

ZAKAT DISTRIBUTION IN SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL ECONOMY:

A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This research employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) of 938 articles published between 2015 and 2025, sourced from both national and international databases, complemented by bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer. The results reveal significant growth in scholarly interest, peaking in 2023, with central themes including productive zakat for empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), distribution mechanisms, mustahik empowerment, institutional accountability, and macroeconomic impacts such as poverty alleviation and contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Collaboration among researchers remains fragmented, though key nodes indicate potential for stronger academic networking. The VOSviewer analysis further demonstrates a shift in thematic focus from institutional and consumptive perspectives to digital innovation, zakat productivity, and its role in inclusive economic growth. This research addresses the gap in the literature concerning how zakat distribution can strengthen local economies, moving beyond ritualistic and charity-based perspectives. The study aims to systematically analyze the role of zakat distribution in regional economic development, identify dominant themes in existing research, and highlight emerging directions for future studies. Summarizes the main results or key contributions of the study. The findings imply that zakat distribution, if managed productively and supported by digital transformation, can serve as a strategic policy instrument to enhance local economic resilience and reduce inequality. The results of the study show that research collaboration related to zakat distribution is still fragmented, even though there are key researchers who connect several research clusters. The collaboration map shows that there is considerable room to strengthen networks between researchers and institutions in order to create more comprehensive research that has a broad impact on strengthening the role of zakat at the regional level. The synergy between academics, zakat institutions, and the government in developing innovative, productive, and equitable zakat distribution models so that zakat truly functions as an instrument of sustainable and inclusive regional development. Strengthening collaboration among zakat institutions, the government, and academia is recommended to develop innovative, transparent, and impactful distribution models, thereby positioning zakat as a sustainable pillar of regional economic development. Many academic studies on zakat have been conducted, but the majority still focus on the collection aspect. Studies that highlight the distribution of zakat, particularly in relation to regional development, are still limited. Even fewer studies emphasize the distribution of productive zakat as a driver of local economic growth.

Keywords: Zakat Distribution, Regional Economic Development, Productive Zakat, Sustainable Development, and Systematic Literature Review

I. INTRODUCTION

Zakat is an important instrument in the Islamic economic system that has both social and economic functions (Al Arif, 2013; Fajrina et al., 2020; Salsabila & Ramadina, 2024). The instrument of zakat is not only viewed as a ritual act of worship, but also as a mechanism for the equitable distribution of wealth. Since the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, zakat has been managed systematically to ensure the welfare of the people (Kasdi, 2016; Sugita et al., 2020; Suraya Murcitaningrum & Muhammad Machsun, 2024). To date, the practice of zakat continues to evolve and is increasingly relevant to the challenges of modern development.

The global scale of zakat is considered one of the potential Islamic financial instruments to reduce social inequality (Baihaqi, 2024; Rokhlinasari & Widagdo, 2023; Suud Sarim Karimullah, 2025). The global potential for zakat is estimated to reach hundreds of billions of dollars annually, especially from countries with the largest Muslim populations. However, the actual collection of zakat is still far from this potential (Jufri Jacob et al., 2024; Makhrus, 2019; Rusli Siri & Abdullah, 2021). This gap is an issue that continues to be addressed in academic literature and practical discussions.

The distribution of zakat at the global level still faces various serious problems. Many countries do not yet have a zakat management system that is integrated with government regulations (Rahmah et al., 2025; Sarmada & Candrakusuma, 2021; Wardani, 2024). As a result, zakat distribution is not always on target and has not fully encouraged sustainable development (Abdurrouf, 2022; Diana et al., 2023; Yudha et al., 2025). Another challenge arises from the distribution pattern, which is still predominantly consumptive (Harisah & Zainulloah, 2019; R. Siregar et al., 2021). As a result, the long-term impact on welfare is less significant.

Several countries have shown significant progress in managing zakat distribution. Malaysia, for example, is known for successfully establishing a zakat system that is integrated with government regulations and emphasizes productive distribution for the economic empowerment of the people (Ayu Rosita Anggraini, 2024; Hasibuan & Aryahadikusumah, 2025; Subardi et al., 2020). This model of zakat distribution has been used as an example by many other countries in optimizing the role of zakat, including Qatar and Saudi Arabia. (Nurfajariyah & Zen, 2024; Suud Sarim Karimullah, 2025). Integration in zakat management has further strengthened zakat governance through official institutions.

Indonesia's status as the country with the largest Muslim population in the world makes the issue of zakat distribution increasingly relevant. Indonesia has a zakat potential estimated at hundreds of trillions of rupiah per year (Ali et al., 2021; Muhammad A.A & Rosidta, 2023; Nurriszka Puji Lestari & Ilmiawan Auwalin, 2022). However, the realization of zakat collection and distribution is still far below this potential. Although reports show an upward trend in collection, the amount collected remains small compared to the existing potential (Fikra & Nasutiona, 2025; Humaidi et al., 2022; Mohammad Qutaiba et al., 2024).

The fundamental problem faced by Indonesia is that the distribution of zakat is not yet fully directed towards productive activities (Diponegoro et al., 2024; Jauhari & Wijaya, 2023; Maulana et al., 2023). Most zakat is still distributed in consumptive forms such as direct cash assistance or necessities packages. This pattern helps meet the basic needs of mustahik, but it does not sufficiently encourage

sustainable economic transformation (Ainolyaqin, 2022; Ali et al., 2016; Karmilah et al., 2024). As a result, many zakat recipients remain in the cycle of poverty.

In response, various productive zakat distribution initiatives are now being developed in Indonesia. These programs usually take the form of small business capital grants, skills training, and market access support (Fitria et al., 2022; Makhrus, 2019; Sardini & Imsar, 2022). The goal is to create economic independence for mustahik so that they can transform into muzaki in the future (Bahri & Oktaviani, 2018; Firmansyah et al., 2024; Mutmainah, 2023). Several studies have shown that productive zakat can significantly increase the income and quality of life of mustahik.

The positive impact of productive zakat distribution can be seen in the strengthening of the local economy. By increasing the purchasing power of the poor, zakat can spur the growth of small and medium enterprises. This support contributes to the creation of new jobs and a reduction in unemployment rates. Ultimately, zakat can reduce social inequality and promote economic justice at the regional level (Faisal et al., 2023; Mulyawisdawati & Nugrahani, 2019; D. A. Siregar et al., 2023).

However, the reality on the ground shows that zakat distribution in Indonesia is still uneven and suboptimal. Some regions receive less distribution than their actual community needs. This is due to limited accurate data, weak coordination between institutions, and the uneven capacity of zakat management institutions (Muh Darwis et al., 2023; Sandie & Abdillah, 2024; Solikhan, 2020). The gap between program design and the needs of *mustahik* (recipients) also remains a major obstacle.

Additionally, low zakat literacy among the public further exacerbates distribution issues. Many muzaki prefer to distribute zakat directly to mustahik without going through official institutions. This pattern brings muzaki closer to recipients, but raises issues of accountability and data management (Maisyarah & Hamzah, 2024; Rinaldi & Devi, 2022; Tiara et al., 2022). As a result, it is difficult to design measurable zakat-based empowerment strategies.

Many academic studies on zakat have been conducted, but the majority still focus on the collection aspect. Studies that highlight the distribution of zakat, particularly in relation to regional development, are still limited. Even fewer studies emphasize the distribution of productive zakat as a driver of local economic growth. A comprehensive literature review on this theme is also rarely found in international publications. The purpose of this study is to analyze in depth the distribution of zakat in Indonesia and its role in the regional economy. The study also aims to identify the challenges and opportunities faced in the implementation of productive zakat distribution. In addition, this article seeks to provide policy recommendations based on relevant and up-to-date literature findings.

The urgency of this research becomes even clearer when linked to Indonesia's inclusive development agenda. Effective zakat distribution can be an important pillar in strengthening regional economic resilience. Through the optimization of zakat distribution, the government and zakat institutions can work together to support the achievement of sustainable development goals. This study is expected to contribute to the development of academic literature and zakat policy practices in Indonesia. This article is not only theoretical but also relevant to the practical needs of zakat management. Thus, this study attempts to present a new narrative on the strategic role of zakat distribution for the regional economy in Indonesia.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Zakat is wealth that must be given by a Muslim or business entity to those who are entitled to receive it in accordance with Islamic law. Zakat management is the planning, implementation, and coordination of the collection, distribution, and utilization of zakat. The Zakat Management Institution, hereinafter referred to as LAZ, is an institution formed by the community with the task of assisting in the collection, distribution, and utilization of zakat. (Law of Zakat No. 23. 2011)

Zakat is an Islamic economic instrument whose main function is as a mechanism for wealth redistribution and poverty alleviation. According to Chapra (1992), the concept of zakat plays a role in maintaining social balance between the rich and the poor through the equitable management of wealth. The function of zakat is not only limited to spiritual aspects but also has economic value that can strengthen community welfare. The potential of zakat, when managed productively, contributes significantly to increasing people's purchasing power and strengthening the regional economic base.

The distribution of zakat reflects a process of fund distribution that is oriented towards social welfare and the economic empowerment of mustahik. Beik and Arsyianti (2015) explain that effective zakat distribution can increase income, expand employment opportunities, and reduce economic inequality. The productive orientation of zakat distribution creates a multiplier effect on the real sector of the region. Kahf's (2015) view shows that productive zakat functions as a strategic instrument in building community economic independence through the empowerment of small and medium enterprises.

The role of zakat institutions is key to determining the success of zakat distribution. Hafidhuddin's (2011) findings show that transparent and accountable zakat institution governance increases muzakki trust and expands the reach of beneficiaries. The use of digitalization systems in zakat distribution strengthens efficiency and accuracy. Setiawan's (2020) research proves that digital innovation can accelerate the distribution process and optimize region-based zakat management. The effectiveness of distribution is highly dependent on the quality of governance, the professionalism of zakat administrators, and a distribution system that is adaptive to socio-economic changes in the community.

The contribution of zakat to the regional economy can be seen through increased production capacity, micro-business growth, and job creation. A study by Widiastuti and Beik (2017) shows that productive zakat distribution increases mustahik income and strengthens the local economic structure. Zakat distribution directed at empowerment programs such as entrepreneurship training, access to capital, and business assistance has a positive impact on regional economic growth. The success of zakat distribution is an indicator of the effectiveness of zakat management in building community independence and welfare.

The integration of zakat management with regional development policies has the potential to expand sustainable socioeconomic impacts. Ascarya (2019) emphasizes the importance of synergy between zakat institutions, local governments, and the private sector in strengthening the function of zakat as an instrument of development. Collaboration between these economic actors encourages the creation of an efficient distribution system and supports the achievement of sustainable development goals. The optimization of zakat distribution as an integral part of regional economic policy demonstrates the strategic role of zakat in realizing social welfare and justice.

III. METHODOLOGY

This research uses the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to comprehensively examine zakat distribution in Indonesia and its contribution to the regional economy. This approach was chosen because it provides a comprehensive overview of previous research results, identifies trends, and finds research gaps. Through SLR, this article seeks to present a clear mapping of the extent to which zakat distribution has been implemented productively and its impact on local economic development.

Data collection was carried out using international and national academic databases through the Publish or Perish (PoP) application. Literature searches were conducted using keywords such as Regional Zakat Distribution, Regional Economic Development Zakat, Productive Regional Economic Zakat, Regional Economic Zakat Distribution, and Zakat Distribution for the Economy. The publication time frame used was between 2015 and 2025 to ensure that the data obtained was relevant, current, and appropriate to the research context. A total of 938 articles were obtained.

Inclusion criteria were established to narrow down the search results and make them more focused. The selected articles must be from journals, indexed by Google Scholar, or accredited national journals. In addition, the articles must explicitly discuss the topic of zakat distribution and its relationship to economic development, community empowerment, or poverty alleviation. Meanwhile, articles that are not relevant to the research theme or only discuss aspects of zakat collection without touching on aspects of distribution were excluded from the analysis.

After the articles were collected, the analysis process was carried out through the stages of identification, screening, and classification. Each article is analyzed to identify the main themes, methodological approaches, and empirical findings related to zakat distribution. The data obtained is then synthesized narratively to find patterns, comparisons, and differences between studies. This process aims to produce a deep understanding of zakat distribution practices in Indonesia and their implications for the regional economy.

This SLR analysis not only provides a summary of the literature but also seeks to identify research gaps that have rarely been studied. The findings from this method are expected to enrich the literature on zakat, while also providing practical contributions to zakat institutions and policymakers. Thus, the research method used allows this study to be not only descriptive but also to provide a strong conceptual basis for the development of future zakat distribution strategies. Data analysis techniques were conducted using a bibliometric approach and thematic analysis. Bibliometric analysis was performed using VOSviewer software to map the relationships between topics, authors, and research trends based on keyword co-occurrence and citation mapping.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

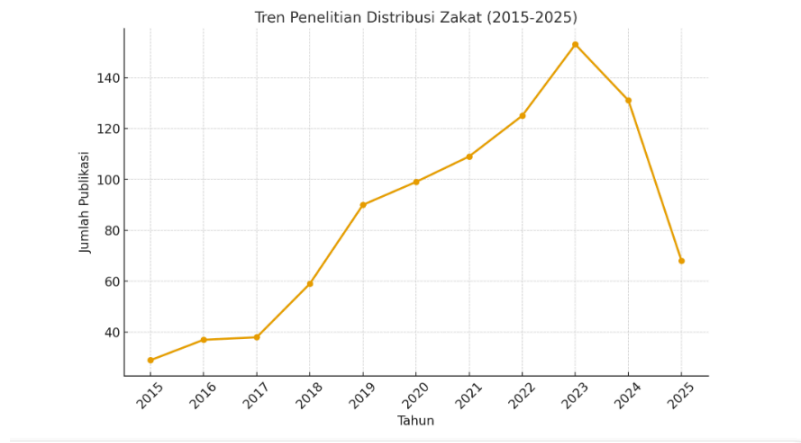
Trends in the Role of Zakat Distribution in Supporting the Regional Economy

Table 1: Trends in the Distribution of Zakat in Supporting the Regional Economy

No	Year	Number of Publications
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1	2015	29
2	2016	37
3	2017	38
4	2018	59
5	2019	90
6	2020	99
7	2021	109
8	2022	125
9	2023	153
10	2024	131
11	2025	68
12	Total	938

Source: Publish or Perish application (*processed data*) (2025)



Source: Publish or Perish application (*processed data*)

Figure 1 Trends in the Distribution of Zakat in Supporting the Regional Economy 2015-2025

The figure showing the research trend on zakat distribution for the period 2015–2025 shows a fluctuating pattern but generally shows a significant upward trend, reaching its peak in 2023. In the early period (2015–2018), the number of studies was still relatively low, although it showed gradual growth from 29 to 59 publications. A major surge occurred after 2018, when research on zakat distribution began to receive serious attention in academic circles. This is in line with the growing awareness that zakat is not merely a ritual act of worship, but also an important instrument in strengthening the regional economy and empowering the community.

From 2019 to 2023, the graph shows consistent and sharp growth, reaching a peak of 153 publications. This fact confirms that the issue of zakat distribution is increasingly relevant in the discourse on equitable economic development. However, the trend declined in 2024 and 2025 to 131 and 68 publications, respectively. This decline can be interpreted as the result of technical

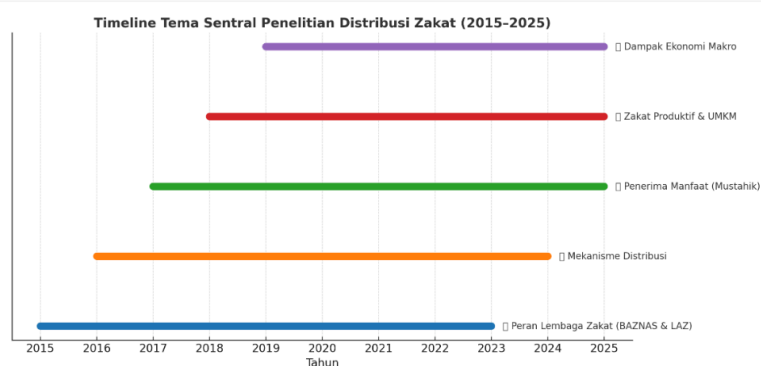
factors, such as the limitation of the latest publication data that has not been fully indexed, rather than a mere decrease in research interest. Overall, this trend shows that zakat distribution has become a strategic theme in academic studies and has contributed greatly to the literature on local wisdom-based economic development and community empowerment at the regional level.

Central Themes Related to the Role of Zakat Distribution in Supporting the Regional Economy

Table 2: Central Themes Related to the Role of Zakat Distribution in Supporting the Regional Economy

No	Central Theme	Year
1	Productive zakat for empowering MSMEs, business capital for mustahik. Small business development drives the real sector and strengthens the local economy.	2018-2025
2	Distribution Mechanisms: Direct distribution, community-based distribution, and digitization of zakat. Distribution efficiency, increased transparency, and social justice.	2016-2024
3	Beneficiaries (Mustahik) Poverty alleviation, improved welfare, mustahik independence, making mustahik productive actors in the regional economy.	2017-2025
4	Role of Zakat Institutions (BAZNAS & LAZ): Synergy with the government, program innovation, and institutional accountability. Serving as a bridge for zakat distribution to regional development programs	2015-2023
5	Macroeconomic Impact: Regional economic growth, reduction of inequality, SDGs, Zakat as an instrument of sustainable development.	2019-2025

Source: Application Publish of Perish (*data processed*) (2025)



Source: Application Publish of Perish (*data processed*)

Figure 2: Central Themes Related to the Role of Zakat Distribution in Supporting the Regional Economy

Research on zakat distribution from 2015 to 2025 shows the development of layered and complementary academic studies. The initial theme that emerged in 2015 was the role of zakat institutions

(BAZNAS and LAZ), which emphasized synergy with the government, program innovation, and accountability in zakat fund management. This indicates that in the early period, research studies emphasized institutional foundations as the main actors in zakat distribution. Entering 2016–2017, research developed in the aspects of distribution mechanisms and beneficiaries (*mustahik*), showing a shift in academics' attention to the effectiveness of zakat distribution, transparency, and how zakat can truly meet the needs of the community.

Furthermore, from 2018 to 2025, the themes of productive zakat and MSME empowerment became increasingly prominent, marking a transformation in the understanding that zakat is not only charitable in nature but also has the power to leverage the local economy. Peaking in the 2019–2025 period, studies developed on macroeconomic impacts, linking zakat distribution to regional economic growth, reduction of inequality, and the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Thus, this visualization shows the journey of research from an institutional focus to a broader approach that positions zakat as an instrument of regional economic development. This shift in research direction indicates a consolidation of academic discourse from merely focusing on distribution management to utilizing zakat as a driving force for equitable economic development.

Map of Researcher Collaboration Related to the Role of Zakat Distribution in Supporting the Regional Economy



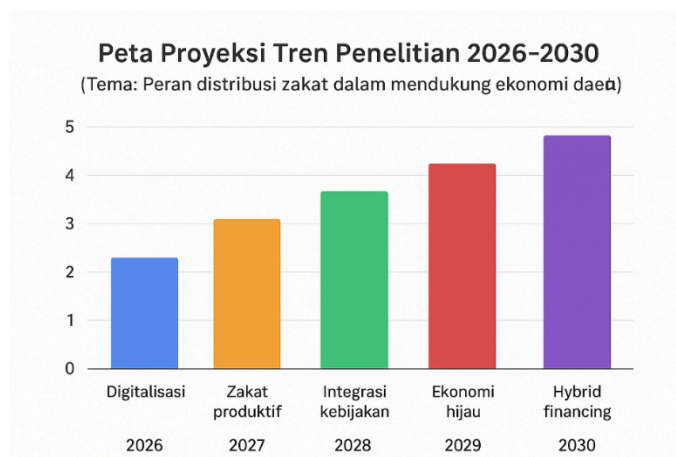
Source: Application Publish of Perish (*data processed*)

Figure 3 Collaboration Map of Researchers on the Role of Zakat Distribution in Supporting the Regional Economy

The research collaboration network on the theme of zakat distribution in supporting the regional economy shows varying patterns of connectivity among researchers. Some researchers form small groups that collaborate intensively, while others appear to be more isolated with limited collaboration. Nodes with larger sizes and connections indicate key researchers who act as connectors between research groups, contributing not only to publications but also to expanding academic networks.

In terms of network structure, it appears that collaboration is still fragmented into several clusters, not yet forming a solid large network. This illustrates that research on zakat distribution and the regional economy is still developing and tends to be thematic in certain groups. In the future, the potential for cross-researcher and cross-institutional collaboration can be strengthened to produce more comprehensive and impactful research, especially to strengthen the position of zakat as an instrument of regional economic development.

Future Trend Projections Related to the Role of Zakat Distribution in Supporting the Regional Economy



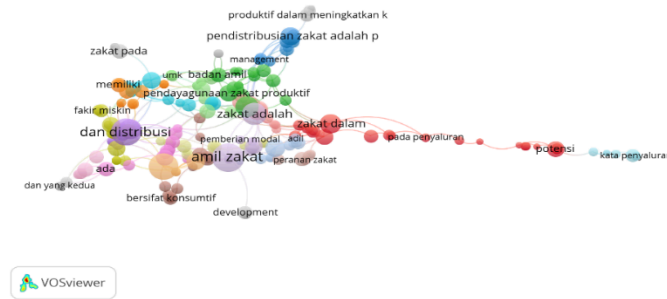
Source: Application Publish of Perish (*data processed*)

Figure 4 Future Trend Projections Research

Based on the trend patterns of research on zakat distribution in supporting the regional economy during the 2015–2025 period, there are several projections for the direction of research for the next five years (2026–2030). First, research trends will increasingly focus on digital-based productive zakat and financial technology (sharia fintech). The digitization of zakat distribution, which began to strengthen in the 2016–2024 period, is likely to evolve towards the use of *big data analytics*, *blockchain*, and *artificial intelligence* to ensure transparency, efficiency, and fairness in distribution. This is in line with the demands of the Industry 5.0 era, which emphasizes the personalization of financial services, including in the context of Islamic philanthropy.

Second, future research also has the potential to further examine the macroeconomic impact of zakat on sustainable development. The focus of the study will shift from simply empowering MSMEs and mustahik to integrating zakat into the broader framework of green development, reducing inequality, and achieving *the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. With increasing global attention on the green economy and sustainable finance, zakat is likely to be studied as one of the strategic instruments that can strengthen regional economic resilience. Overall, research trends over the next five years are expected to place greater emphasis on digital innovation, policy integration, and strengthening the role of zakat in green and sustainable economic development, making it one of the main pillars of the Islamic-based regional economy.

VosViewer Analysis

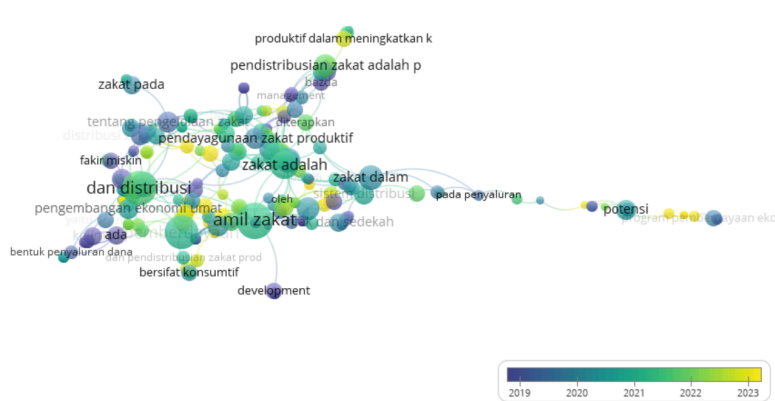


Source: VosViewer Application (*data processed*)

Figure 5 Visualization of A Keyword Co-Occurrence Network Map

The image shown is a visualization of a keyword co-occurrence network map using VOSviewer software. The dots (nodes) represent keywords, while the size of the nodes indicates the frequency of occurrence of the word in the analyzed document. Different colors indicate thematic clusters formed based on the connections or associations between words. From the map, it can be seen that keywords such as *zakat administrators*, *distribution*, and *zakat utilization* occupy a central position with larger node sizes, indicating their dominant role in related literature. Their proximity indicates conceptual connections and the frequent co-occurrence of these terms in research.

More deeply, this network structure indicates that scientific discourse related to zakat is divided into several main clusters. For example, the cluster centered on the word *distribution of zakat* is associated with the themes of productivity and welfare improvement, while the cluster surrounding *amil zakat* tends to be related to institutional aspects, management, and empowerment mechanisms. Meanwhile, smaller and scattered networks of words on the right side, such as *distribusi* and *system*, show weaker connections to the core of the discussion. This indicates a differentiation in the focus of the study, where the main themes are more centered on the aspects of distribution and the role of amil, while other themes are supporting and have not become the dominant focus of the research.

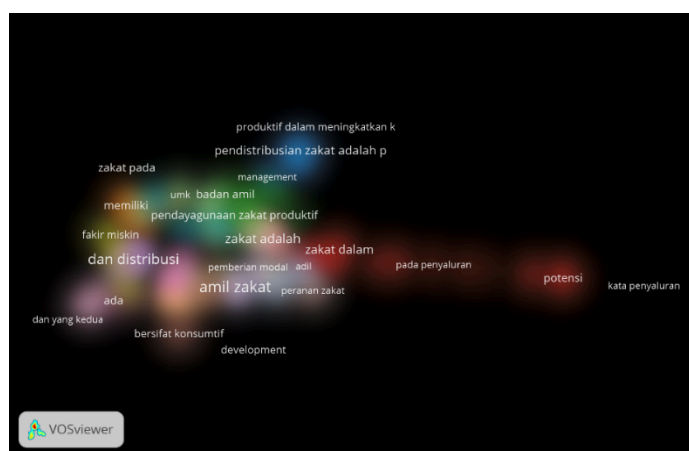


Source: VosViewer Application (*data processed*)

Figure 6 Indicates The Frequency of Occurrence of That Word

The image shown is an *overlay visualization* of the VOSviewer analysis results, which depicts a *keyword co-occurrence network* in the literature on zakat. Each node represents a keyword, where the size of the node indicates the frequency of occurrence of that word, while the color represents the temporal distribution (average year of occurrence) from 2019 to 2023. It can be seen that keywords such as *amil zakat*, *distribution*, and *utilization of zakat* are at the center of the network, with relatively large sizes and greenish-yellow colors, indicating that these themes have received significant attention in recent publications. Meanwhile, keywords that are more blue in color, such as *the poor* and *economic development*, were more dominant in the literature from the previous period (2019–2020).

This analysis shows a shift in research focus from conceptual and basic aspects of zakat distribution to more applicable and contemporary issues, such as *the potential of zakat* and *zakat distribution*, which appear in yellow (2022–2023). This shift indicates an increase in academic interest in zakat optimization and management strategies in the latest era, especially in the context of productivity and economic empowerment of the people. Thus, this map not only maps the dominant themes but also provides an overview of the evolution of research topics, where zakat studies are increasingly directed at their strategic potential as an instrument of sustainable socio-economic development.



Source: VosViewer Application (*processed data*)

Figure 7: The Appearance and Interconnection of the Keyword

The image shown is a *density visualization* processed by VOSviewer, which maps the intensity of the appearance and interconnection of keywords in zakat-related research. The colors on the map indicate the density or frequency of word occurrence: the brighter and more reddish-yellow the color, the higher the intensity of discussion of that keyword in the literature. It can be seen that the terms *amil zakat* (*zakat administrators*), *distribution*, and *utilization of zakat* are the main focus of attention, marked by higher color brightness. This shows that research on zakat focuses more on the aspects of distribution, the role of *amil* as administrators, and efforts to empower zakat productively.

In addition, nodes located around the center, such as *economic development*, *capital provision*, and *productive zakat*, indicate a close connection with the main theme, albeit with lower intensity. Meanwhile, terms that appear further to the right, such as *potential* and *distribution*, although displayed in red, indicate new trends that are gaining attention in several studies. This can be interpreted as the

direction of the development of the discourse on zakat, which is beginning to move beyond the traditional focus on distribution towards discussions of strategic potential and more innovative distribution mechanisms.

Overall, this map shows that the literature on zakat is not only centered on normative functions and sharia obligations, but is also moving towards a discourse on productivity and economic development of the ummah. The dominance of the themes of *zakat administrators* and *distribution* indicates a strong foundation, while new themes such as *the potential of zakat* reflect a drive to explore the role of zakat in the context of modern socio-economic development. Thus, this map helps identify the direction of future research: strengthening the managerial basis of zakat while encouraging studies on distribution innovation and optimizing the potential of zakat as a more sustainable instrument of welfare.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the results of research on zakat distribution in supporting the regional economy during the 2015–2025 period, there was an increasing trend that peaked in 2023. The most frequently emerging themes include productive zakat for MSME empowerment, efficient distribution mechanisms, the role of zakat institutions, and the macro impact of zakat distribution on strengthening the regional economy and achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). This trend confirms that zakat is no longer just a complementary instrument but has been positioned as an important pillar in regional economic development strategies.

The results of the study show that research collaboration related to zakat distribution is still fragmented, even though there are key researchers who connect several research clusters. The collaboration map shows that there is considerable room to strengthen networks between researchers and institutions in order to create more comprehensive research that has a broad impact on strengthening the role of zakat at the regional level. Analysis using VOSviewer also confirms the concentration of dominant themes on *zakat administrators*, *distribution*, and *productive zakat*, while showing a shift in focus towards studies on the potential of zakat and innovative distribution mechanisms that are increasingly relevant in the context of digitalization.

The five-year projection (2026–2030) is expected to focus on the development of digital technology-based zakat, the use of big data, blockchain, and AI, as well as strengthening the integration of zakat in green and sustainable development. Thus, zakat distribution has the potential to become a strategic instrument in strengthening regional economic resilience while reducing social inequality. The recommendation that can be given is the need for closer synergy between academics, zakat institutions, and the government in developing innovative, productive, and equitable zakat distribution models so that zakat truly functions as an instrument of sustainable and inclusive regional development.

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