

*Editorial Note*

## Bridging Tradition and Innovation: Advancing Islamic Economics in the Digital Era

**ABSTRACT** – This issue presents a comprehensive collection of research addressing the dynamic evolution of the Islamic economic landscape. The published articles explore critical themes, including the strategic integration of Islamic social finance instruments (zakat and waqf) for poverty alleviation and MSME empowerment, the expansion of the halal industry through digital assurance and tourism, and the refinement of governance frameworks within Islamic financial institutions. Furthermore, this edition delves into contemporary market behaviors, examining the impact of political transitions on capital markets and the adoption of fintech by younger generations. Collectively, these contributions provide rigorous theoretical insights and practical policy recommendations for fostering a resilient and inclusive Islamic economy.

**Azharsyah Ibrahim**

Editor-in-Chief, *Share: Jurnal Ekonomi dan Keuangan Islam*  
Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry,  
Banda Aceh, Indonesia  
Corresponding email:  
[azharsyah@ar-raniry.ac.id](mailto:azharsyah@ar-raniry.ac.id)

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### INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to present Volume 14, Number 2 (2025) of *Share: Jurnal Ekonomi dan Keuangan Islam (Share: Journal of Islamic Economics and Finance)*. In an era where sustainability and digitalization are reshaping the global economic landscape, Islamic finance continues to emerge as a vital pillar in promoting ethical, inclusive, and resilient financial systems. This issue reflects the journal's commitment to advancing scholarly dialogue that bridges tradition and innovation, offering insights that are both theoretically robust and practically relevant.

The twenty-three articles featured in this edition represent a diverse range of empirical and conceptual contributions. They explore critical themes such as the grassroots management of mosque economies, the efficiency and competitiveness of Islamic banking systems across Southeast Asia, and the integration of Shariah-compliant mechanisms into broader economic governance frameworks. Collectively, these studies demonstrate how Islamic finance can address structural challenges, enhance financial literacy, and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

What makes this volume particularly significant is its focus on real-world applications. The authors move beyond foundational principles to examine complex intersections between Islamic economic values and contemporary global trends, including digital transformation, financial inclusion, and sustainability. These discussions underscore the adaptability of Islamic finance in responding to emerging challenges while preserving its ethical and spiritual foundations.

As the discourse on Islamic economics continues to evolve, this issue aims to serve as a resource for academics, policymakers, and industry practitioners seeking to understand and implement Shariah-compliant solutions in dynamic economic environments. We hope that the insights presented here will inspire further research and innovation, reinforcing the role of Islamic finance as a cornerstone of equitable and sustainable development.

## METHODOLOGY OF ARTICLE SELECTION

The manuscripts featured in this issue underwent a rigorous double-blind peer review process designed to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and scholarly excellence. Each submission was evaluated by multiple experts for originality, methodological rigor, and clarity of presentation. Particular attention was given to the relevance of the research to the field of Islamic economics and finance, as well as the significance and practical implications of its findings.

In line with the journal's mission, priority was given to studies that address core themes such as financial inclusion, innovation, governance, sustainability, and risk management. We sought contributions that not only advance theoretical understanding but also offer actionable insights for policymakers, industry practitioners, and other stakeholders. This careful and systematic selection process reflects *Share*'s commitment to publishing research that is both academically robust and socially impactful, ensuring that each article contributes meaningfully to the ongoing discourse on Islamic economics and finance.

## THEMATIC OVERVIEW

This issue reflects the dynamic interplay between tradition and innovation across four interconnected themes. The revitalization of Islamic Social Finance stands out as a transformative force for economic empowerment. Research in this area demonstrates how *zakat* and *waqf* can be integrated to strengthen MSMEs (Alfian et al., 2025) and improve performance through complex mediation mechanisms (Firdaus et al., 2025). Broader welfare outcomes are explored through integrated social spending (Herlin et al., 2025) and education-driven poverty reduction (Lestari et al., 2025). Emerging trends in fundraising, such as online cash waqf adoption among students (Wibowo et al., 2025) and Generation Z's engagement with Cash Waqf Linked Deposits (Fuadi et al., 2025), signal a shift toward digitalization. Governance remains critical, with studies assessing accountability post-ISAK 35 (Hendra et al., 2025) and regulatory effectiveness in Aceh (Siregar et al., 2025).

The Halal Industry and Ecosystem theme underscores the sector's complexity and growth potential. Contributions range from efficiency analysis in halal food MSMEs (Fitriyanti & Wulandari, 2025) to consumer behavior in cosmetics (Ru'yat & Hayati, 2025) and innovative approaches to halal tourism development (Pasarela et al., 2025). To safeguard integrity, Parakkasi and Akib (2025) propose a digital assurance framework leveraging blockchain and IoT.

In Institutional Governance, Theory, and Sustainability, scholars advance frameworks that align Islamic finance with global development goals. Rafiqi et al. (2025) introduce a *Maqasid*-based ESG model, while Marimin et al. (2025) explore localized SDG implementation through village enterprises and *Pesantren*. Theoretical contributions include Islamic wage theory (Nurlaela & Haryono, 2025) and semiotic perspectives on profit-sharing (Cahya et al., 2025). Practical insights emerge from studies on mosque-based economic knowledge management (Syahputra et al., 2025) and service recovery strategies (Arifin et al., 2025).

Finally, Financial Markets, Technology, and Banking Efficiency highlight the sector's adaptability in a digital era. Comparative banking efficiency studies (Pratama et al., 2025), capital market responses to political transitions (Suhadi & Maharany, 2025), and bibliometric analyses of blockchain (Thaha & Yunus, 2025) illustrate this evolution. Research on financial literacy's mediating role in Gen Z investment decisions (Warsitasari & Hidayati, 2025) and its influence on consumption patterns (Subhan et al., 2025) further emphasizes the intersection of technology and behavior. Together, these contributions reaffirm Islamic economics as a dynamic field capable of addressing contemporary challenges while remaining anchored in ethical and spiritual principles.

## SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

The research compiled in this volume carries significant implications for policy formulation, industry practice, and academic inquiry. Empirical validations of *Zakat–Waqf* integration, such as those by Alfian et al. (2025) and Herlin et al. (2025), provide policymakers with evidence-based models to strengthen MSME resilience and enhance national welfare. The emphasis on digital transformation, reflected in blockchain-based halal assurance (Parakkasi & Akib, 2025) and fintech adoption among younger cohorts (Fuadi et al., 2025), signals a decisive shift toward modernizing Shariah-compliant ecosystems. These contributions urge regulators to accelerate digital infrastructure development and codify robust governance standards, including accountability measures such as ISAK 35 highlighted by Hendra et al. (2025).

From a theoretical perspective, the issue enriches Islamic economic thought through conceptual innovations, notably Nurlaela and Haryono's (2025) Islamic wage theory and Rafiqi et al.'s (2025) Maqasid-based ESG framework, offering fresh lenses that challenge conventional paradigms. Equally important is the harmonization of local wisdom with global standards, demonstrated in localized SDG implementation (Marimin et al., 2025) and *Gampong*-based tourism models (Pasarela et al., 2025). Collectively, these insights affirm that Islamic finance is not only economically viable but also socially impactful and environmentally sustainable, positioning it as a cornerstone for inclusive and ethical development.

## CONCLUSION

This volume stands as a testament to the depth and dynamism of contemporary scholarship in Islamic economics and finance. The diverse contributions—ranging from theoretical advancements to empirical applications of digital technologies—reflect the sector's growing capacity to address complex economic challenges while maintaining ethical and spiritual foundations. We are confident that the insights presented here will inspire further research and serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, regulators, and practitioners committed to building a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable financial system.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the authors whose expertise and dedication have shaped this issue, and to our reviewers and editorial board members for their unwavering commitment to scholarly rigor. Finally, we thank our readers for their continued engagement and support, which remain central to the mission of *Share: Jurnal Ekonomi dan Keuangan Islam*.

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