



# Zakat Distribution Research: A Bibliometric Analysis Using VOSViewer for the 2015–2024 Period

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**Abstract:** Economic inequality in Indonesia remains high, and personal poverty continues due to uneven income distribution. Zakat, as part of Islamic economic philanthropy, plays an important role in alleviating poverty by redistributing wealth. This study employs a bibliometric analysis using data from the Dimensions AI database, focusing on the keywords "Zakah and Distribution" in article titles. A total of 91 documents from 2015 to 2024 were analyzed using standard bibliometric indicators such as publication year, document type, source title, language, study field, keyword analysis, geographic distribution, authorship, institutions, and citation metrics. The findings highlight the significant influence of countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia in zakat research, with 2018 being the most prolific publication year. The VOSViewer tool was used for data visualization, revealing trends, co-authorship networks, citation clusters, and keyword co-occurrence.

**Keywords:** Zakat Distribution, Bibliometric Analysis, VOSViewer, Dimensions AI, Islamic Philanthropy

## Introduction

Zakat is one of the pillars of Islam and plays a vital role in poverty alleviation and social justice. As an Islamic social finance instrument, zakat not only carries a spiritual dimension but also serves as a mechanism for wealth redistribution within society. Amid rising global economic inequality and increasingly complex social challenges, optimizing zakat management and distribution is becoming ever more critical. In this regard, zakat is not merely seen as a religious obligation, but also as a strategic tool for socio-economic development.

In Indonesia, the national zakat potential is enormous; however, the actual collection remains far from optimal. One of the key challenges lies in the distribution process, which is often uneven and not fully targeted. Although zakat management institutions such as BAZNAS and LAZ have made various innovations in the disbursement of zakat funds, the overall effectiveness of distribution still requires continuous evaluation. Accurate targeting not only enhances the welfare of zakat recipients (mustahik) but also strengthens public trust in zakat institutions.

In addition to zakat, other forms of Islamic philanthropy such as infaq, sadaqah, and waqf also contribute significantly to community welfare. Nevertheless, optimal integration

between zakat and these philanthropic instruments in a unified Islamic social finance system remains a challenge. The lack of coordination among managing institutions and the absence of strong data-driven distribution systems hinder the effectiveness of philanthropic efforts.

With the advancement of digital technology, new opportunities have emerged to improve the zakat and Islamic philanthropy distribution system. The use of information technology in the collection, management, and distribution of zakat can enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency. However, the successful adoption of such technology requires institutional readiness and skilled human resources to ensure smooth implementation.

Therefore, it is essential to examine how the current zakat distribution system operates and to evaluate both its challenges and opportunities—ranging from institutional frameworks and policies to technological integration. This study aims to contribute to the improvement of zakat and Islamic philanthropy governance, ensuring that their impact on community welfare becomes more tangible, equitable, and sustainable.

## Research Method

This study used bibliometric analysis based on 91 journal articles obtained from the Dimensions AI database, filtered by the keywords "Zakah and Distribution" and publication years 2015–2024. Only articles with DOIs were included. Data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel and VOSViewer. Bibliometric indicators assessed include co-authorship (authors, institutions, countries), citation analysis, and keyword co-occurrence. The analysis process followed structured stages: data extraction, keyword setting, data mining, visualization, and interpretation.

## Result and Discussion

The bibliometric analysis revealed a peak in zakat distribution publications in 2018. Co-authorship analysis showed significant collaboration among authors and institutions, especially from Indonesia and Malaysia. Citation analysis identified key authors and articles that shaped the field. Co-occurrence analysis uncovered dominant research themes such as "Islamic economics," "poverty alleviation," and "zakat fund management."

### Discussion

The findings demonstrate increasing scholarly attention to zakat distribution, with contributions spanning multiple disciplines. The concentration of research in Southeast Asia underscores the regional importance of zakat. However, there is a need for broader geographic representation and diversification of research methods. The bibliometric maps also highlight gaps and opportunities for further study, particularly in digital zakat management and policy implementation.

## Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive overview of zakat distribution research trends from 2015 to 2024. The findings highlight the growing academic interest and the influence

of Indonesian and Malaysian scholars. Bibliometric mapping using VOSViewer proved effective in identifying key contributors, themes, and gaps in the field. Future research should explore cross-country comparisons and technological innovations in zakat distribution.

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