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Islamic Fintech and Financial Inclusion: Bridging the Gap in the Digital Economy

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ABSTRAK

Pesatnya perkembangan layanan keuangan digital telah mengubah wacana global mengenai inklusi keuangan. Namun, lebih dari satu miliar orang dewasa sebagian besar di antaranya berada di negara-negara dengan mayoritas penduduk Muslim masih belum memiliki akses terhadap sistem keuangan formal, sebagian karena produk keuangan konvensional tidak sejalan dengan prinsip-prinsip syariah. Fintech syariah muncul sebagai instrumen strategis yang mengintegrasikan kepatuhan terhadap syariah dengan inovasi digital untuk menjembatani kesenjangan tersebut. Artikel ini mensintesis literatur terkini (2023–2026) mengenai hubungan antara fintech syariah dan inklusi keuangan dalam ekonomi digital dengan mengkaji berbagai penelitian yang telah melalui proses peer-review dan terindeks dalam basis data Google Scholar dan Consensus. Dengan menggunakan metode tinjauan naratif kualitatif yang disusun melalui tahapan identifikasi, penyaringan, seleksi kelayakan, dan sintesis, penelitian ini memetakan berbagai instrumen, faktor pendorong, serta hambatan yang memengaruhi adopsi fintech syariah, termasuk perbankan syariah digital, pembiayaan syariah berbasis peer-to-peer, platform digital zakat dan wakaf, serta instrumen berbasis blockchain. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa harmonisasi regulasi, tata kelola syariah, literasi digital, dan kepercayaan masyarakat merupakan faktor penentu utama dalam meningkatkan inklusi keuangan, sementara persoalan fiqh muamalah yang belum terselesaikan serta keterbatasan infrastruktur di wilayah pedesaan masih menjadi hambatan yang signifikan. Artikel ini memberikan kontribusi berupa kerangka integratif yang menghubungkan maqāṣid al-syarīʿah dengan indikator inklusi keuangan digital serta menawarkan implikasi kebijakan bagi regulator, lembaga keuangan syariah, dan pengembang fintech dalam mendorong partisipasi ekonomi digital yang lebih adil dan inklusif.

Kata Kunci: fintech syariah; inklusi keuangan; ekonomi digital; maqāṣid al-syarīʿah; tata kelola syariah

ABSTRACT

The rapid expansion of digital financial services has reshaped the global discourse on financial inclusion, yet more than a billion adults, a large share of them in Muslim-majority countries, remain excluded from formal financial systems, partly because conventional products conflict with Shariah principles. Islamic fintech has emerged as a strategic instrument that merges religious compliance with digital innovation to close this gap. This article synthesizes recent literature (2023-2026) on the relationship between Islamic fintech and financial inclusion within the digital economy, drawing on peer-reviewed studies indexed through Google Scholar and Consensus databases. Using a qualitative narrative-review method structured around identification, screening, eligibility, and synthesis stages, the study maps the instruments, drivers, and barriers shaping Islamic fintech adoption, including digital sharia banking, peer-to-peer sharia financing, digital zakat and waqf platforms, and blockchain-based instruments. The findings show that regulatory harmonization, *Shariah governance, digital literacy, and public trust are decisive determinants of inclusion outcomes, while unresolved fiqh muamalah issues and infrastructural gaps in rural regions remain persistent obstacles. The article contributes an integrative framework linking maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah with digital financial inclusion indicators and offers policy implications for regulators, Islamic financial institutions, and fintech developers seeking equitable digital economic participation.*

Keywords: *Islamic fintech; financial inclusion; digital economy; maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah; Shariah governance*

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INTRODUCTION

Financial inclusion has become one of the central pillars of sustainable development, recognized by the World Bank and the G20 as a prerequisite for reducing poverty, narrowing income inequality, and accelerating inclusive economic growth. Despite two decades of global effort, a substantial share of the world's adult population still lacks access to formal financial services. This exclusion is disproportionately concentrated in Muslim-majority countries across South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where religious considerations intersect with structural barriers such as low income, limited documentation, geographic remoteness, and weak financial infrastructure. A significant portion of the unbanked population in these regions cites religious reasons, namely the incompatibility of conventional interest-based financial products with Islamic principles of muamalah, as a primary reason for remaining outside the formal financial system. This phenomenon, often referred to as "voluntary self-exclusion," represents a distinct and underexplored dimension of the global financial inclusion problem that conventional fintech solutions alone cannot resolve.

The convergence of Islamic finance and financial technology, commonly termed Islamic fintech, has emerged as a promising response to this dual challenge. Islamic fintech refers to the application of digital technologies, including mobile applications, blockchain, artificial intelligence, and digital platforms, to deliver Shariah-compliant financial products and services such as digital sharia banking, peer-to-peer (P2P) sharia financing, sharia-compliant crowdfunding, digital zakat and waqf management, and Islamic digital currencies. This digital revolution has fundamentally reshaped the delivery channels of Islamic financial services, shifting service provision from branch-based, relationship-intensive models toward app-based, data-driven platforms capable of reaching customers at substantially lower marginal cost (Haris & Manangin, 2024). Unlike conventional fintech, which is primarily driven by efficiency and profit motives, Islamic fintech is anchored in the maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, the higher objectives of Islamic law that emphasize the protection of wealth, the promotion of social justice, and the equitable distribution of economic resources. This normative foundation positions Islamic fintech not merely as a technological innovation but as a civilizational and ethical instrument capable of advancing both religious compliance and socio-economic empowerment (Smolo, 2026).

Empirical evidence increasingly supports the transformative potential of Islamic fintech in advancing financial inclusion. Cross-country analyses covering more than sixty countries indicate that Islamic financial technology exerts a measurable positive influence on digital financial inclusion, which in turn contributes to sustainable development outcomes, particularly in the post-COVID-19 recovery period when digital channels became the primary mode of financial access (Mohamed & Otake, 2025). Similarly, studies in Indonesia, the country with the world's largest Muslim population, demonstrate that the integration of sharia fintech products with digital financial inclusion strategies has helped extend formal financial access to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and underserved rural households (Rofik & Huda, 2025; Widagdo et al., 2026). These findings are reinforced by evidence that Islamic fintech lending mechanisms have a discernible positive effect on the performance of microenterprises, as demonstrated through difference-in-difference estimation techniques applied to Indonesian data (Kholidah et al., 2025).

Despite this growing body of evidence, the literature on Islamic fintech and financial inclusion remains fragmented across disciplinary boundaries, geographic contexts, and methodological approaches. Several studies focus narrowly on specific instruments, such as sharia crowdfunding platforms (Kassim et al., 2025) or digital currencies (Jihad et al., 2024), without situating these instruments within a broader conceptual framework linking them to the maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah and measurable inclusion outcomes. Other studies emphasize macro-level asset growth and stakeholder attitudes (Muin et al., 2025) but pay limited attention to the governance, regulatory, and digital literacy factors that mediate the translation of fintech adoption into actual inclusion gains. Meanwhile, comparative studies contrasting Islamic and conventional fintech systems (Malik & Shahzad, 2025) tend to prioritize performance metrics over the socio-religious dimensions that differentiate Islamic fintech from its conventional counterpart. This fragmentation limits the capacity of policymakers, regulators, and industry practitioners to design coherent, evidence-based strategies for accelerating Shariah-compliant digital financial inclusion.

The urgency of this discussion is amplified by the sheer scale of the digital economy in Muslim-majority markets. Indonesia's digital economy alone is projected to continue its rapid expansion through the second half of the 2020s, driven by e-commerce, digital payments, and a young, mobile-first population, while similar trajectories are observed across Malaysia, Pakistan, and several Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Within this environment, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) constitute the backbone of employment and economic activity, yet a large proportion continue to face constraints in accessing formal, Shariah-compliant financing. Islamic fintech innovations such as sharia-compliant peer-to-peer lending, digital crowdfunding, and mobile-based sharia banking have begun to fill this financing gap by lowering transaction costs, reducing information asymmetry, and reaching customers in geographically dispersed areas that conventional Islamic bank branches cannot economically serve (Anggara & Nuraeni, 2025; Alfian et al., 2025). At the same time, digital instruments for social finance, including online zakat, infaq, sadaqah, and cash-waqf platforms, have expanded the reach of Islamic social finance beyond its traditional community-based collection model, creating new channels through which redistribution-oriented Islamic finance can contribute directly to financial inclusion objectives (Wahyudi et al., 2024).

However, the diffusion of these innovations is neither uniform nor automatic. Evidence from Indonesia and other emerging markets indicates that structural obstacles, including limited digital infrastructure in eastern and rural regions, low sharia financial literacy, and persistent skepticism toward digital-only financial relationships, continue to constrain the inclusive potential of Islamic fintech (Pajaria, 2025; Mujiatun et al., 2023). These constraints are compounded by regulatory fragmentation: because Islamic fintech operates at the intersection of financial technology regulation and Shariah supervisory oversight, product innovation frequently outpaces the capacity of regulators and Shariah boards to issue timely, harmonized guidance, creating uncertainty for both providers and prospective users (Muryanto, 2023). Addressing these interlocking technological, social, and regulatory dimensions requires a more integrative and up-to-date synthesis than has been offered by prior single-instrument or single-country studies.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative narrative literature review method designed to synthesize recent scholarly evidence on Islamic fintech and financial inclusion within the digital economy. The narrative review approach was selected over a strict systematic review or meta-analysis because the literature on Islamic fintech remains conceptually and methodologically heterogeneous, spanning legal, economic, and technological perspectives that are better integrated through thematic synthesis than statistical pooling.

Data Sources and Search Strategy

Data were collected from peer-reviewed journal articles indexed and discoverable through Google Scholar and the Consensus academic search platform, using combinations of the keywords "Islamic fintech," "sharia fintech," "financial inclusion," "digital economy," and "maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah." The search was restricted to publications from 2023 through early 2026 to ensure the currency of the evidence base, with priority given to sources reporting an active, resolvable digital object identifier (DOI).

Selection Procedure

The selection process followed four sequential stages, adapted from standard identification-screening-eligibility-inclusion review procedures: (1) identification of candidate records through database searching; (2) screening of titles and abstracts for topical relevance to Islamic fintech and financial inclusion; (3) eligibility assessment based on full-text review, publication type (peer-reviewed journal article), and verification of an active DOI; and (4) inclusion of studies that met all criteria in the final synthesis. This process yielded twenty-five studies that form the evidentiary basis of the results and discussion presented in Section 3. The procedure is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Study Selection and Synthesis Procedure

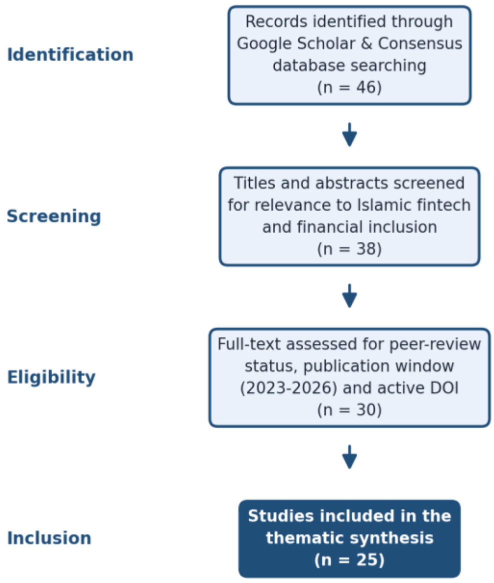

Figure 1. Study Selection and Synthesis Procedure

Analytical Approach

The included studies were analyzed using thematic synthesis. Each article was coded according to (a) the Islamic fintech instrument examined, (b) the financial inclusion mechanism or outcome addressed, (c) the enabling or constraining factors identified, and (d) the geographic and methodological context. These codes were then clustered into overarching themes, which are presented and discussed in Section 3, alongside a comparative summary table of Islamic fintech instruments and their inclusion mechanisms.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The thematic synthesis of the twenty-five reviewed studies reveals five interrelated themes that characterize the current state of Islamic fintech's contribution to financial inclusion in the digital economy: (1) digital sharia banking and mobile-based access; (2) sharia-compliant P2P financing and crowdfunding for MSMEs; (3) digital Islamic social finance instruments; (4) blockchain, digital currencies, and artificial intelligence; and (5) the governance, trust, and literacy determinants that mediate inclusion outcomes. Table 1 summarizes the principal Islamic fintech instruments identified across the reviewed literature, their primary financial inclusion mechanism, and representative supporting studies.

Table 1. Islamic Fintech Instruments and Financial Inclusion Mechanisms

Islamic Fintech Instrument	**Primary Financial Inclusion Mechanism**	**Representative Studies**
Digital sharia banking & mobile applications	Extends low-cost, branchless access to savings, payment, and transaction accounts	Mohamed & Otake (2025); Rofik & Huda (2025); Sari (2025)
Sharia-compliant P2P financing & equity crowdfunding	Provides profit-and-loss-sharing financing to unbanked and underbanked MSMEs	Anggara & Nuraeni (2025); Kholidah et al. (2025); Kassim et al. (2025)
Digital zakat, infaq, sadaqah & cash-waqf platforms	Mobilizes redistributive social finance for productive economic empowerment	Wahyudi et al. (2024); Rohman et al. (2026); Alsaghir (2023)
Blockchain-based instruments & Islamic digital currencies	Lowers cross-border transaction costs and extends remittance/trade-finance access	Jihad et al. (2024); Malik & Shahzad (2025)
AI-driven robo-advisory & alternative credit scoring	Extends tailored financial planning and risk assessment to underserved retail customers	Malik & Shahzad (2025); Kanwal et al. (2023)
Sharia investment & regulatory-technology (regtech) platforms	Aligns national investment policy and Shariah supervision with inclusive digital economy goals	Said et al. (2025); Muryanto (2023)

Digital Sharia Banking and Mobile-Based Access

The first and most extensively documented theme concerns the expansion of digital sharia banking channels, including mobile banking applications, digital-only Islamic banks, and agent-based banking models. Evidence from cross-country analysis covering sixty-four countries demonstrates that Islamic FinTech exerts a statistically significant positive effect on digital financial inclusion, and that this relationship strengthened notably in the period following the COVID-19 pandemic as physical branch visits declined and digital channels became the default mode of access (Mohamed & Otake, 2025). This finding is corroborated by studies in Indonesia showing that the integration of sharia fintech with digital financial inclusion strategies has extended formal financial access to segments of the population previously reliant on informal or non-Shariah-compliant financial arrangements (Rofik & Huda, 2025). Complementary evidence from a systematic review of fintech adoption models indicates that established technology-adoption frameworks, such as the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology, explain a meaningful share of variance in sharia financial inclusion outcomes, with perceived religiosity and perceived usefulness emerging as particularly strong predictors in Muslim-majority contexts (Sari, 2025). Collectively, these findings confirm that digital sharia banking functions as a foundational layer upon which more specialized Islamic fintech instruments are built. This foundational role is reinforced by evidence on the broader nexus between financial technologies, financial inclusion, and blockchain within Islamic finance, which shows that digital transformation and distributed-ledger applications complement rather than substitute for core sharia banking infrastructure (Kanwal et al., 2023). Survey-based evidence from the United Kingdom further indicates that, even in a non-Muslim-majority regulatory environment, usage intensity, perceived service quality, and expectations of continued patronage are significant positive predictors of the extent to which Islamic fintech products advance financial inclusion, suggesting that the demand-side mechanisms identified in Muslim-majority markets generalize, at least partially, to minority-Muslim contexts (Olowoyo, 2024). Complementing these demand-side findings, policy-oriented research proposes that optimizing sharia investment regulation in tandem with fintech development is essential for translating individual product-level gains into a coherent, inclusive digital economy at the national level (Said et al., 2025).

Sharia-Compliant P2P Financing and Crowdfunding for MSMEs

The second theme centers on the role of Islamic fintech in addressing the financing gap faced by micro, small, and medium enterprises. A comprehensive review of emerging trends between 2018 and 2024 finds that Islamic FinTech platforms, particularly peer-to-peer financing and equity-based crowdfunding, have measurably enhanced the sustainability of SMEs by lowering barriers to entry and offering financing structures grounded in profit-and-loss sharing rather than interest (Anggara & Nuraeni, 2025). This is reinforced by evidence using a difference-in-difference estimation strategy in Indonesia, which finds that access to Islamic fintech lending is associated with measurable improvements in microenterprise performance relative to comparable enterprises without such access (Kholidah et al., 2025). A related strand of evidence employing fuzzy agent-based modeling of Islamic crowdfunding platforms identifies governance quality, technological reliability, regulatory clarity, user trust, digital literacy, and macroeconomic stability as the six interacting variables that jointly determine whether crowdfunding platforms translate into sustained financial inclusion gains rather than short-lived participation spikes (Kassim et al., 2025). This modeling evidence is significant because it moves beyond a simple adoption narrative to show that inclusion outcomes are the product of a dynamic system rather than a single technological intervention.

Digital Islamic Social Finance Instruments

The third theme concerns the digitalization of Islamic social finance instruments, namely zakat, infaq, sadaqah, and waqf. Evidence from Indonesia indicates that the integration of crowdfunding platforms with digital waqf (e-Wakaf) mechanisms has broadened the base of contributors beyond traditional community networks, particularly among younger, digitally native donors, thereby channeling additional resources toward productive social and economic empowerment programs during the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolution period (Wahyudi et al., 2024). Because these instruments are explicitly redistributive rather than purely commercial, they align closely with the maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah objective of protecting wealth (ḥifẓ al-māl) and promoting social justice, and several reviewed studies argue that digital social finance should be treated as a distinct pillar of Islamic fintech-driven inclusion rather than a peripheral add-on to commercial products (Rohman et al., 2026; Alsaghir, 2023).

Blockchain, Digital Currencies, and Artificial Intelligence

The fourth theme reflects the growing, though still emergent, role of blockchain infrastructure, Islamic digital currencies, and artificial intelligence within the Islamic fintech ecosystem. Comparative evidence on digital disruption in Islamic finance between 2020 and 2025 shows that Islamic financial institutions have adopted blockchain-based smart contracts and AI-driven credit scoring at a slower pace than their conventional counterparts, primarily due to unresolved questions regarding the Shariah permissibility of certain blockchain-based instruments and the algorithmic opacity of AI-driven decision-making (Malik & Shahzad, 2025). Nevertheless, exploratory studies on Islamic digital currencies suggest that blockchain-based instruments, when designed with explicit Shariah governance safeguards, hold considerable promise for reducing transaction costs and extending access to cross-border remittance and trade-financing services for underserved populations (Jihad et al., 2024). Similarly, the broader digital-disruption literature identifies AI-enabled robo-advisory and risk-assessment tools as innovations capable of extending sophisticated financial planning services to previously underserved retail customers, provided that algorithmic design is subjected to appropriate Shariah and ethical oversight (Malik & Shahzad, 2025).

Governance, Trust, and Digital Literacy as Determinants

The fifth and most cross-cutting theme concerns the enabling and constraining conditions that mediate whether Islamic fintech adoption translates into genuine financial inclusion. Multiple reviewed studies converge on the finding that Shariah financial literacy functions not merely as a control variable but as a moderating factor that strengthens the relationship between Islamic fintech adoption and financial inclusion outcomes, implying that literacy interventions can amplify the impact of existing fintech infrastructure without requiring additional platform investment (Mujiatun et al., 2023). Regulatory ambiguity represents an equally significant constraint: a comparative legal study of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom finds that the pace of Shariah-compliance regulation for Islamic fintechs varies considerably across jurisdictions, creating compliance uncertainty that can deter both institutional investment and consumer trust (Muryanto, 2023). Structural barriers further compound these challenges; research on Islamic banking inclusion in banking digitalization identifies persistent obstacles related to uneven telecommunications infrastructure, particularly in eastern Indonesia and other rural regions, which limits the reach of otherwise well-designed digital sharia financial products (Pajaria, 2025).

Synthesis: Toward an Integrative Framework

Taken together, these five themes support the article's central argument that Islamic fintech's contribution to financial inclusion cannot be adequately understood through a purely technology-adoption lens. Rather, inclusion outcomes emerge from the interaction between (a) the availability of Shariah-compliant digital instruments across commercial, financing, and social finance categories; (b) the quality of Shariah governance and regulatory harmonization; and (c) demand-side factors, particularly digital and sharia financial literacy and trust. This tripartite interaction directly addresses the novelty articulated in Section 1: it operationalizes the maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, specifically the objectives of wealth protection and social justice, as measurable dimensions embedded within each Islamic fintech instrument category shown in Table 1, while simultaneously accounting for the regulatory and literacy-related frictions that determine whether technological potential is realized in practice. Studies examining the evolution of Islamic finance asset growth patterns further suggest that stakeholder attitudes, including those of regulators and Shariah scholars, are gradually converging toward greater openness to digital transformation, which bodes well for the future harmonization of regulation and innovation (Muin et al., 2025). Nonetheless, the persistence of literacy gaps and infrastructural disparities documented across the reviewed studies indicates that closing the financial inclusion gap will require coordinated action from regulators, Islamic financial institutions, fintech developers, and community-based educational programs, rather than reliance on technological innovation alone.

Policy and Managerial Implications

The synthesis presented above carries several concrete implications for the three principal stakeholder groups engaged in advancing Shariah-compliant digital financial inclusion. For financial sector regulators and Shariah supervisory authorities, the evidence on regulatory fragmentation across Indonesia, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom (Muryanto, 2023) suggests that greater cross-jurisdictional harmonization of Shariah-compliance standards for fintech products, potentially coordinated through bodies such as the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions, could reduce compliance uncertainty and accelerate responsible innovation. Given that fuzzy agent-based modeling identifies regulatory clarity as one of six interacting determinants of crowdfunding platform success (Kassim et al., 2025), regulators should treat timely, predictable rule-making as a direct lever for financial inclusion rather than a purely administrative function.

For Islamic financial institutions and fintech developers, the finding that Shariah financial literacy moderates the fintech-inclusion relationship (Mujiatun et al., 2023) implies that embedding literacy-building features directly within digital platforms, such as in-app educational content, transparent profit-and-loss-sharing calculators, and multilingual customer support, may generate greater inclusion returns than continued investment in platform features alone. Likewise, the evidence that Islamic fintech lending improves microenterprise performance (Kholidah et al., 2025) suggests that financing product design should prioritize MSME-specific risk assessment tools calibrated to informal-sector income patterns, rather than applying conventional credit-scoring models that systematically disadvantage informal micro-entrepreneurs.

For community organizations and educational institutions, the demonstrated success of digital waqf and crowdfunding integration in expanding the donor base among younger, digitally native populations (Wahyudi et al., 2024) points to an underused channel for both social finance mobilization and financial literacy outreach, since digital social finance platforms can simultaneously serve redistributive and educational functions. Community-based digital literacy programs, delivered in partnership with mosques, Islamic schools, and local cooperatives, could therefore complement top-down regulatory and institutional interventions by addressing the demand-side trust and literacy barriers identified in Section 3.5.

Limitations of the Reviewed Evidence

Several limitations of the underlying evidence base warrant acknowledgment. First, the majority of the reviewed empirical studies concentrate on Indonesia, which, while representing the world's largest Muslim population and therefore a substantively important context, limits the generalizability of specific quantitative findings to other regions such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, South Asia, or Sub-Saharan Africa, where regulatory environments and digital infrastructure differ considerably. Second, several of the reviewed studies rely on cross-sectional survey designs, which constrain the extent to which causal claims can be made about the relationship between Islamic fintech adoption and financial inclusion outcomes, even where techniques such as difference-in-difference estimation (Kholidah et al., 2025) or structural equation modeling (Mohamed & Otake, 2025) have been employed to strengthen inferential validity. Third, because this article adopts a narrative rather than a systematic meta-analytic review protocol, formal risk-of-bias assessment and effect-size pooling were beyond its scope; future research employing systematic review or bibliometric methods, as demonstrated for Islamic banking's broader economic-growth literature (Farah et al., 2025), would usefully complement the thematic synthesis presented here by quantifying the strength and consistency of the reported relationships. These limitations, rather than undermining the article's contribution, help define a clear agenda for the more targeted empirical research called for in Section 4.

CONCLUSION

This article has examined how Islamic fintech contributes to bridging the persistent financial inclusion gap within an increasingly digitalized global economy. Synthesizing twenty-five recent studies published between 2023 and 2026, the review identifies five interrelated instrument categories, digital sharia banking, sharia-compliant P2P financing and crowdfunding, digital Islamic social finance, blockchain-based and AI-driven innovations, and their common dependence on governance quality, regulatory harmonization, digital literacy, and trust as decisive mediating conditions. The evidence consistently shows that Islamic fintech adoption alone does not guarantee inclusion outcomes; rather, inclusion is realized only when Shariah-compliant technological instruments are embedded within a supportive regulatory and educational ecosystem. By explicitly linking these operational findings to the maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah objectives of wealth protection and social justice, this article offers an integrative conceptual framework that extends beyond the fragmented, instrument-specific, or single-country focus of much of the prior literature.

The findings carry practical significance for regulators, who are encouraged to pursue cross-jurisdictional harmonization of Shariah-compliance standards; for Islamic financial institutions and fintech developers, who should embed literacy-building and MSME-appropriate risk assessment features directly within their platforms; and for community and educational institutions, which can leverage digital social finance instruments as dual-purpose channels for both resource mobilization and financial literacy outreach. Future research would benefit from systematic reviews or bibliometric analyses that quantify effect sizes across contexts, longitudinal studies capable of establishing causal inference, and comparative research extending beyond Indonesia to Gulf Cooperation Council, South Asian, and Sub-Saharan African contexts, where the interaction between Islamic fintech, regulatory maturity, and financial inclusion remains comparatively underexplored. Ultimately, realizing the full inclusive potential of Islamic fintech will require sustained, coordinated action among regulators, industry, and communities, guided by both technological innovation and fidelity to the ethical objectives that distinguish Islamic finance within the broader digital economy

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