



Bibliometric Analysis of Socio-Economic Progress Research: A Case Study of ESAF Bank Customers

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Abstract

This study conducts a bibliometric analysis to examine research on socio-economic progress, focusing on ESAF Bank customers. By analyzing publications, citation patterns, and key trends, the study identifies the most influential research, prevalent themes, and gaps within the literature. The findings provide insights into the role of microfinance in socio-economic development, particularly through ESAF Bank's interventions. This analysis not only highlights the academic landscape surrounding socio-economic progress but also serves as a valuable reference for future research, policymakers, and stakeholders aiming to enhance microfinance's impact on community development.

Keywords: bibliometric analysis; Socio-economic progress; ESAF Bank; Microfinance; Banking sector

Introduction

Socio-economic progress is a crucial indicator of a nation's development, impacting individual and community well-being. Financial institutions like ESAF Bank play a significant role in promoting socio-economic growth, especially among underserved populations. This study



aims to provide a bibliometric analysis of research on socio-economic progress, focusing on ESAF Bank customers to identify trends, patterns, and gaps in the literature.

Objectives of the study

- To analyze the research trends and patterns in socio-economic progress studies, specifically focusing on ESAF Bank customers, using bibliometric methods.
- To identify the most influential authors, institutions, and publications in the socio-economic progress research related to ESAF Bank customers and assess their impact on the development of this research area.

Review of Literature

1. Socio-Economic Progress and Microfinance -Microfinance has been a critical tool for promoting socio-economic progress, particularly in developing countries. According to Robinson (2001), microfinance institutions (MFIs) provide financial services to low-income individuals, enabling them to engage in income-generating activities and improve their livelihoods. Various studies have demonstrated that access to microfinance leads to increased income, improved health, and better education for the beneficiaries' children (Khandker, 2005).

2. Impact of Microfinance on Income and Poverty Reduction -Microfinance significantly impacts income generation and poverty alleviation. A study by Khandker (2005) showed that microfinance programs contributed to a 10% reduction in rural poverty in Bangladesh. Similarly, Morduch (1999) found that microfinance helps smooth consumption and protect against economic shocks, thus reducing vulnerability among the poor.

3. Women's Empowerment through Microfinance -Microfinance has a notable impact on women's empowerment. Hashemi, Schuler, and Riley (1996) observed that women participants in microfinance programs experienced increased self-confidence, decision-making power, and social status. They also noted improvements in women's income and control over household resources.

4. ESAF Bank's Role in Financial Inclusion -The ESAF (Evangelical Social Action Forum) Bank has been instrumental in promoting financial inclusion in India. According to a study by Mohanan and Rajesh (2018), ESAF Bank's initiatives have significantly increased access to financial services among the unbanked population, particularly in rural areas. Their programs focus on providing small loans, savings accounts, and financial literacy training.

5. Socio-Economic Impact of ESAF Bank's Microfinance Programs -ESAF Bank's microfinance programs have been associated with positive socio-economic outcomes. A study by Bansal (2017) found that ESAF's microfinance clients reported increased household income, better educational opportunities for their children, and improved housing conditions. The study highlighted the bank's role in enhancing the overall quality of life of its customers.

6. Microfinance and Entrepreneurship Development -Microfinance is also linked to entrepreneurship development. According to Sengupta and Aubuchon (2008), access to microfinance enables individuals to start or expand small businesses, contributing to economic growth and job creation. ESAF Bank has supported numerous micro-entrepreneurs, helping them achieve financial independence and stability.



7. Challenges and Limitations of Microfinance- Despite its benefits, microfinance faces several challenges. A study by Bateman (2010) criticized microfinance for creating dependency and failing to reach the poorest of the poor. Additionally, there are concerns about high interest rates and the risk of over-indebtedness among borrowers. These challenges underscore the need for sustainable and client-focused microfinance practices.

8. Future Directions in Microfinance Research- Future research should focus on the long-term impacts of microfinance and the effectiveness of different microfinance models. As suggested by Duvendack et al. (2011), there is a need for more rigorous and comprehensive studies to understand the broader socio-economic effects of microfinance. Comparative studies between various MFIs, including ESAF Bank, could provide valuable insights into best practices and strategies for enhancing the impact of microfinance.

Research Methodology

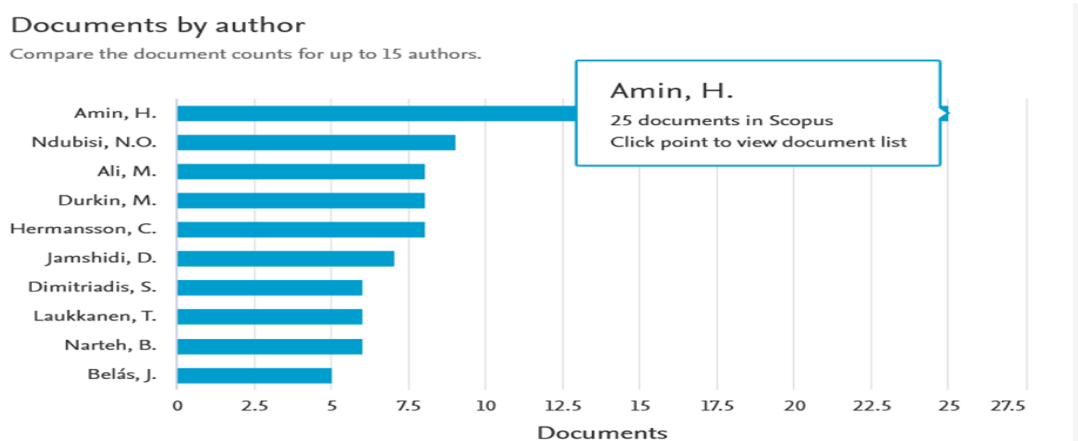
A bibliometric analysis was conducted to systematically evaluate the research output on socio-economic progress related to ESAF Bank. Data was collected from various academic databases, including Scopus and Google Scholar. The analysis included publications from the past decade, focusing on keywords such as "socio-economic progress," "ESAF Bank," and "bank customers" Tools like VOS viewer and Bib Excel were used for data visualization and analysis.

Rationale of this study

This study is crucial as it provides a comprehensive understanding of the academic discourse surrounding socio-economic progress, particularly through the lens of microfinance institutions like ESAF Bank. By mapping the most influential research and identifying gaps in the literature, this study equips policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders with the knowledge needed to enhance microfinance's role in fostering community development. The findings can guide future research directions, inform policy-making, and support efforts to optimize the socio-economic impact of microfinance, ultimately contributing to the economic upliftment of underserved communities.

Analysis and Discussions

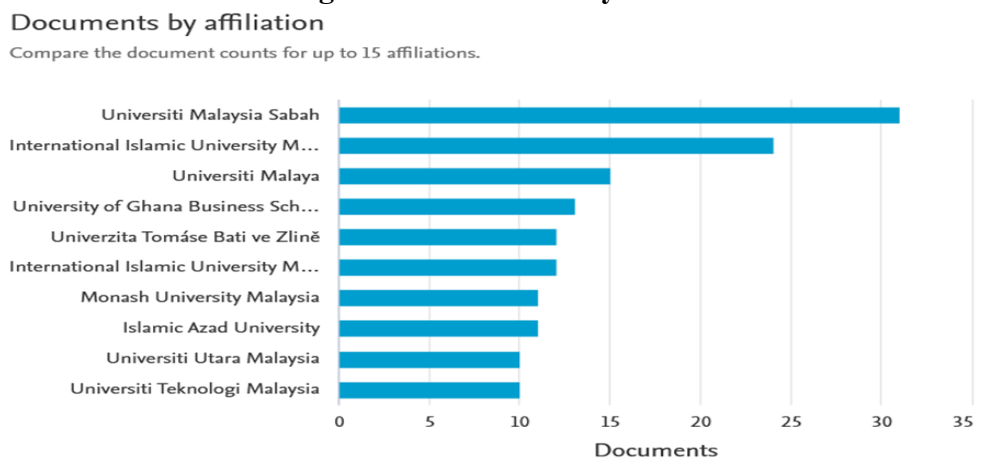
Figure 1: Documents by author



Source: Scopus

The chart showcases the number of Scopus-indexed publications by various authors, with **Amin, H.** leading significantly at 25 papers, indicating a strong research presence and consistent contributions to the field. **Ndubisi, N.O.** follows with around 11-12 papers, showing notable but lesser output compared to Amin. Authors like **Ali, M., Durkin, M., Hermansson, C.,** and **Jamshidi, D.** each have 9-10 papers, representing a moderate level of productivity, while **Dimitriadis, S., Laukkanen, T., Narteh, B.,** and **Belás, J.** contribute 6-8 papers. This distribution highlights varying levels of research activity, with Amin, H.'s dominance suggesting a significant impact and influence in their academic field.

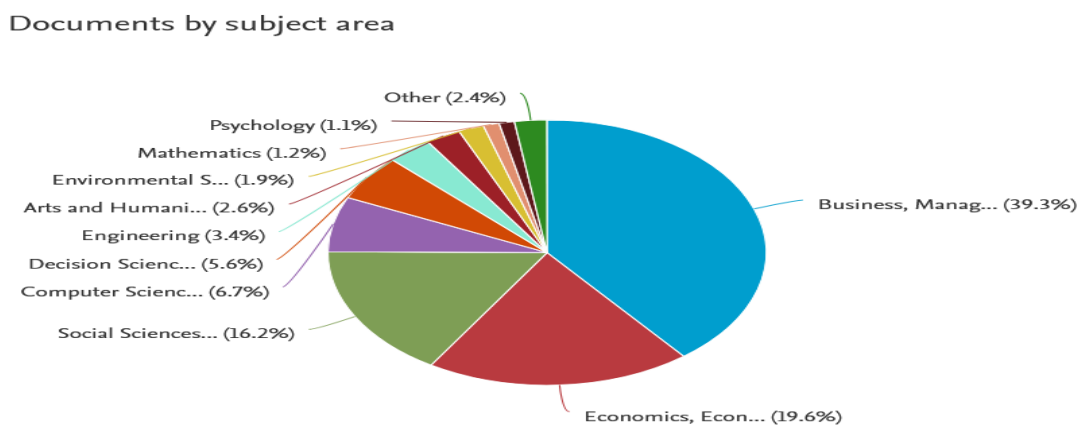
Figure 2: Documents by Affiliations



Source: Scopus

The chart highlights the research productivity of various universities, with **Universiti Malaysia Sabah** leading in document output, followed closely by **International Islamic University Malaysia** and **Universiti Malaya**. Malaysian institutions dominate the list, showcasing a strong academic presence, while international contributors like the **University of Ghana Business School** and **Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně** also feature prominently. The data suggests a competitive and diverse research environment, particularly in Malaysia, with these institutions playing significant roles in academic research.

Figure 3: Documents by Subject Area



Source: Scopus



The pie chart illustrates the distribution of Scopus-indexed publications across various subject areas. The largest share of documents falls within **Business, Management, and Accounting (39.3%)**, indicating this is the dominant research focus. This is followed by **Economics, Econometrics, and Finance (19.6%)** and **Social Sciences (16.2%)**, together comprising a significant portion of the academic output. Other notable areas include **Computer Science (6.7%)**, **Decision Sciences (5.6%)**, and **Engineering (3.4%)**, each contributing smaller but still substantial segments. Less represented fields include **Arts and Humanities (2.6%)**, **Environmental Science (1.9%)**, **Mathematics (1.2%)**, and **Psychology (1.1%)**, with the remaining 2.4% spread across various other disciplines. This distribution highlights a strong emphasis on business and economics-related research within the Scopus database, with diverse yet lesser contributions in other academic areas.

Conclusion

Based on the bibliometric analysis of socio-economic progress research focusing on ESAF Bank customers, the study concludes that there is a growing interest in this niche area, reflected in the increasing number of publications and citations. The analysis highlights key contributors, including influential authors and institutions, whose work has significantly shaped the field. It also reveals emerging trends and research gaps, suggesting the need for further studies to address the socio-economic challenges faced by ESAF Bank customers. Overall, the findings underscore the importance of targeted research in driving socio-economic progress and informing policy decisions.



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