highest connection strength (6), followed by the other two journals, *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* and *Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research*, both with a

link strength of 5. This reflects a strong collaborative network among several journals in the field of Islamic economics, with a primary focus on academic contributions to the development of the Islamic financial industry.

The data illustrates a contrast between volume and impact in academic publishing within the field of Islamic finance. The “Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah Teori dan Terapan”, with its high number of documents, showcases its dedication to fostering discourse and encouraging broad participation among scholars. However, the relatively lower citation count suggests that its articles might cater more to regional or niche audiences, focusing on applied research or localized topics that do not yet attract widespread global attention. This journal serves as an essential platform for emerging researchers and practitioners to contribute to the growing body of knowledge within the Islamic financial sector.

Conversely, the “International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management” demonstrates the value of producing fewer, highly impactful articles. With a much higher citation count, this journal highlights its global influence, likely due to the rigorous quality and relevance of its published works. Its contributions often tackle pressing challenges or theoretical advancements that resonate widely within academic and professional circles. This impact-oriented approach underscores the journal's critical role in shaping thought leadership and driving innovative solutions in Islamic finance.

The collaborative link strength between these journals further highlights the interconnectedness of academic efforts in this domain. The shared network, as indicated by the link strengths, suggests a growing synergy among leading journals in disseminating knowledge and fostering dialogue within the Islamic financial industry. This collaborative dynamic not only enhances the visibility and credibility of research in the field but also strengthens the intellectual infrastructure necessary for advancing sustainable and globally relevant Islamic finance frameworks. As these journals continue to expand their networks and deepen their focus on impactful research, they will play an even more critical role in shaping the future of Islamic finance scholarship.

4.2.4. Identification of Publication Bibliography

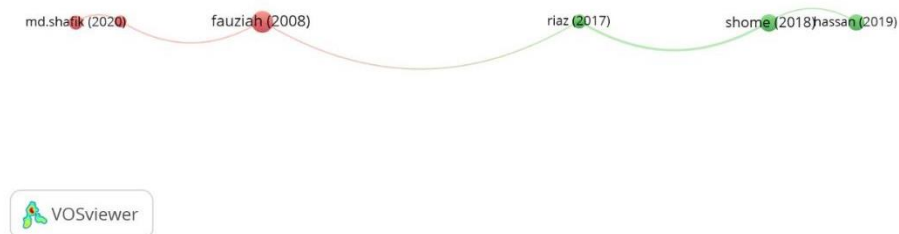


Figure 4 Identification of Publication Bibliography

Source: processed by VOSviewer

Table 4 Identification of Publication Bibliography

Verify selected documents			
Selected	Document	Citations	Total link strength
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	shome (2018)	50	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	riaz (2017)	25	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	widityani (2020)	11	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	fauziah (2008)	117	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	md.shafik (2020)	25	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	hassan (2019)	34	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	usman (2020)	19	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	haryanti (2020)	10	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	yusutria (2019)	13	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	choudhury (2018)	15	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	suharto (2018)	26	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	massah (2017)	15	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	said (2017)	14	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	al-zoubi (2007)	69	0

Source: processed by VOSviewer

The article by Fauziah (2008) stands out with the highest citation count of 117, indicating a significant influence in the literature. Articles by Shome (2018) and Riaz (2017) also demonstrate strong link strengths (each with 4) and relatively high citation counts (50 and 25, respectively), reflecting collaboration and the relevance of their research. Meanwhile, other articles, such as those by Md. Shafik (2020) and Hassan (2019), show lower link strengths and fewer citations, indicating a relatively limited impact within this literature network. This analysis suggests that, although various researchers have made contributions, only a few works have achieved substantial impact, while others are still developing within the research network on the Islamic finance industry.

The prominence of “Fauziah's (2008)” work, with its high citation count of 117, underscores its foundational role in shaping discussions within the field of Islamic finance. This article's ability to achieve such widespread recognition highlights the importance of addressing pivotal issues or offering innovative insights that resonate with a broad academic and professional audience. Fauziah's research likely serves as a benchmark or reference point for subsequent studies, reflecting its enduring relevance and influence. Such impact illustrates how well-crafted and strategically disseminated research can define critical themes and priorities in a growing academic field.

In comparison, the contributions of “Shome (2018)” and “Riaz (2017)” demonstrate the importance of collaboration and networked influence within the Islamic finance research community. Their high link strengths suggest active engagement in collaborative initiatives or cross-institutional partnerships, which often amplify a study's reach and applicability. While their citation counts are not as high as Fauziah's, they reflect steady and significant engagement, particularly in addressing specific challenges or regional contexts in Islamic finance. On the other hand, articles by “Md. Shafik (2020)” and “Hassan (2019)”, despite showing potential, underline the challenges faced by newer or less networked studies in gaining visibility and impact. These findings emphasize the need for researchers to actively engage in collaborative networks, address globally relevant issues, and leverage impactful journals to ensure

their work reaches a broader audience and makes a lasting contribution to the field.

4.2.5. Identification of Author Bibliography

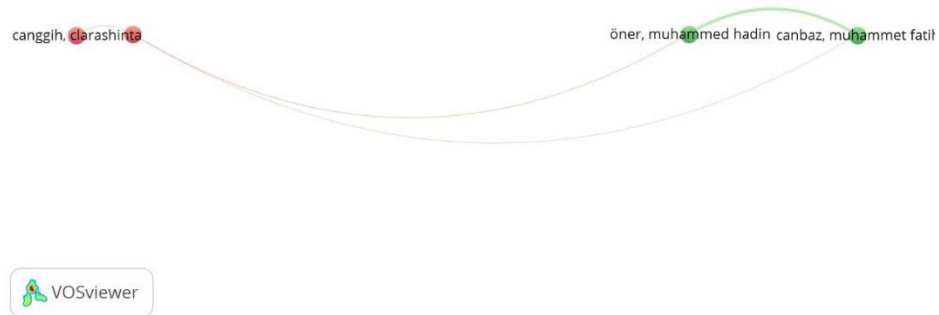


Figure 5 Identification of Author Bibliography
Source: processed by VOSviewer

Table 5 Identification of Author Bibliography

Verify selected authors				
Selected	Author	Documents	Citations	Total link strength
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	öner, muhammed hadin	2	1	25
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	canbaz, muhammet fatih	2	0	24
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ilyana, sariyatul	2	1	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	canggi, clarashinta	2	1	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	abdul-rahman, aisyah	2	1	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adawiah, rabiatal	2	0	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adinugraha, hendri hermawan	3	0	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ahmad, ridzwan	2	1	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	amin, hanudin	2	2	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	chadziq, achmad lubabul	2	0	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	choudhury, masudul alam	2	21	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ekowati, diyah	2	1	0

Source: processed by VOSviewer

Choudhury, Masudul Alam appears to be a leading contributor, with 2 published documents that have garnered 21 citations, indicating a significant influence on this topic. Two other authors, Öner, Muhammed Hadin, and Canbaz, Muhammet Fatih, are also identified as productive writers, although the citations they have received remain limited. Meanwhile, Ilyana, Sariyatul, and Canggi, Clarashinta have made substantial contributions as well, each with 2 documents and 1 citation. Overall, a clear pattern of collaboration among authors is evident, reflecting an interconnected research network exploring the relationship between students and the Islamic finance industry. This analysis provides a comprehensive overview of the intellectual structure and research dynamics in this field.

The recognition of “Choudhury, Masudul Alam” as a leading contributor highlights the depth and impact of his research in Islamic finance education. His ability to garner 21 citations from only two documents underscores the quality and relevance of his work in addressing critical issues within the field. Choudhury’s contributions likely focus on innovative theoretical frameworks or practical applications that

resonate with both academics and practitioners. His influential position in this research network also points to the value of strategic focus and alignment with pressing academic and industry challenges, enabling his work to achieve significant visibility and engagement.

In contrast, the efforts of “Öner, Muhammed Hadin” and “Canbaz, Muhammet Fatih” reflect the growing interest of emerging scholars in this field, despite their relatively limited citation impact. Their consistent productivity signals a commitment to advancing research on the connection between students and the Islamic finance industry. Similarly, “Ilyana, Sariyatul”, and “Canggih, Clarashinta”, with their active participation in publishing, highlight the importance of contributing to the collective knowledge base, even at an early stage in citation accumulation. Their work is an essential part of the broader intellectual ecosystem, providing fresh perspectives and laying the groundwork for future impactful studies. The collaborative patterns among these authors reveal an interconnected network of scholars who are collectively enriching the discourse and fostering a dynamic research environment in Islamic finance education.

4.2 Interpretation of Results

The bibliometric analysis results highlight the significant roles of countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom in research related to the relationship between students and the Islamic finance industry. Indonesia stands out as a research hub with the largest contribution in terms of documents and citations, underscoring its strategic role in the development of Islamic finance literature. This can be attributed to the rapid growth of the Islamic economy in Southeast Asia, particularly in response to the public's demand for a finance system based on Islamic values. These findings confirm that research on this topic has strong local relevance while also attracting global attention through cross-country collaborations.

Institutionally, universities like Airlangga University and the International Islamic University Malaysia play crucial roles in advancing academic discourse. Their contributions encompass not only a significant number of documents but also high citation impact, indicating that these institutions have successfully created a supportive research ecosystem, fostering collaborations involving researchers from various countries. This demonstrates substantial potential for expanding the global research network and enhancing the relevance and impact of this research on the development of the Islamic finance industry.

From a journal perspective, the *Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah Teori dan Terapan* has the highest publication volume, while international journals like the *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* show greater citation impact despite having fewer documents. This difference reflects variations in publication strategies and geographic focus. Local journals tend to target specific readership communities, whereas international journals have a broader reach and can engage a global audience, ultimately increasing citations and relevance in academic discourse.

Finally, author analysis reveals key contributors like Choudhury, Masudul Alam, who have made significant contributions to this topic. Meanwhile, the collaboration patterns among authors from different institutions and countries indicate that research in this field is experiencing growth with considerable potential for further exploration. These findings provide a holistic view of the intellectual dynamics and opportunities to strengthen the connection between students and the Islamic finance industry through collaborative and innovative research.

6. Conclusion

This research examines the relationship between students and the Islamic finance industry through a bibliometric approach using VOSviewer. The main issue addressed is how student involvement can support the development of this industry and foster synergy between education and the practical needs of the Islamic financial market. By analyzing publication trends, collaboration patterns, and academic contributions from various institutions, this research finds that Indonesia is the primary hub of research in this field, followed by countries like Malaysia and the United Kingdom. Institutions such as Airlangga University and the International Islamic University Malaysia play significant roles in advancing this discourse, while journals like the *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* demonstrate a strong global academic impact.

These findings underscore the importance of collaboration between universities and the industry sector in creating a productive and relevant research ecosystem. Students educated in Islamic finance can become change agents, developing innovative solutions to global challenges in this sector. The implications of this research include the potential for enhancing Islamic finance curricula to better align with market needs and opportunities to strengthen academic-institutional collaborations to increase research impact. This research contributes to mapping the intellectual structure of Islamic finance, providing guidance for future research and educational policy, and highlighting the importance of cross-sector support to optimize the role of students in advancing Islamic finance.

7. Recommendation

This study addresses the challenge of aligning student education with the practical needs of the Islamic finance industry, using a bibliometric analysis through VOSviewer. By examining publication trends, collaboration patterns, and institutional contributions, the research identifies Indonesia, Malaysia, and the UK as major contributors, with institutions like Airlangga University and the International Islamic University Malaysia playing key roles. Findings highlight that while local journals, such as the *Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah Teori dan Terapan*, focus on specific communities, international journals achieve broader academic influence. The study emphasizes the potential of university-industry collaboration to develop a research ecosystem where students can act as innovators in addressing global Islamic finance challenges. The insights gained underscore opportunities to enhance Islamic finance curricula and foster impactful academic partnerships, thereby contributing valuable guidance for future research and policy directions in the field.

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