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A Maslahah-Based Sustainable Islamic Digital Finance Ecosystem Model

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: *The rapid advancement of digital technologies is reshaping Islamic finance by creating opportunities for greater financial inclusion, operational efficiency, and innovation. However, this transformation also presents challenges related to sustainability, organizational capability, Sharia compliance, and customer trust. Despite the growing literature on Islamic digital finance, existing studies remain fragmented and lack an integrative framework explaining how technological transformation can generate sustainable value and broader social welfare. This study aims to develop a maṣlaḥah-oriented conceptual model of a sustainable Islamic digital finance ecosystem.*

Methods: *This study employed a Grounded Theory approach based on bibliometric literature analysis. The data consisted of 67 Scopus-indexed publications on Islamic banking and digital transformation published between 2022 and 2026. The publications were retrieved using Publish or Perish and analyzed through NVivo 12. The analytical process involved three stages: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding, supported by word frequency analysis, cluster analysis, and concept mapping to identify key themes, relationships, and conceptual dimensions of the sustainable Islamic digital finance ecosystem.*

Results: *The findings identify five interrelated dimensions shaping the sustainable Islamic digital finance ecosystem: (1) Digital Transformation of Islamic Financial Ecosystems, (2) Islamic Digital Finance Sustainability, (3) Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization, (4) Technology-Enabled Ethical and Efficient Finance, and (5) Customer-Centric Financial Service Excellence. The integration of these dimensions demonstrates that sustainable Islamic digital finance emerges through the interaction of digital innovation, economic resilience, organizational capability, ethical and Sharia-compliant governance, and customer trust. These interconnected elements require a normative foundation grounded in maṣlaḥah and the objectives of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah to ensure that technological innovation contributes to inclusive and sustainable social welfare.*

Conclusion and Suggestion: *This study develops a maṣlaḥah-oriented conceptual model that provides an integrative foundation for understanding the sustainability of Islamic digital finance. The proposed framework highlights the importance of aligning technological innovation with institutional resilience, organizational readiness, ethical governance, Sharia compliance, and customer-centered services. Furthermore, the model provides a foundation for connecting Islamic digital finance with sustainable economic development, halal innovation, circularity, Islamic social finance, community resilience, and human flourishing. Islamic financial institutions should strengthen their digital capabilities, enhance Sharia governance, build customer trust, and integrate sustainability principles into their digital transformation strategies. Future studies are encouraged to empirically validate the proposed conceptual model using quantitative and qualitative approaches across different Islamic financial institutions and geographical contexts.*

Keywords: *Digital Transformation; Islamic Digital Finance; Sustainability; Islamic Social Finance; Maqāṣid Al-Sharīʿah*

Paper type:
Research paper

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INTRODUCTION

The global Islamic finance industry is undergoing a profound transformation driven by advances in digital technologies, fintech, artificial intelligence, blockchain, big data analytics, mobile banking, and various internet-based financial innovations. This transformation has fundamentally reshaped the ways in which Islamic financial institutions create value, deliver services, and engage with customers. A growing body of empirical evidence suggests that digitalization has enhanced operational efficiency, service quality, profitability, competitiveness, and financial inclusion among Islamic banks across different jurisdictions (Alrashdan 2026; Aysan 2022; Razia 2025; Shehadeh 2023). The expansion of digital financial services has also enabled customers to access Islamic financial products more rapidly, cost-effectively, and flexibly through mobile banking, internet banking, digital-only banking, and Islamic fintech platforms (Faradis 2026; Shaikh 2023; Zulaikha 2026). Despite these advancements, several structural challenges continue to impede the sustainability of the digital Islamic finance ecosystem, including digital financing risks, cybersecurity threats, low levels of digital and Islamic financial literacy, disparities in organizational readiness, unequal financial inclusion, and the need to maintain Sharia compliance within an increasingly dynamic technological environment (Abed 2026; Babayo 2026; Jain 2024; Khasanah 2025). These conditions indicate that digital transformation within the Islamic finance industry extends beyond a purely technological phenomenon and should instead be understood as a multidimensional process encompassing economic, organizational, social, ethical, regulatory, and consumer behavioral dimensions.

Although the literature on the digitalization of Islamic finance has expanded considerably over the past decade, much of the existing research remains fragmented and narrowly focused. Some studies have concentrated on technology adoption and mobile banking services (Hidayat 2023; Sofyani 2024; Zulaikha 2026), whereas others have examined the effects of fintech on the financial performance and profitability of Islamic banks (Aysan 2022; Hijazin 2026; Kaddumi 2025). Other streams of research have explored

organizational digital transformation (Hamid 2026; Mansori 2023), Sharia compliance (Abed 2026), religiosity and customer behavior (Alam, 2025; Wijayanto, 2026), and technology-enabled operational efficiency (Alrashdan 2026; Shehadeh 2024). While these studies have contributed significantly to understanding specific relationships among selected variables, they have not yet developed a comprehensive conceptual framework capable of explaining how digital transformation, Islamic financial sustainability, organizational capabilities, ethical technology, and customer trust interact to shape a sustainable ecosystem. Consequently, a substantial theoretical gap remains due to the absence of an integrative theory that holistically explains the mechanisms underpinning the sustainability of the digital Islamic finance ecosystem. This gap has become increasingly significant as developments in digital banking, Islamic fintech, central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), blockchain technology, and artificial intelligence continue to fundamentally reshape the financial services industry, thereby necessitating new theoretical perspectives capable of capturing the complexity of interactions among ecosystem actors and components.

Against this backdrop, this study examines how a sustainable Islamic digital finance ecosystem can be conceptualized through the interaction of digital transformation, organizational capability, economic resilience, ethical and Sharia-compliant governance, and customer trust while advancing *maṣlaḥah* and the broader objectives of *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah*. Using a Grounded Theory approach based on a systematic synthesis of contemporary literature on Islamic digital finance, the study identifies the key dimensions underlying sustainable digital Islamic finance, examines their interrelationships, and interprets their collective contribution to *maṣlaḥah*, sustainable economic development, social welfare, and human flourishing within an evolving Islamic financial ecosystem.

This study contributes to the literature in three important ways. First, it moves digital Islamic finance research beyond fragmented and technology-centered explanations toward an integrated ecosystem perspective that incorporates technological, organizational, economic, ethical, social, and behavioral dimensions. Second, it positions *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* and *maṣlaḥah* as normative foundations for directing digital financial innovation toward financial inclusion, ethical wealth creation, economic resilience, social welfare, and human flourishing. Third, the study provides practical implications for regulators, Islamic financial institutions, fintech providers, and Islamic social finance institutions to develop integrated ecosystems that connect technological innovation with sustainable economic activities, halal innovation, circularity, Islamic social finance, and community empowerment. Through this perspective, digital Islamic finance is positioned not simply as a mechanism for technological and institutional transformation, but as a contemporary means of revitalizing Islamic economic values, strengthening local and community resilience, and advancing sustainable life in accordance with the broader objectives of Islamic civilization.

METHOD

This study adopted a qualitative Grounded Theory approach to develop a substantive theory explaining the sustainability of the digital Islamic finance ecosystem based on conceptual patterns identified within the scholarly literature. Although Grounded Theory has traditionally been applied to interview and observational data, contemporary methodological literature recognizes documentary sources as a legitimate basis for theory generation when analyzed through systematic coding procedures. Accordingly, published academic literature was treated as the primary empirical source, as the objective was to construct an integrative

theoretical explanation from accumulated scientific knowledge rather than individual experiences.

The research setting comprised the international body of literature on digital transformation in Islamic banking and Islamic finance indexed in the Scopus database. Scopus was selected because it is one of the largest and most comprehensive bibliographic databases covering high-quality peer-reviewed journals and is widely recognized as a reliable source for systematic literature reviews in business, management, and finance research. To ensure transparency, rigor, and replicability, the literature search followed a structured protocol using Publish or Perish 8. Searches were conducted exclusively within Scopus using the TITLE-ABS-KEY fields. Boolean operators and keyword combinations were employed to maximize the retrieval of relevant studies while minimizing irrelevant records. The search was conducted in June 2026 and restricted to English-language journal articles published between 2022 and 2026.

Table 1. Literature Search Strategy

Item	Description
Database	Scopus
Search Tool	Publish or Perish 8
Search Period	2022–2026
Search Date	June 2026
Document Type	Journal Articles
Language	English
Subject Area	Islamic Banking, Islamic Finance, Digital Transformation, FinTech
Search Keywords	“Islamic Bank” AND (“digital transformation” OR “fintech” OR “blockchain” OR “digital banking” OR “artificial intelligence”)
Initial Records	1,248
Final Included Studies	67

Data source: Processed by the author, 2026

The study selection process consisted of four stages. First, 1,248 records were identified through the initial database search. Second, duplicate records and non-journal publications were removed. Third, titles and abstracts were screened against predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Finally, full-text assessments were conducted to evaluate the relevance of the remaining studies to the research objectives. This procedure resulted in a final sample of 67 articles for qualitative analysis.

Table 2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Scopus-indexed articles	Conference papers
Published between 2022–2026	Book chapters
English language	Non-English publications
Related to Islamic banking or Islamic finance	Studies unrelated to Islamic finance
Related to digital transformation, fintech, blockchain, AI, or digital banking	Studies without digital themes
Full-text accessible	Incomplete documents

Data source: Processed by the author, 2026

Data were extracted systematically from the selected articles, including publication metadata, abstracts, keywords, research objectives, principal findings, and bibliographic information. The extracted data were organized and imported into NVivo 12 to support qualitative coding, category development, and theory generation.

Table 3. Data Extraction Framework

Extracted Information	Purpose
Authors	Identify key contributors
Publication Year	Analyze research trends
Journal Source	Determine publication outlets
Country/Region	Examine geographical focus
Keywords	Support coding process
Abstract	Identify conceptual themes
Research Objective	Determine study focus
Main Findings	Extract theoretical insights
Digital Technology Discussed	Identify technological dimensions
Islamic Finance Dimension	Identify Sharia-related aspects

Data source: Processed by the author, 2026

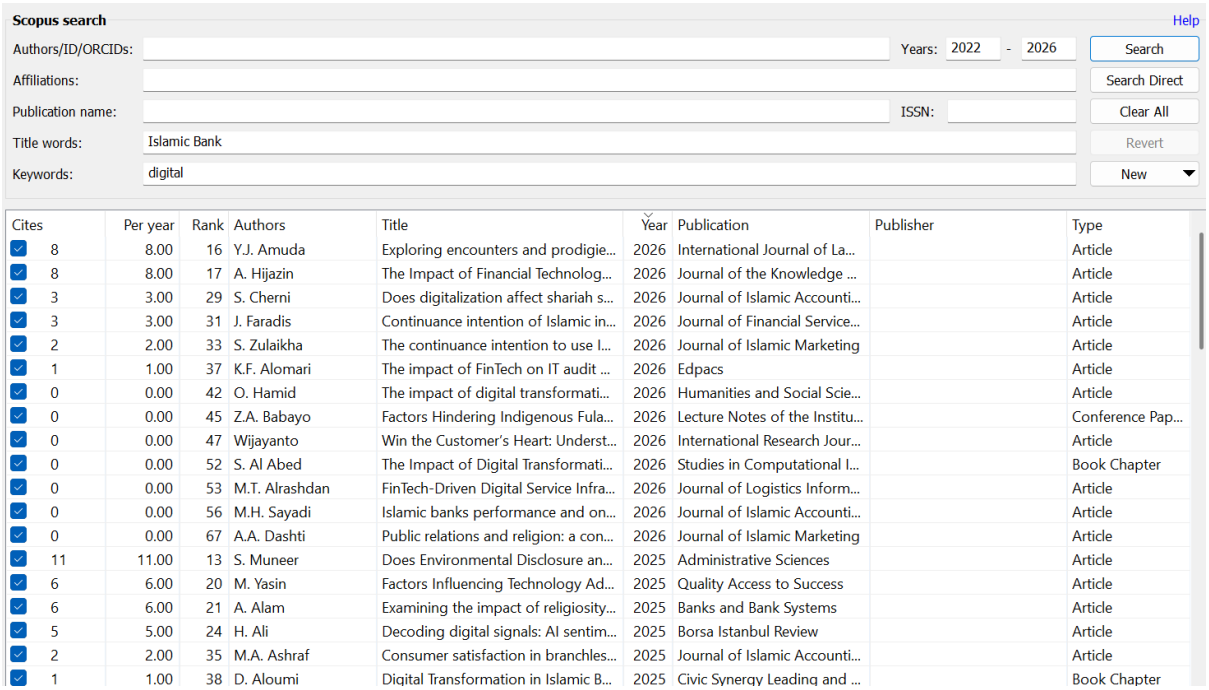
Data analysis followed the systematic procedures of Grounded Theory proposed by Strauss and Corbin. The analysis began with open coding, during which word-frequency queries and cluster analysis were used to identify recurring concepts within the literature. Word-frequency queries and cluster analysis were used solely as exploratory techniques to facilitate the identification of recurring concepts. Concept generation did not rely on software outputs alone but was guided by interpretive coding and constant comparison in accordance with the principles of Grounded Theory. These initial concepts were then interpreted contextually and compared across studies to generate preliminary conceptual codes. The analysis proceeded to axial coding, where conceptually related codes were integrated into higher-order categories based on their causal, contextual, and functional relationships. Finally, selective coding was undertaken to integrate these categories into core theoretical dimensions that collectively explained the sustainability of the digital Islamic finance ecosystem. The resulting relationships were subsequently visualized through concept mapping in NVivo 12.

Throughout the analytical process, the constant comparative method was applied to continuously compare concepts, categories, and relationships across publications. This iterative process facilitated category refinement and the identification of recurring conceptual patterns. In addition, analytical memos were maintained throughout the coding process to document emerging insights, theoretical linkages, and category development, thereby strengthening theoretical sensitivity and supporting the progressive refinement of the emerging theory. To enhance analytical rigor and trustworthiness, all extracted materials were systematically reviewed prior to coding. Each article was examined for evidence related to digital transformation, Islamic finance, organizational capability, sustainability, ethical governance, and customer trust, which served as the primary units of analysis during open coding. Coding proceeded iteratively until theoretical saturation was achieved, indicated by the absence of new categories, conceptual properties, or relationships within the remaining publications. The final set of 67 articles consistently reinforced the established conceptual structure without generating additional higher-order categories, suggesting that the emerging substantive theory had reached theoretical saturation and conceptual completeness.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The open coding stage of the Grounded Theory analysis generated a set of preliminary concepts derived from 67 Scopus-indexed publications retrieved through Publish or Perish using the keyword *Islamic Bank* in combination with digital transformation–related terms. The

purpose of this stage was to explore emerging themes within the literature, identify dominant conceptual patterns, and uncover phenomena relevant to the development of a substantive theoretical framework. Through a systematic examination of recurring terms, concepts, and themes across the selected studies, the analysis captured the evolving discourse surrounding digital transformation in Islamic banking and Islamic finance.



Scopus search Help

Authors/ID/ORCIDs: Years: 2022 - 2026 Search

Affiliations: Search Direct

Publication name: ISSN: Clear All

Title words: Islamic Bank Revert

Keywords: digital New

Cites	Per year	Rank	Authors	Title	Year	Publication	Publisher	Type
8	8.00	16	Y.J. Amuda	Exploring encounters and prodigie...	2026	International Journal of La...		Article
8	8.00	17	A. Hijazin	The Impact of Financial Technolog...	2026	Journal of the Knowledge ...		Article
3	3.00	29	S. Cherni	Does digitalization affect shariah s...	2026	Journal of Islamic Accounti...		Article
3	3.00	31	J. Faradis	Continuance intention of Islamic in...	2026	Journal of Financial Service...		Article
2	2.00	33	S. Zulaikha	The continuance intention to use I...	2026	Journal of Islamic Marketing		Article
1	1.00	37	K.F. Alomari	The impact of FinTech on IT audit ...	2026	Edpacs		Article
0	0.00	42	O. Hamid	The impact of digital transformati...	2026	Humanities and Social Scie...		Article
0	0.00	45	Z.A. Babayo	Factors Hindering Indigenous Fula...	2026	Lecture Notes of the Institu...		Conference Pap...
0	0.00	47	Wijayanto	Win the Customer's Heart: Underst...	2026	International Research Jour...		Article
0	0.00	52	S. Al Abed	The Impact of Digital Transformati...	2026	Studies in Computational I...		Book Chapter
0	0.00	53	M.T. Alrashdan	FinTech-Driven Digital Service Infra...	2026	Journal of Logistics Inform...		Article
0	0.00	56	M.H. Sayadi	Islamic banks performance and on...	2026	Journal of Islamic Accounti...		Article
0	0.00	67	A.A. Dashti	Public relations and religion: a con...	2026	Journal of Islamic Marketing		Article
11	11.00	13	S. Muneer	Does Environmental Disclosure an...	2025	Administrative Sciences		Article
6	6.00	20	M. Yasin	Factors Influencing Technology Ad...	2025	Quality Access to Success		Article
6	6.00	21	A. Alam	Examining the impact of religiosity...	2025	Banks and Bank Systems		Article
5	5.00	24	H. Ali	Decoding digital signals: AI sentim...	2025	Borsa Istanbul Review		Article
2	2.00	35	M.A. Ashraf	Consumer satisfaction in branchles...	2025	Journal of Islamic Accounti...		Article
1	1.00	38	D. Aloumi	Digital Transformation in Islamic B...	2025	Civic Synergy Leading and ...		Book Chapter

Figure 1. Scopus Search

Source: Publish or Perish 8, 2026

The data collection process was conducted using Publish or Perish (PoP) software, utilizing the Scopus database as the primary source of scientific literature. The search strategy employed a combination of the terms Islamic Bank in the Title Words field and Digital in the Keywords field. The publication period was restricted to 2022–2026 to capture recent scholarly developments in digital transformation within the Islamic financial industry. This combination of search terms was intended to identify scientific publications examining the relationship between Islamic banking, technological innovation, digital financial services, and the development of the Islamic financial ecosystem. The search results generated a collection of scientific publications containing bibliographic information, including authors' names, article titles, publication years, journal names, publishers, document types, and citation counts. The identified literature covered various research themes, including digital transformation, financial technology, Islamic banking innovation, financial service digitalization, customer satisfaction, and the sustainability of Islamic financial institutions. Subsequently, the publications underwent an identification and screening process based on title, abstract, keywords, and their relevance to the research objectives. Following this selection process, a total of 67 Scopus-indexed publications were retained as the primary dataset for further analysis.

The selected publications were subsequently analyzed using NVivo 12 through a Grounded Theory approach involving three coding stages: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. The analytical process was supported by word frequency analysis, cluster analysis, and concept mapping to identify recurring concepts, thematic relationships, and the core categories shaping a sustainable Islamic digital finance ecosystem. Through these analytical procedures, the study sought to establish conceptual relationships among digital

transformation, Islamic financial sustainability, organizational capabilities, ethical governance and Sharia compliance, and customer-oriented service excellence. The findings provided the conceptual foundation for developing a maṣlaḥah-oriented model of a sustainable Islamic digital finance ecosystem, grounded in the objectives of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah.

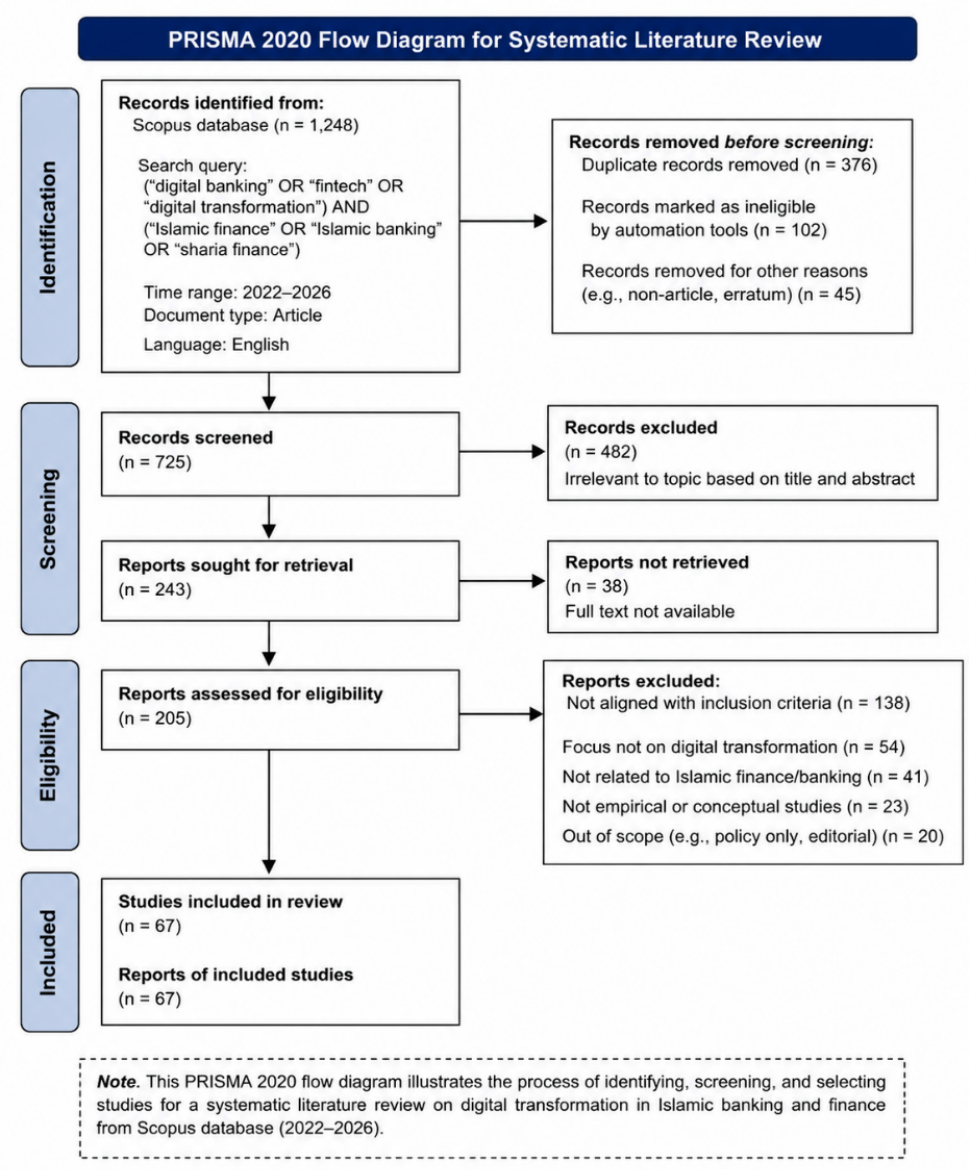


Figure 2. Prisma Diagram

Source: Publish or Perish 8, 2026

Open coding was conducted using NVivo 12 through a combination of word-frequency queries and cluster analysis. Word-frequency analysis was employed to identify the most frequently occurring terms across the dataset, providing an initial indication of dominant research interests and thematic trends. However, concepts were not derived solely from term frequency. Recurring words identified through NVivo were interpreted contextually by examining their meanings within article abstracts, keywords, and research objectives. Similar concepts were subsequently grouped into initial codes representing broader conceptual phenomena rather than isolated keywords. To further refine conceptual relationships, cluster analysis was performed to identify groups of concepts exhibiting similar patterns of occurrence and thematic proximity. This procedure facilitated the identification of interconnected research domains and revealed the underlying conceptual structure of the literature.

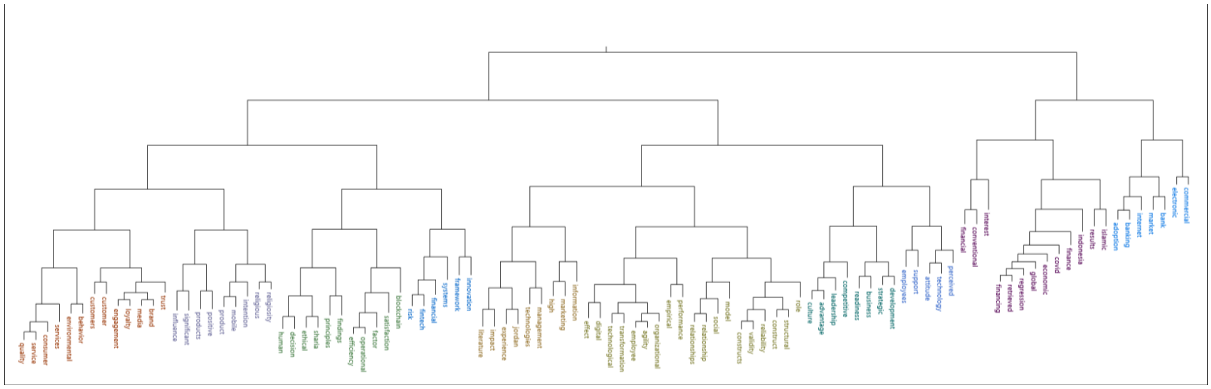


Figure 3. Cluster Analysis

Source: NVivo 12, 2026

The open coding results revealed several prominent themes that have shaped contemporary discussions on Islamic banking and digital transformation. These themes provided the conceptual foundation for the subsequent axial coding stage, in which related concepts were integrated into higher-order categories based on their causal, contextual, and functional relationships. The resulting conceptual clusters represent the principal dimensions underpinning the emerging theoretical explanation of sustainability within the digital Islamic finance ecosystem.

Table 4. Cluster Analysis Results

Cluster Color	Cluster Name	Items	Description
Blue	Digital Banking Adoption and FinTech Ecosystem	*commercial, electronic, bank, market, internet, banking, adoption, perceived, technology, attitude, innovation, framework, systems, financial, fintech, risk, intention, mobile, product, positive, products, significant, influence*	This cluster reflects research focusing on the adoption of digital banking technologies and fintech. Its primary themes include technology acceptance, user behavior, digital financial system innovation, mobile banking, and factors influencing individuals' intentions to use technology-based financial services.
Purple	Islamic Finance and Economic Environment	*islamic, results, indonesia, finance, covid, economic, global, regression, retrieved, financing, interest, conventional, financial*	This cluster represents studies examining Islamic finance within the broader context of macroeconomic conditions and the business environment. Key topics include Islamic financing, comparisons with conventional financial systems, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and empirical analyses of national and global economic conditions.
Turquoise	Organizational Capability and Strategic Readiness	*support, employees, development, strategic, business, readiness, competitive, leadership, advantage, culture*	This cluster represents organizational factors that support transformation and enhance institutional competitiveness. Its primary focus includes leadership, organizational culture, strategic readiness, human resource development, and the creation of

Cluster Color	Cluster Name	Items	Description
			sustainable competitive advantage.
Olive/Yellow	Research Methodology and Organizational Transformation	*role, structural, construct, reliability, validity, constructs, model, social, relationship, relationships, performance, empirical, organizational, agility, employee, transformation, technological, digital, effect, information, marketing, high, management, technologies, jordan, experience, impact, literature*	This cluster reflects the methodological and conceptual foundations of existing research. Dominant themes include research model development, construct validity and reliability, interrelationships among variables, organizational digital transformation, organizational agility, technology management, and the evaluation of their effects on organizational performance.
Green	Blockchain, Operational Efficiency, and Sharia Principles	*blockchain, satisfaction, factor, operational, efficiency, findings, principles, sharia, ethical, decision, human*	This cluster highlights the integration of blockchain technology with Sharia principles and ethical considerations. Research within this group focuses on operational efficiency, user satisfaction, decision-making processes, and the implementation of technologies that remain aligned with Sharia values and human-centered principles.
Gray/Light Purple	Religiosity and Consumer Acceptance	*religiosity, religious, trust, intention, mobile, product*	This cluster illustrates the role of religiosity and trust in shaping individuals' intentions to adopt digital financial products and services. Its primary focus is on how religious values influence consumer behavior and the acceptance of financial innovations.
Orange	Customer Engagement, Service Quality, and Brand Loyalty	*brand, media, loyalty, engagement, customer, customers, behavior, environmental, services, consumer, service, quality, trust*	This cluster represents marketing and consumer behavior perspectives. Dominant themes include brand loyalty, customer engagement, service quality, consumer behavior, trust, and the utilization of media platforms to foster long-term customer relationships.

Source: NVivo 12, 2026

The cluster analysis revealed that research on digital transformation in the Islamic banking industry has evolved around several interconnected themes that collectively constitute a comprehensive research ecosystem. The largest cluster, Digital Banking Adoption and FinTech Ecosystem, encompasses technology adoption, digital financial innovation, mobile banking, financial technology (fintech), and the factors shaping users' intentions and behaviors toward technology-enabled financial services. The prominence of this cluster indicates that digital transformation has become a central concern in the advancement of Islamic banking, particularly in enhancing service accessibility, operational efficiency, and customer experience. In addition, the emergence of the Islamic Finance and Economic Environment cluster highlights that the digitalization of Islamic banking is closely linked to

broader economic dynamics at both national and global levels, including Islamic financing, economic stability, and shifts in the business environment driven by external disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The findings further suggest that the success of digital transformation depends not only on technological advancement but also on organizational preparedness. This is reflected in the Organizational Capability and Strategic Readiness cluster, which emphasizes the roles of leadership, organizational culture, human resource development, and strategic readiness in achieving sustainable competitive advantage. These insights are reinforced by the Research Methodology and Organizational Transformation cluster, which portrays digital transformation as a multidimensional process involving the interplay of technology, management practices, organizational agility, and performance improvement. The strong linkage between these clusters indicates that the effective implementation of digital technologies in Islamic banking requires sufficient organizational capabilities to ensure that innovation initiatives translate into long-term improvements in institutional effectiveness and competitiveness.

Furthermore, several clusters underscore the importance of values, ethics, and consumer behavior within the digital transformation ecosystem of Islamic banking. The Blockchain, Operational Efficiency, and Sharia Principles cluster highlights the integration of technological innovation with Sharia principles and ethical values to enhance operational efficiency. Similarly, the Religiosity and Consumer Acceptance cluster demonstrates that religiosity and trust are critical determinants of the public's acceptance of Islamic digital financial services. These findings are consistent with the Customer Engagement, Service Quality, and Brand Loyalty cluster, which emphasizes the importance of service quality, customer engagement, brand loyalty, and trust in fostering sustainable customer relationships. Taken together, these findings indicate that digital transformation in Islamic banking is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon shaped by the interaction of technological innovation, economic conditions, organizational capabilities, Sharia-based values, and consumer preferences.

Building upon these findings, the identified themes were subsequently examined through the stages of open coding, axial coding, and selective coding within the Grounded Theory framework. This process aimed to develop higher-order conceptual categories and construct a theoretical framework capable of explaining the relationships among the key phenomena identified in the literature. The transition from open coding to axial coding involved a constant comparative analysis of emerging concepts. Categories were refined by examining causal relationships, contextual conditions, intervening factors, strategic actions, and their consequences. Through this iterative process, conceptually related codes were integrated into broader analytical categories, laying the foundation for the development of a substantive theory explaining the sustainability of the digital Islamic finance ecosystem.

Table 5. ***Grounded Theory Analysis***

Open Coding	Axial Coding	Selective Coding
commercial, electronic, bank, market, internet, banking, adoption	Digital Banking Infrastructure and Adoption	Digital Transformation of Islamic Financial Ecosystems
perceived, technology, attitude, innovation, framework, systems, fintech, risk, intention, mobile, product, products, positive, influence	FinTech Innovation and User Acceptance	Digital Transformation of Islamic Financial Ecosystems
islamic, finance, financing, interest, conventional, financial	Islamic and Conventional Financial Systems	Islamic Digital Finance Sustainability

Open Coding	Axial Coding	Selective Coding
indonesia, economic, global, covid, results, regression, retrieved	Economic Environment and Financial Dynamics	Islamic Digital Finance Sustainability
support, employees, development, strategic, business, readiness	Strategic Organizational Readiness	Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization
competitive, leadership, advantage, culture	Organizational Competitiveness and Leadership	Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization
role, structural, construct, reliability, validity, constructs, model	Research Constructs and Structural Modelling	Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization
social, relationship, relationships, performance, empirical	Organizational Performance and Social Relationships	Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization
organizational, agility, employee, transformation, technological, digital, management, technologies	Digital Organizational Transformation	Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization
effect, information, marketing, experience, impact, literature, Jordan	Technology Impact and Knowledge Development	Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization
blockchain, operational, efficiency, factor	Blockchain-Driven Operational Efficiency	Technology-Enabled Ethical and Efficient Finance
principles, sharia, ethical, decision, human	Ethical and Sharia-Based Decision Making	Technology-Enabled Ethical and Efficient Finance
religiosity, religious	Religious Values and Consumer Orientation	Consumer Customer-Centric Financial Service Excellence
trust, intention, mobile, product	Trust-Based Technology Acceptance	Consumer Customer-Centric Financial Service Excellence
brand, media, loyalty, engagement	Customer Engagement and Brand Loyalty	Consumer Customer-Centric Financial Service Excellence
customer, customers, consumer, behavior	Consumer Behavior and Relationship Management	Consumer Customer-Centric Financial Service Excellence
services, service, quality, environmental, trust	Service Quality and Sustainable Customer Value	Consumer Customer-Centric Financial Service Excellence

Source: NVivo 12, 2026

Based on the Grounded Theory analysis conducted through the stages of open coding, axial coding, and selective coding, a deeper understanding of the conceptual structure underlying digital Islamic finance research was obtained. During the open coding stage, the keywords emerging from the literature were identified as foundational concepts representing the dominant issues, phenomena, and variables within the field. Keywords such as *commercial*, *electronic*, *bank*, *internet*, *banking*, *adoption*, *fintech*, *technology*, *blockchain*, *Sharia*, *religiosity*, *trust*, *customer*, *loyalty*, and *service quality* indicate that contemporary Islamic finance discourse is no longer confined to financing activities and Sharia compliance. Rather, it has expanded to encompass digital transformation, technological innovation, user behavior, and service quality enhancement. These findings suggest that the modern Islamic

finance ecosystem exists at the intersection of digital technological advancement, economic dynamics, organizational capabilities, and increasingly complex consumer demands.

Subsequently, during the axial coding stage, conceptually related constructs were grouped into higher-order categories, resulting in the emergence of several major themes. The first group comprised Digital Banking Infrastructure and Adoption and FinTech Innovation and User Acceptance, illustrating how digital infrastructure, financial technology innovation, and user acceptance constitute the primary foundations of modern financial service transformation. The second group consisted of Islamic and Conventional Financial Systems and Economic Environment and Financial Dynamics, highlighting that the sustainability of Islamic finance cannot be separated from economic conditions, market dynamics, and its interactions with the conventional financial system. The next group encompassed Strategic Organizational Readiness, Organizational Competitiveness and Leadership, Digital Organizational Transformation, and several other organizational categories, all of which underscore the importance of institutional readiness in responding to technological change. In addition, the categories Blockchain-Driven Operational Efficiency and Ethical and Sharia-Based Decision Making emerged, demonstrating the integration of technological innovation with Sharia principles and ethical values. Meanwhile, user-related dimensions were reflected in categories such as Religious Values and Consumer Orientation, Trust-Based Technology Acceptance, and various categories associated with customer loyalty and service quality.

Selective coding represented the final stage of theory development. At this stage, all higher-order categories were systematically integrated around a central explanatory phenomenon, namely the sustainability of the Islamic digital finance ecosystem. Relationships among categories were continuously refined until a coherent theoretical explanation capable of accounting for all major conceptual dimensions emerged. A higher level of integration was achieved through selective coding by connecting the various axial categories into five core categories that collectively constitute the theoretical structure of the study. The first category, Digital Transformation of Islamic Financial Ecosystems, represents the transformation of Islamic financial services driven by the development of digital banking, fintech, technological innovation, and user acceptance of emerging technologies. This category suggests that digitalization is no longer merely an operational support mechanism but has evolved into a strategic element that fundamentally reshapes how Islamic financial institutions create value, reach markets, and deliver services to society.

The second category, Islamic Digital Finance Sustainability, emphasizes that the sustainability of digital Islamic finance is influenced by the ability of Islamic financial systems to adapt to changes in both domestic and global economic environments. The relationships among Islamic financing, economic conditions, market dynamics, and external challenges such as pandemics and structural economic changes demonstrate that successful digital transformation must be supported by a resilient financial system capable of maintaining long-term stability and competitiveness. Consequently, digitalization and economic sustainability represent complementary dimensions in the development of a robust Islamic financial ecosystem. The third category, Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization, highlights the role of organizational capability as a key driver of successful digital transformation. The analysis indicates that strategic readiness, leadership, organizational culture, human resource development, digital transformation initiatives, and technological management capabilities are critical determinants of the effectiveness of digital innovation implementation. These findings suggest that technology alone cannot generate optimal benefits without the support of adaptive, agile organizations possessing the capacity to manage change continuously. Therefore, the success of digitalization within Islamic financial

institutions is highly dependent upon the quality of the underlying organizational governance structures.

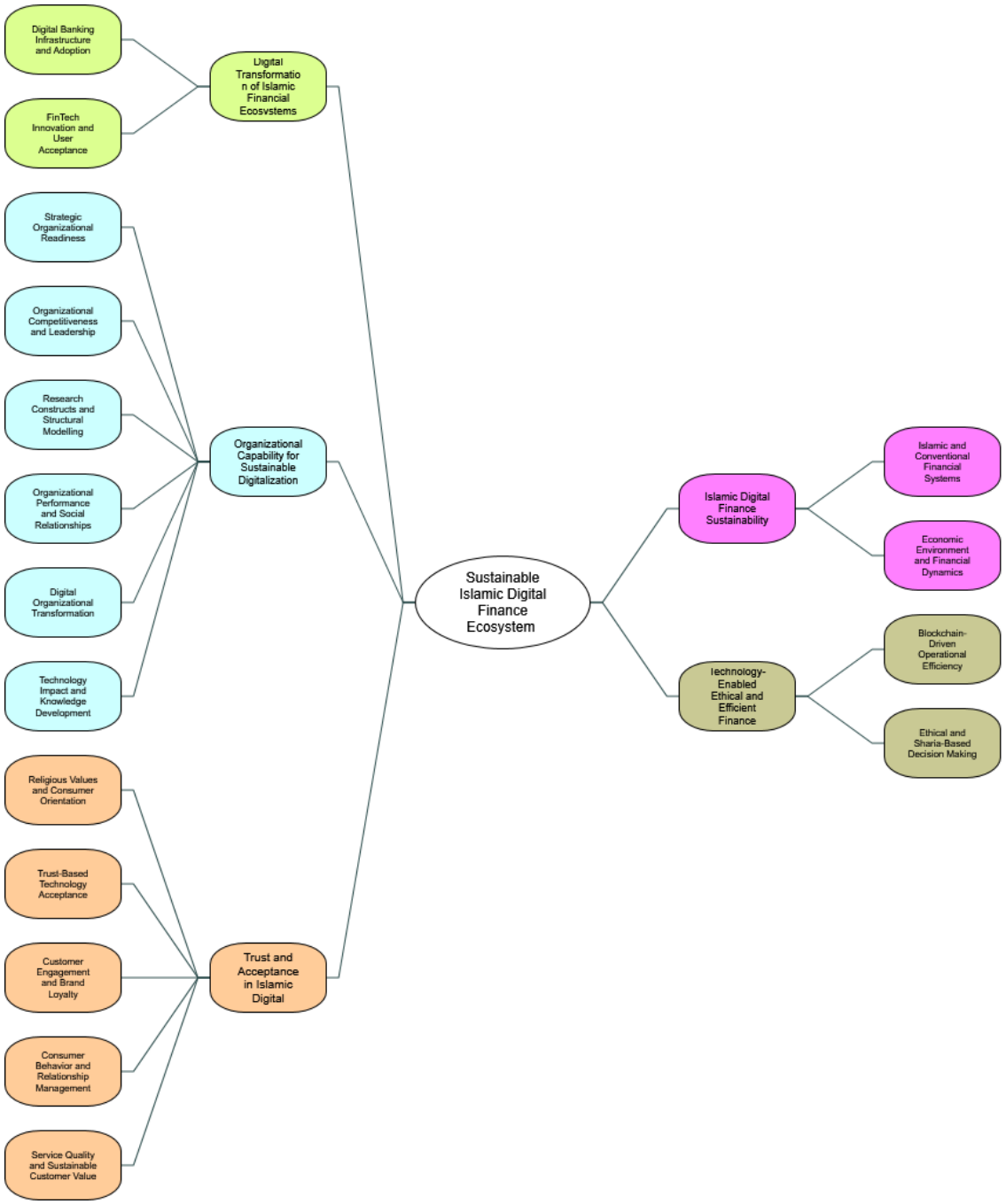


Figure 4. Concept Map

Source: NVivo 12, 2026

The fourth category, Technology-Enabled Ethical and Efficient Finance, demonstrates that technological advancement in Islamic finance is intended not only to improve operational efficiency but also to ensure alignment with Sharia principles and ethical values. Technologies such as blockchain provide opportunities to enhance transparency, accountability, transaction security, and business process efficiency. Nevertheless, the implementation of such technologies must remain firmly grounded in Sharia principles that emphasize justice, public welfare (*maslahah*), moral responsibility, and value-oriented decision-making. Accordingly, technology functions as an instrument for strengthening the ethical and social objectives of

Islamic finance rather than merely serving as a tool for productivity enhancement. The fifth category, Customer-Centric Financial Service Excellence, positions customers at the center of digital Islamic finance transformation. The findings indicate that customer loyalty, consumer engagement, service quality, trust, and user experience are critical determinants of the successful adoption of digital financial services. In an increasingly competitive environment, the ability of Islamic financial institutions to establish and maintain long-term customer relationships represents a distinctive source of competitive advantage. Consequently, digitalization strategies must be accompanied by continuous efforts to enhance service quality and strengthen trust to ensure that the value created is widely accepted by society.

Taken together, the relationships among these core categories form an integrated theoretical construct in which digital transformation, Islamic financial sustainability, organizational capability, ethical technology implementation, and customer orientation mutually influence and reinforce one another. This integration gives rise to a substantive theory termed the Sustainable Islamic Digital Finance Ecosystem Theory. The theory posits that the sustainability of the digital Islamic finance ecosystem is not determined by any single factor; rather, it emerges from the synergy among technological innovation, Islamic economic stability, organizational readiness, adherence to Sharia principles, and the capacity of institutions to build trust and deliver value to customers. Accordingly, the theory provides a comprehensive conceptual framework for understanding how Islamic financial institutions can achieve sustainability and competitiveness in an increasingly dynamic era of digital transformation. To facilitate a clearer understanding of the interrelationships among the categories generated through the coding process, a concept map was developed using NVivo software. This conceptual map visualizes the relationships among the principal themes and categories that constitute the study's conceptual framework, thereby providing a more comprehensive representation of the theoretical construct emerging from the analysis. The visualization of these relationships is presented in the following figure.

Based on the conceptual map generated through the integration of open coding, axial coding, and selective coding, this study develops a new substantive theory referred to as the Sustainable Islamic Digital Finance Ecosystem Theory. The theory posits that the sustainability of the digital Islamic finance ecosystem emerges from the integrated interaction among digital transformation, the resilience of Islamic financial systems, organizational capabilities, the implementation of ethical and efficient technologies, and the development of customer trust and value. Unlike conventional approaches that often regard digitalization merely as a technological instrument, this theory conceptualizes technology as a component of a broader ecosystem encompassing economic, organizational, social, ethical, and consumer behavioral dimensions. Accordingly, the success of digital Islamic finance is determined not only by the sophistication of the technologies employed but also by the capacity of all ecosystem components to generate sustainable value in accordance with Sharia principles.

The first dimension of the theory, Digital Transformation of Islamic Financial Ecosystems, comprises Digital Banking Infrastructure and Adoption as well as FinTech Innovation and User Acceptance. The literature on digital transformation demonstrates that the development of internet-based services, mobile banking, electronic banking, and fintech has fundamentally altered the financial service paradigm, shifting it from branch-based delivery models toward services that can be accessed anytime and anywhere. Within the context of Islamic finance, this transformation facilitates greater financial inclusion through digital services that are more efficient and accessible to broader segments of society. For example, Islamic mobile banking applications enable customers to open accounts, pay zakat,

transfer funds, purchase retail sukuk, and apply for financing digitally without visiting a branch office. At this stage, technology acceptance becomes particularly critical, as perceptions of ease of use, usefulness, security, and trust significantly influence the level of public adoption of digital Islamic financial services. This digital transformation must be reinforced by the second dimension, Islamic Digital Finance Sustainability, which is derived from the categories Islamic and Conventional Financial Systems and Economic Environment and Financial Dynamics. The Islamic finance literature suggests that the sustainability of financial systems is influenced not only by internal institutional factors but also by macroeconomic conditions, global market dynamics, regulatory changes, and various external shocks. The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic provides a clear example of how Islamic financial institutions that had developed digital service capabilities were better able to maintain business continuity and customer service delivery than institutions relying predominantly on physical interactions. From the perspective of this theory, sustainability extends beyond the ability to withstand crises; it encompasses the capacity of Islamic financial systems to continuously grow, adapt, and generate economic value for society within dynamic and evolving environments.

Nevertheless, the success of digital transformation and sustainability cannot be achieved without the third dimension, Organizational Capability for Sustainable Digitalization. This dimension encompasses strategic readiness, leadership, organizational culture, digital transformation initiatives, human resource development, and the capacity to manage technology and information effectively. Numerous studies have demonstrated that many digitalization projects fail not because of technological deficiencies but because of inadequate organizational readiness to manage change. Consequently, this theory positions organizational capability as the critical link between technology and performance outcomes. For instance, an Islamic bank seeking to develop artificial intelligence based financing assessment services must possess competent human resources, innovation-oriented leadership, an adaptive organizational culture, and governance systems capable of managing technological risks effectively. In other words, technology can generate value only when supported by adequate organizational capabilities.

The fourth dimension, Technology-Enabled Ethical and Efficient Finance, consists of Blockchain-Driven Operational Efficiency and Ethical and Sharia-Based Decision Making. Contemporary literature indicates that technologies such as blockchain, smart contracts, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence can significantly enhance transparency, efficiency, and accuracy in financial processes. However, within the Islamic finance paradigm, efficiency cannot be separated from ethical values and Sharia principles. Accordingly, this theory emphasizes that technology should function as a means of advancing the objectives of Sharia (*Maqashid al-Shariah*) rather than merely maximizing economic returns. A practical example can be observed in the application of blockchain technology for digital waqf transaction recording or zakat distribution systems, where every transaction can be traced transparently, reducing the potential for moral hazard, enhancing accountability, and ensuring that funds are managed in accordance with Sharia requirements. Within this framework, operational efficiency and Sharia compliance are not competing objectives but mutually reinforcing goals.

The fifth dimension, Customer-Centric Financial Service Excellence, is constructed from the categories Religious Values and Consumer Orientation, Trust-Based Technology Acceptance, Customer Engagement and Brand Loyalty, Consumer Behavior and Relationship Management, and Service Quality and Sustainable Customer Value. Consumer behavior literature consistently identifies trust as the primary foundation for the adoption of digital financial services, particularly within the Islamic finance industry, where technological innovation intersects with religious values. In this context, religiosity influences not only

financial product preferences but also perceptions of security, permissibility, and the legitimacy of digital services. For example, a Muslim customer is more likely to trust an Islamic investment application that possesses certification from a Sharia supervisory authority, provides transparent contractual arrangements, and offers clear information regarding the utilization of funds. When such trust is reinforced by high-quality service, positive user experiences, and effective digital communication, sustainable customer loyalty is likely to emerge. Therefore, this theory positions trust as the principal mechanism linking technology to the acceptance and continued use of digital Islamic financial services.

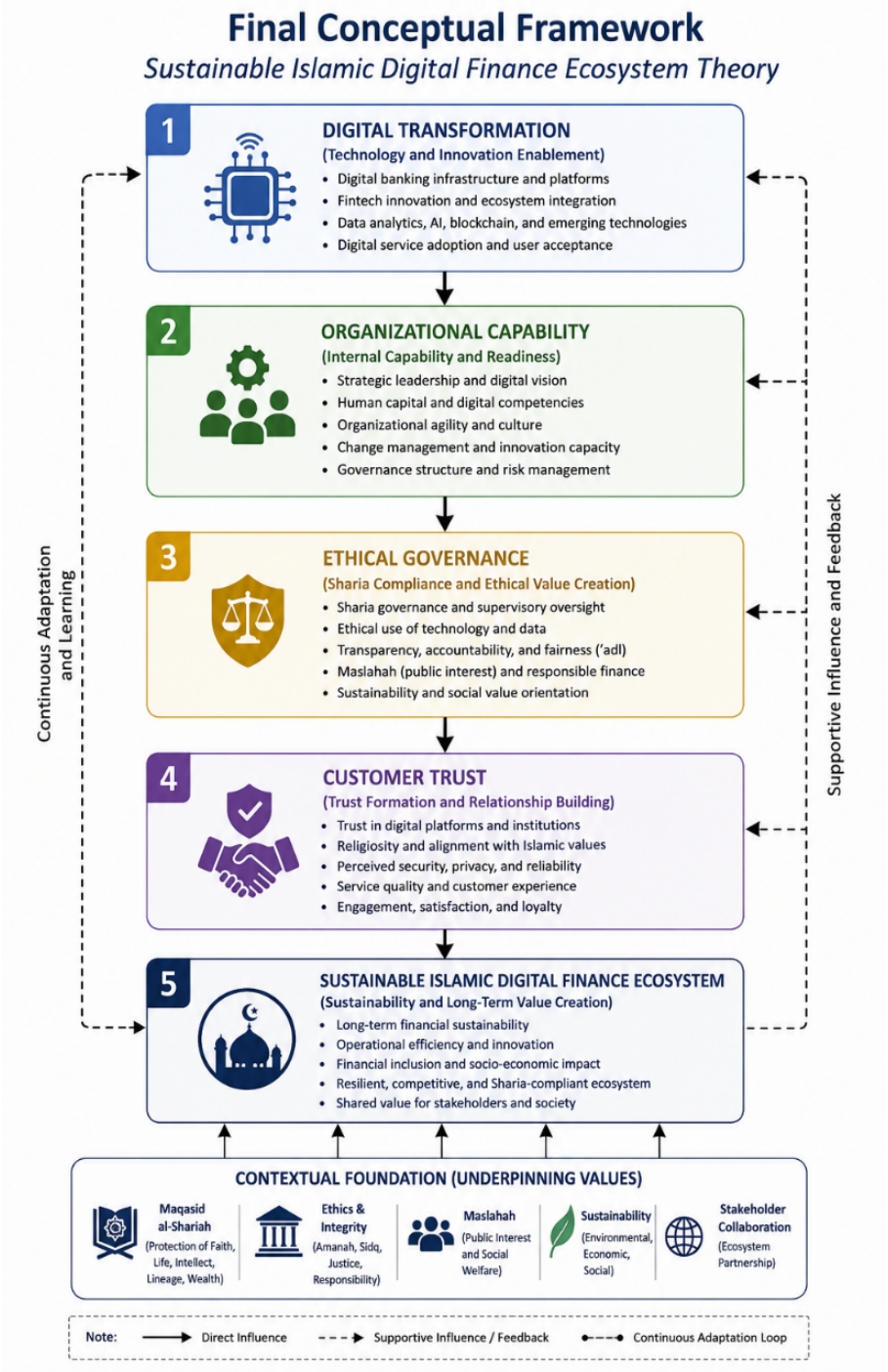


Figure 5 Final Conceptual Map

DISCUSSION

The proposed *A Maṣlaḥah-Based Sustainable Islamic Digital Finance Ecosystem Model* extends the interpretation of sustainable digital Islamic finance beyond institutional transformation and technological efficiency toward a broader vision of Islamic civilization and sustainable human development. The findings demonstrate that digital transformation, organizational capability, economic resilience, ethical governance, Sharia compliance, and customer trust do not generate value independently. Rather, their interaction can create an ecosystem capable of producing *maṣlaḥah* when technological innovation is directed toward social welfare, economic justice, responsible resource utilization, and the strengthening of human capabilities. From this perspective, digital Islamic finance should not merely be understood as the digitalization of existing financial services, but as an instrument for revitalizing Islamic economic values within contemporary technological environments. The concept of *maṣlaḥah* provides an important normative foundation for interpreting the sustainability of the proposed ecosystem. In the context of *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah*, financial innovation should contribute to the protection and enhancement of essential human interests, including faith (*ḥifẓ al-dīn*), life and well-being (*ḥifẓ al-nafs*), intellect and knowledge (*ḥifẓ al-ʿaql*), family and social continuity (*ḥifẓ al-nasl*), and wealth (*ḥifẓ al-māl*). Accordingly, the sustainability of digital Islamic finance should be evaluated not only through financial performance, technological adoption, or operational efficiency, but also through its capacity to generate equitable access, protect financial assets, strengthen human capabilities, support productive livelihoods, and improve social welfare. This interpretation places *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* at the center of the relationship between technological innovation and sustainable human flourishing.

The findings concerning digital transformation have particular relevance to the revitalization of Islamic civilization through technological innovation. Digital technologies can expand access to financial services, reduce transaction barriers, improve transparency, and connect previously underserved communities with formal financial institutions. However, technology becomes transformative from an Islamic civilizational perspective only when it serves broader human and social objectives. The responsible use of artificial intelligence, blockchain, digital payment systems, and other financial technologies can therefore be oriented toward strengthening financial inclusion, improving the traceability of halal transactions, increasing transparency in Islamic social finance, and supporting productive economic activities. In this sense, technological innovation functions not as an end in itself but as an enabling mechanism through which Islamic principles of justice, trust, accountability, and social responsibility can be translated into contemporary economic practices. This perspective also highlights the importance of local heritage as a potential foundation for sustainable Islamic economic development. Islamic civilization historically developed economic institutions and community practices that emphasized mutual assistance, ethical exchange, social solidarity, and responsible resource utilization. Digital Islamic finance provides an opportunity to reconnect these values with contemporary economic systems by digitally enabling local producers, smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, micro and small enterprises, and community-based economic groups. Traditional markets and local production systems can be strengthened through digital financial access, halal certification and financing, digital payment mechanisms, and technology-enabled market linkages. Consequently, digitalization does not necessarily imply the replacement of local economic traditions; rather, it can serve as a mechanism for preserving, adapting, and revitalizing local economic heritage within a sustainable modern ecosystem.

The dimension of organizational capability identified in this study further implies that revitalizing Islamic economic civilization requires institutions capable of translating Islamic values into innovative and sustainable practices. Islamic financial institutions, fintech providers, regulators, and Islamic social finance organizations require adaptive capabilities, digital competencies, ethical leadership, and effective governance to ensure that technological transformation produces meaningful social value. Organizational capability therefore extends beyond the ability to implement digital technologies. It encompasses the institutional capacity to identify social needs, develop inclusive financial products, manage technological risks, strengthen Sharia governance, and establish partnerships with communities and other ecosystem actors. Such capabilities are essential for ensuring that digital financial innovation remains aligned with the principles of *maṣlaḥah* and the broader objectives of sustainable human development. Economic resilience represents another important dimension in connecting digital Islamic finance with sustainable life. A resilient Islamic financial ecosystem should facilitate the movement of capital toward productive, inclusive, and socially beneficial activities rather than concentrating financial innovation solely on consumption-oriented digital services. Digital Islamic finance can support sustainable economic activity by improving access to financing for local enterprises, agricultural producers, halal industries, community businesses, and other productive sectors. This orientation is consistent with *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah*, particularly the protection and productive development of wealth (*ḥifẓ al-māl*), because wealth is not merely preserved through financial security but also developed through productive, equitable, and socially responsible economic activity. Therefore, sustainable digital Islamic finance can contribute to economic resilience when financial resources circulate productively across communities and support long-term livelihood security.

The principle of economic circulation also provides a bridge between the proposed ecosystem model and the emerging concept of circular economy. Digital Islamic finance can facilitate more responsible circulation of financial resources by connecting Islamic social finance instruments with productive economic activities. Zakat, waqf, sadaqah, and other forms of Islamic social finance can be integrated with digital platforms to support microenterprise development, community-based production, food security, sustainable agriculture, and livelihood diversification. Rather than treating Islamic social finance merely as a mechanism for short-term redistribution, the ecosystem approach positions these instruments as potential catalysts for productive empowerment. Digital infrastructure can improve fundraising, targeting, transparency, monitoring, and impact measurement, thereby enabling social funds to circulate more effectively toward activities that generate sustainable economic and social value. This implication is particularly relevant to the development of halal innovation and sustainable halal value chains. The findings on technological capability, ethical governance, and trust suggest that digital Islamic finance can provide financial and technological infrastructure for halal economic ecosystems. Digital financing can support halal producers and local enterprises, while blockchain and other traceability technologies can strengthen transparency throughout halal supply chains. When combined with Sharia governance and responsible financing principles, such innovation can improve consumer confidence, strengthen the integrity of halal products, and connect local producers with broader markets. Halal innovation therefore becomes not merely a matter of product certification but a broader ecosystem involving finance, technology, production, distribution, governance, and consumer trust.

The role of ethical and Sharia governance becomes increasingly important within this broader ecosystem. The findings demonstrate that Sharia compliance should not be treated as a procedural or regulatory requirement alone. From a *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* perspective,

governance should ensure that financial innovation contributes to justice, transparency, trustworthiness, social welfare, and the avoidance of harm. This requires Islamic financial institutions and digital platforms to assess not only whether products and transactions satisfy formal Sharia requirements but also whether their broader outcomes contribute to *maṣlaḥah*. Ethical governance can therefore function as a bridge between technological innovation and human flourishing by ensuring that emerging technologies are deployed responsibly and that efficiency does not come at the expense of equity, privacy, financial protection, or social welfare. Customer trust, which emerged as a central connecting mechanism in the findings, can also be reinterpreted through the framework of Islamic civilization. Trust (*amānah*) represents an important ethical value in Islamic economic interaction and is closely associated with responsible stewardship of wealth and social relationships. In a digital environment, trust depends not only on technological security but also on institutional transparency, Sharia legitimacy, service quality, data protection, and perceived social responsibility. Strengthening trust therefore requires financial institutions to demonstrate that digital innovation is genuinely oriented toward customer welfare rather than solely toward commercial efficiency. Trust consequently becomes both an economic asset and an ethical foundation for sustaining participation in the digital Islamic finance ecosystem.

The proposed model also has implications for human flourishing. Sustainable development from an Islamic perspective should not be reduced to economic growth or technological progress. Human flourishing requires the simultaneous development of material well-being, ethical values, knowledge, social relationships, economic security, and meaningful participation in community life. Digital Islamic finance can contribute to this objective by expanding access to financial knowledge, facilitating productive livelihoods, supporting social protection mechanisms, and enabling communities to participate in formal economic systems. In this sense, *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* provides a holistic framework for evaluating whether digital financial transformation ultimately improves the quality of human life rather than merely increasing the volume and speed of financial transactions. Based on these implications, the practical direction of the proposed model should move toward the development of integrated ecosystems that connect Islamic financial institutions, fintech companies, regulators, halal industries, local producers, community organizations, and Islamic social finance institutions. Collaboration among these actors can facilitate the development of digital platforms that combine financial services with social empowerment, halal value-chain development, sustainable production, and community resilience. Such collaboration is particularly important for ensuring that technological benefits reach groups that have historically faced barriers to formal financial services. The ecosystem should therefore be designed around principles of inclusion, justice, transparency, sustainability, and shared value creation.

From a policy perspective, regulators and Islamic financial institutions should encourage the development of digital financial products that support sustainable economic activities and socially productive investment. Islamic social finance institutions should be encouraged to strengthen digital fundraising, transparent distribution, impact monitoring, and productive utilization of zakat and waqf. At the same time, financial institutions and fintech providers can develop Sharia-compliant green financing, halal supply-chain financing, digital waqf platforms, productive zakat financing, and other financial innovations that connect financial inclusion with environmental and social sustainability. Such initiatives would allow Islamic finance to contribute more directly to circular economic practices, sustainable production, community food security, and resilient local livelihoods. Ultimately, the *A Maṣlaḥah-Based Sustainable Islamic Digital Finance Ecosystem Model* suggests that the revitalization of Islamic civilization in the digital era depends on the ability to integrate

technological innovation with enduring Islamic values and contemporary sustainability challenges. Digital transformation, when guided by *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah*, can become a means of revitalizing principles of justice, solidarity, trust, productive wealth, responsible resource use, and community welfare within modern financial systems. The resulting ecosystem is therefore not defined merely by sophisticated digital technologies, but by its capacity to transform financial innovation into sustainable economic opportunities, strengthen local and halal value chains, mobilize Islamic social finance, support circularity, and ultimately enhance human flourishing. In this formulation, *maṣlaḥah* becomes the central evaluative principle through which technological progress, economic sustainability, social empowerment, and Islamic civilizational values are brought together within a coherent model of sustainable life.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the sustainability of the Islamic digital finance ecosystem is not determined by technological advancement alone, but by the synergistic interaction among digital transformation, organizational capability, economic resilience, ethical and Sharia-compliant governance, and customer trust, as conceptualized in the A Maṣlaḥah-Based Sustainable Islamic Digital Finance Ecosystem Model. The model extends existing technology-centered perspectives by positioning *maṣlaḥah* as a guiding principle for aligning technological innovation with Islamic values, institutional capability, social welfare, and sustainable economic development. From this perspective, digital Islamic finance represents not merely a technological transformation of financial services, but an opportunity to revitalize Islamic economic values within contemporary systems and contribute to sustainable human and community development. The study further demonstrates that the sustainability of digital Islamic finance can be understood through the broader objectives of *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah*. Digital innovation, when supported by effective governance, organizational readiness, and stakeholder trust, can strengthen financial inclusion, protect and develop wealth, improve access to productive economic opportunities, and support social welfare. The integration of Islamic ethical principles with emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and digital financial platforms can therefore create an ecosystem in which innovation is directed toward justice, transparency, responsible resource utilization, and human flourishing. This perspective shifts the understanding of sustainability from institutional survival and technological efficiency toward the creation of lasting *maṣlaḥah* for individuals, communities, and the wider economy.

From a practical perspective, the findings suggest that Islamic financial institutions, fintech providers, regulators, and Islamic social finance institutions should move toward integrated ecosystems that connect digital financial innovation with sustainable economic activities and community empowerment. Strategic priorities should include strengthening digital and organizational capabilities, embedding *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* within technology and governance frameworks, improving transparency and trust, and expanding digital Islamic social finance through zakat, waqf, sadaqah, and other socially oriented instruments. Digital platforms can further support halal innovation, sustainable halal value chains, productive financing for local producers and small enterprises, and the circulation of financial resources towar socially and environmentally responsible activities. The proposed model therefore provides a conceptual foundation for connecting technological innovation, Islamic social finance, sustainable economy, halal innovation, circularity, and community resilience within a unified Islamic financial ecosystem. By reconnecting contemporary digital finance with Islamic

principles of justice, solidarity, trust, responsible wealth management, and social welfare, the model highlights the potential of Islamic finance to contribute to the revitalization of Islamic civilization in the digital era. Ultimately, sustainable Islamic digital finance should be evaluated not only by the sophistication of its technologies or the efficiency of its financial services, but by its capacity to generate *maṣlaḥah*, strengthen sustainable livelihoods and local economic resilience, and advance human flourishing in accordance with the broader objectives of *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah*.

This study has several limitations. First, the analysis was limited to Scopus-indexed publications from 2022–2026, which may not capture the full diversity of research on Islamic digital finance and sustainable Islamic economic development. Second, the A Maṣlaḥah-Based Sustainable Islamic Digital Finance Ecosystem Model was developed through literature-based Grounded Theory analysis and therefore requires empirical validation using primary data. Third, the study's emphasis on digital Islamic finance may not fully capture broader areas such as zakat, waqf, takaful, Islamic capital markets, halal value chains, and community-based economic systems. Future research should empirically validate and refine the proposed model across different countries, institutions, and community contexts, while examining its applicability to Islamic social finance platforms, halal innovation, circular economy practices, green and Sharia-compliant financial products, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and CBDC. Such research can further assess how *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* and *maṣlaḥah* can guide digital financial innovation toward sustainable economies, community resilience, and human flourishing.

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