

Research trends in village financial systems: a bibliometric review using PRISMA

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ABSTRACT

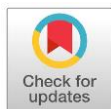
Purpose: to provide a comprehensive bibliometric overview of village financial system research from 2015 to 2025 by examining publication trends, citation patterns, leading contributors, subject areas, and emerging thematic clusters that shape future research directions.

Method: this study used a bibliometric approach based on the PRISMA framework. Data were retrieved from the Scopus and Crossref databases for the period 2015–2025. Following screening and eligibility assessment, 29 articles were selected for analysis. Bibliometric techniques were applied to identify publication trends, citation patterns, leading contributors, and dominant research themes in village financial system studies.

Findings: a fluctuating publication trend, with a peak in 2020. Research is predominantly published in the fields of Business, Management and Accounting, and Social Sciences. Two major thematic clusters were identified: village fund effectiveness and village financial management. Emerging topics include digitalization, transparency, accountability, and technology-driven governance, indicating future directions for research on village financial systems.

Implications: the literature maps the evolution of village financial system research, identifies future research opportunities, and provides evidence-based insights to support effective, transparent, and sustainable village financial governance.

Originality: lies in its bibliometric approach to systematically examine the development of village financial system research, identifying key publication trends, thematic clusters, and emerging topics that have not been comprehensively explored in previous studies.



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Introduction

Inclusive and sustainable village development depends heavily on the quality of village financial management (Mubarok & Kurnia, 2025). Since the implementation of

the village fund policy in 2015, village governments have had greater authority to manage financial resources to support development, community empowerment, and improve public services. The annual increase in village fund allocations requires a village financial system that ensures transparency, accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency in financial management (Bakhtiar, 2021; Gundul, 2025; Junaidi & Adnan, 2023). Therefore, the village financial system is a crucial instrument for realizing good village governance and improving community welfare. From the perspective of good governance theory, transparent and accountable public financial management is a key prerequisite for creating an effective, service-oriented government (Abdulnabi, 2024; Situngkir & Herman, 2025).

The development of fiscal decentralization and village autonomy policies has driven the transformation of village financial management from a conventional administrative system to a more modern, information-technology-based one (Anas et al., 2024; Rai & Surana, 2025). This phenomenon is marked by the increasingly widespread adoption of village financial systems designed to improve the quality of village financial management through more integrated recording, reporting, and monitoring. However, implementing these systems still faces various challenges. Limited human resource competency, low digital literacy among village officials, capacity disparities between regions, and various technical obstacles in application use are still frequently encountered issues. Research by Sahusilawane (2021); Fauzi et al. (2024) shows that the performance of village financial system operators has a direct and significant impact on village welfare. Furthermore, research by Indrijawati et al. (2024) confirms that strengthening village financial management systems can improve financial performance, reduce corruption risk, and encourage more effective and efficient budget use to enhance community welfare.

Along with increased attention to village financial governance, research on village financial systems has also advanced significantly. Various studies have examined aspects of transparency, accountability, internal control, digitalization, and community participation in village financial management. Research by Usman & Sundari (2024) found that the use of village financial system applications, transparency, and internal control influence fraud prevention in village governance. Research by Riyadi et al. (2023) shows that attitudes, motivation, and perceptions positively influence the implementation of regional financial accounting systems. However, research by Yap et al. (2024) reveals that village financial system applications still face various technical issues that affect the quality of financial reporting, necessitating continuous improvement in system quality and training for village officials.

Research developments also indicate a shift in focus from administrative aspects to digital transformation and organizational capacity building. Tubastuvi et al. (2023) found that financial management in tourism villages requires the involvement of various stakeholders, the support of competent human resources, and adequate use of technology. Meanwhile, research by Sucipto & Cahyono (2023) shows that many villagers still do not understand the village financial system program. In some areas, financial reporting is still carried out using Microsoft Word and Excel because local governments have low commitment to implementing digital systems. Research by Mahmud et al. (2023) confirms that the village financial system is effective in supporting the achievement of good village governance, improving decision-making quality, and strengthening public trust in the village government.

In a broader context, the digitalization of village financial management is also linked to achieving sustainable development. Handayani et al. (2023) found that

accountability in village financial management and the digitalization of financial reporting significantly influence the achievement of regional sustainable development goals (SDGs). Furthermore, research by Ariyanto et al. (2022) shows that user trust and satisfaction with e-government services are crucial factors in realizing smart villages and successfully implementing village government information systems. Research by Wicaksono (2021) also emphasizes the importance of processes, human resources, strategy, and organizational structure in supporting the success of digital transformation in village government. More recent findings from Jumaiyah et al. (2025) reinforce the intellectual capital theory, suggesting that it can enhance organizational performance when integrated with dynamic capabilities and effective knowledge management. Jumaiyah et al. (2025) make a significant contribution to developing an understanding of digital transformation in village financial management.

Although research on village financial systems continues to grow and yield important empirical findings, most previous studies have focused on examining relationships between variables, evaluating system implementation, and the impact of financial management on organizational performance or community well-being. To date, there is still very limited research that comprehensively maps the development of knowledge on village financial systems from a bibliometric perspective. Few studies have identified publication growth, citation trends, author collaboration networks, government and institutional contributions, and the development of dominant research themes in this field over time. This situation indicates a research gap that needs to be filled to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the intellectual structure and direction of development of village financial systems research.

Based on these gaps, this study offers novelty by using a bibliometric approach to analyze the development of village financial system research during the 2015–2025 period. Unlike previous studies that focused on empirical aspects and case studies, this study maps publication trends, citations, author contributions, institutions and countries, scientific collaboration networks, related scientific fields, and emerging research theme clusters. Furthermore, this study also identifies topics with potential future research directions, thereby providing a more comprehensive picture of the dynamics of the development of village financial system literature. This research is highly urgent given the increasing allocation of village funds and the growing demand for transparent, accountable, and technology-based village financial governance. Mapping the development of village financial system research is crucial for understanding the direction of scientific development, identifying themes that have been extensively researched, and identifying research areas that still require further exploration.

This research is based on several relevant theoretical perspectives. First, good governance theory emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, participation, effectiveness, and efficiency in public financial management. Second, intellectual capital theory explains that human resource knowledge, competence, and capabilities are strategic assets in improving organizational performance (Jumaiyah et al., 2025). Third, digital transformation theory explains how the use of information technology can improve governance quality, operational efficiency, and decision-making in public sector organizations. Fourth, stakeholder theory emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder involvement in the process of managing and overseeing village finances to create more inclusive and sustainable governance.

This study aims to analyze the development of research on the village financial system during the 2015–2025 period using a bibliometric approach. The analysis was

conducted on the number of publications and citations per year, the most relevant journals, the most productive authors, the contributions of countries and institutions, related scientific fields, and dominant and emerging research themes. The results of this study are expected to provide theoretical contributions by enriching the literature on village financial systems through mapping the existing knowledge structure and research trends. Furthermore, this research is also expected to provide practical contributions for the government, academics, and other stakeholders in formulating policies, digitalization strategies, and strengthening human resource capacity to improve the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of village financial management in the future.

Method

This study employed a bibliometric approach, using a systematic literature review (SLR) that adhered to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. This approach was chosen because it provides a systematic, transparent, and replicable process for identifying, selecting, and evaluating literature. Bibliometric analysis was used to map the development of research on village financial systems, identify publication and citation trends, analyze contributions by authors, institutions, and countries, and uncover emerging research themes during the observation period. Data collection was conducted through a literature search in two reputable scientific databases: Crossref and Scopus. These two databases were selected because they have extensive publication coverage and provide comprehensive metadata for bibliometric analysis. The literature search was conducted using keywords related to village financial systems, such as "village financial system," "village finance," "village financial management," "Siskeudes," and other relevant terms. All publications found during the 2015–2025 period were exported and compiled into a single database for further filtering.

The first stage in the PRISMA procedure is identification. At this stage, 250 documents were obtained from searches in the Crossref and Scopus databases. A duplicate document review and removal process was then performed to ensure that each publication was recorded only once in the research dataset. This process resulted in 240 unique documents, which then proceeded to the next filtering stage. The second stage is screening, which is an initial selection process based on title, abstract, keywords, and relevance to the research topic. At this stage, documents unrelated to the village's financial system were eliminated from the dataset. The screening results showed that 128 articles met the initial criteria and were eligible to proceed to the eligibility assessment stage. This stage aims to ensure that the selected literature is truly relevant to the research focus and possesses adequate scientific quality.

The third stage is eligibility, which is a more in-depth evaluation of the article's content. This stage examines the research objectives, the methodology used, the suitability of the topic to the village's financial system, and the completeness of the information required for the bibliometric analysis. Several documents were excluded from the selection process because they did not meet the established inclusion criteria. Thirty documents were eliminated because they came from inappropriate publication types, such as books, proceedings, reports, editorials, or non-scientific articles. Furthermore, 69 documents were excluded because they were not written in Indonesian or were not directly relevant to the context of village financial management in Indonesia. The final stage is inclusion, which involves determining which articles meet all research criteria for further analysis. After the entire selection process, 29 articles met the

inclusion criteria and were used as research samples. These articles are scientific publications that specifically discuss the village financial system, employ clear methodologies, and are relevant to the context of village financial governance in Indonesia.

Data that met the criteria were then analyzed using a bibliometric approach to generate various research indicators. The analysis included the development of the number of publications and citations per year, the most productive journals, the most influential authors, the institutions and countries contributing to the research, and mapping research themes based on keyword co-occurrence. Furthermore, cluster analysis was used to identify dominant research theme groups and uncover potential research opportunities for future development. All research stages conducted in accordance with the PRISMA guidelines are presented visually in Figure 1. Through this systematic, transparent, and structured procedure, this research is expected to produce valid and scientifically accountable findings. In addition to providing a comprehensive overview of the development of village financial system research during the 2015–2025 period, the results are also expected to serve as a basis for researchers, academics, and policymakers in developing research agendas and policies to strengthen village financial governance in the future.

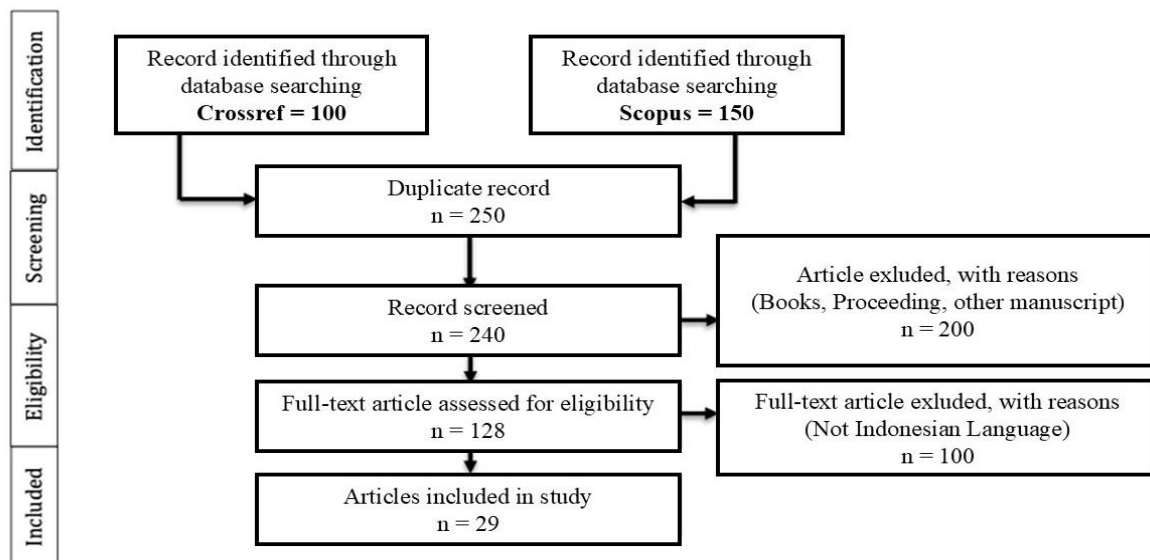


Figure 1 research method

Results and discussion

Number of publications per year

An analysis of publications per year was conducted to illustrate the development of research on village financial systems during the 2018–2025 period. This indicator is important for understanding the level of academic attention on the topic and identifying changes in research trends over time. An increase in publications generally reflects growing researcher interest in an issue, while a decrease may indicate a shift in research focus to other areas or limited research development on a particular theme. Based on Figure 2, the number of publications on village financial systems fluctuated throughout the observation period. In 2018, there were four publications; in 2019, one. Entering 2020, there was a very significant increase to eight publications, the highest number

during the study period. This condition indicates that the issue of village financial systems is beginning to receive greater attention from academics and researchers. This increase is likely influenced by the growing importance of village fund governance and the need for a transparent and accountable financial management system, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the government expanded various village-based assistance and development programs.

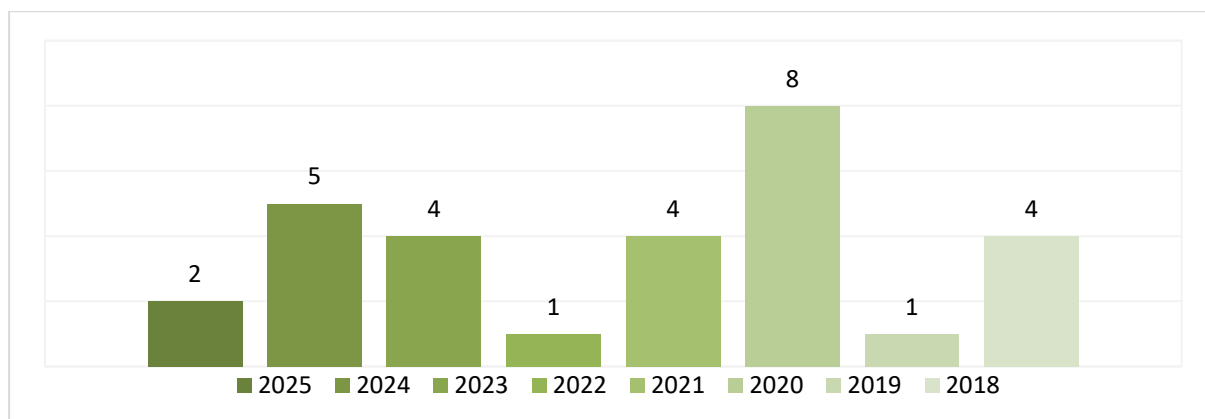


Figure 2 publication per year
Source: secondary data, processed 2025

After peaking in 2020, the number of publications decreased to 4 in 2021 and to 1 in 2022. This decline could be due to various factors, such as a shift in research focus to post-pandemic economic recovery issues or the limited development of village financial systems topics during that period. However, in 2023, the number of publications increased again to four, and in 2024, it grew to five. This upward trend indicates that village financial systems remain a relevant topic and attract researchers' attention, particularly regarding the digitalization of village financial management, the implementation of village financial system applications, budget transparency, and strengthening village government accountability.

Meanwhile, two publications were recorded in 2025. This number is lower than last year's. However, it should be noted that the 2025 data is still preliminary, as the publication indexing process continues until the end of the year. Therefore, the number of publications in that year could increase as more articles are indexed in the databases used. The publication trend in village financial system research shows dynamic development, with fluctuating patterns. The surge in publications in 2020 marked increased academic attention to village financial management issues, while the subsequent increase in 2023–2024 indicates that this theme continues to develop and remains highly relevant to supporting transparent, accountable, and technology-based village governance. These findings indicate that research on village financial systems still offers significant development opportunities, particularly in digital transformation, public financial governance, fraud prevention, community participation, and their contribution to achieving sustainable development at the village level.

Journals that most closely match the research theme

A publication source analysis was conducted to identify the journals that publish the most research related to village financial systems. This analysis is important because it reveals the primary publication channels through which knowledge in the field is disseminated. Furthermore, identifying dominant journals also provides insight into the

disciplines that contribute most to the development of village financial systems studies, from the perspectives of accounting, public finance, governance, information technology, and sustainable development.

Table 1 journal according to theme

Source title	Total
International Journal of Innovation Creativity and Change	3
Public and Municipal Finance	2
Proceedings of The International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management	2
Management and Accounting Review	2
IOP Conference Series Earth and Environmental Science	2
International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology	2
Universal Journal of Accounting and Finance	1
Uncertain Supply Chain Management	1
Sustainability Switzerland	1
Quality Access to Success	1
Problems and Perspectives in Management	1
Journal of Physics Conference Series	1
Journal of Management Information and Decision Sciences	1
Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies	1
Journal of Advanced Research in Dynamical and Control Systems	1
International Journal of Scientific and Technology Research	1
International Journal of Civil Engineering and Technology	1
Edelweiss Applied Science and Technology	1
Asian Development Policy Review	1
AIP Conference Proceedings	1
Accounting	1
Academy of Strategic Management Journal	1

Source: secondary data, processed 2025

Based on Table 1, the International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change is the journal that published the most research on village financial systems, with 3 publications. This journal's dominance indicates that village financial systems issues are studied not only from a financial management perspective but also in relation to organizational innovation, governance changes, and the capacity building of village institutions. The next positions are Public and Municipal Finance, Proceedings of the International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management, Management and Accounting Review, IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science, and the International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology, each contributing two publications. The diversity of publication sources demonstrates that village financial systems research is multidisciplinary and involves various scientific perspectives.

Furthermore, several other journals contributed one publication each, including Universal Journal of Accounting and Finance, Uncertain Supply Chain Management, Sustainability, Quality Access to Success, Problems and Perspectives in Management, Journal of Management Information and Decision Sciences, Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies, Accounting, and Academy of Strategic Management Journal. The presence of these journals demonstrates that research on village financial systems focuses not only on accounting and public finance but also on legal dimensions, strategic management, information systems, development policy, and sustainability. The relatively even distribution of publications across journals indicates that the field of village financial systems research is still in its infancy and has not yet been concentrated in a single

journal. This condition indicates that the topic of village financial systems has a broad scope and can be studied from various theoretical and methodological perspectives. Furthermore, this finding indicates that the issue of village financial systems is gaining increasing attention internationally, as evidenced by the widespread publication of articles in various reputable journals and proceedings on public finance, governance, information technology, and sustainable development.

The analysis of publication sources shows that research on village financial systems is developing across disciplines. The predominance of journals focusing on accounting, public finance, management, and technology indicates that village financial management is viewed not merely as an administrative issue but also as part of efforts to improve governance, digital transformation of the public sector, and achieve sustainable development. This finding also opens the door for researchers to expand the study of village financial systems through a more integrative, multidisciplinary approach in the future.

Research subject area

An analysis of research in the subject area identifies the journals that publish the most articles on village financial systems. Knowing the main journals that frequently publish research on this topic helps us understand where the most important research in the field of village finance is published. It also gives us an idea of the quality and influence of these journals in disseminating knowledge and promoting academic discourse in this field. This study will analyze the journals that have made the largest contributions to publications on this theme and map their relevance and impact on the development of village financial system research.

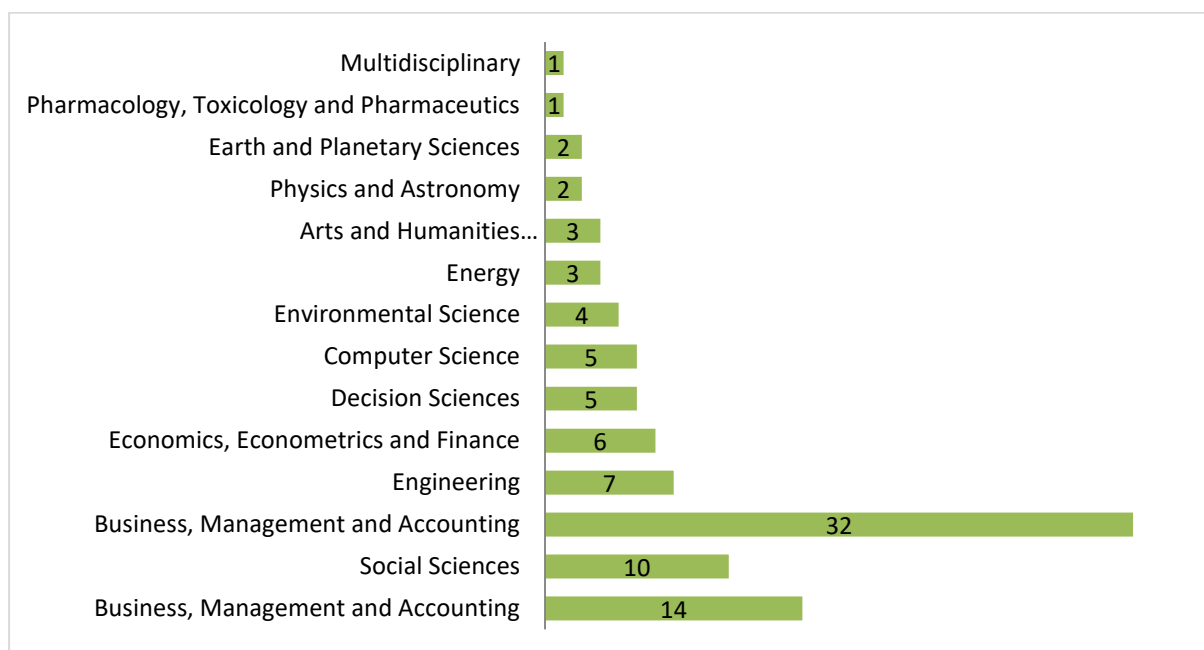


Figure 3 subject area of the research

Source: secondary data, processed 2025

Figure 3 shows the distribution of journal categories relevant to the research theme of village financial systems. The Business, Management, and Accounting category emerged as the most dominant, with 14 articles, indicating that village financial management is widely discussed in the context of business management and accounting.

This reflects the importance of governance, transparency, and accountability aspects in village budget management. The Social Sciences category also makes a significant contribution with 10 articles, indicating that research on village finance is not limited to technical aspects but also involves social dimensions, such as its impact on the welfare of village communities and community participation in budget management. The Engineering, Economics, Econometrics and Finance, and Decision Sciences categories have a high number of publications (7, 6, and 5 articles, respectively), indicating that topics related to technology, economics, and decision-making in village financial management also receive serious attention from researchers.

In addition, the Computer Science, Environmental Science, and Energy categories, although with fewer publications, indicate that research on village financial systems is beginning to integrate technological innovations and environmentally based solutions into village financial management. Overall, this figure illustrates that research on village financial systems spans a wide range of disciplines, from economics and management to technology and the social sciences, reflecting the complexity of the topic and the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration in effectively managing village finances. The research findings can support research from Respati, et al (2021), showing that the village government has agreed that the village financial system is by the needs of the government, especially in the village in managing village funds, while the results of research from Misnawati et al. (2021), research shows that the evaluation of the preparation of financial accountability reports in Padang Loang Village is quite good and by the accounting standards recommended by the government.

Type of publication

The third problem formulation in this research is to identify the most published publication types related to the village financial system. These publications could include journal articles, conference proceedings, books, and other research reports. Knowing the dominant publication types can provide insight into which platforms researchers most often use to disseminate their findings in this field. In addition, the analysis of publication types can illustrate the depth of research, whether more theoretical, practical, or policy-based, thus helping map research contributions in more detail.

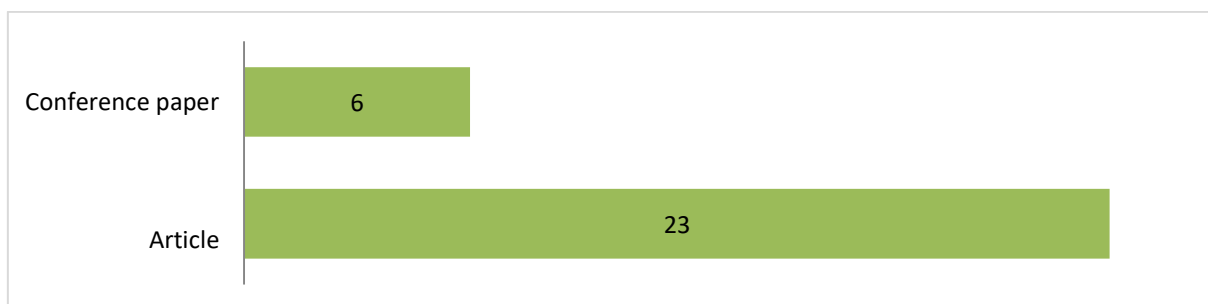


Figure 4 type of publication
Source: secondary data, processed 2025

Based on Figure 4, the most dominant publication type in village financial system research is Articles, with 23 publications, while Conference papers recorded only 6. This finding shows that most research in this field is published as journal articles, which generally undergo a more rigorous peer-review process and confer greater validity and impact in the academic world. Journal publications often focus on presenting more

comprehensive findings, more in-depth methodology, and broader analysis, making it a more appropriate format for long-term scholarly contributions. In contrast, the relatively lower number of Conference papers suggests that while academic conferences play an important role in disseminating ideas and provisional findings, publications in this form tend to be more limited to initial presentations or shorter theoretical discussions. This may reflect that research on village financial systems is prioritized for publication in scholarly journals with a wider audience and a greater focus on in-depth studies, rather than in conference papers, which are often more ephemeral and limited to discussion forums.

Author affiliation

The aspect of the author's affiliation that most contributes to publications related to the village financial system. By identifying institutions or organizations affiliated with the main author, this research aims to map their contributions to the development of village finance research. This analysis will also explore the dynamics of collaboration between institutions, at both the national and international levels, which can influence the quality and relevance of research findings. Additionally, understanding the authors' affiliations can provide insights into the significant roles universities and research institutions play in advancing knowledge in village financial management.

Table 2 author affiliations

Nu.	Author affiliation	Amount	Nu.	Author affiliation	Amount
1	Universitas Negeri Semarang	4	17	Universitas Darussalam	1
2	Universitas Warmadewa	4	18	Universitas Bina Bangsa	1
3	Universitas Negeri Jakarta	3	19	Universitas Ottow Geisler Papua	1
4	Universitas Airlangga	2	20	Universitas Majalengka	1
5	Hasanuddin University	2	21	Institut Bakti Nusantara	1
6	Universitas Udayana	2	22	STIE Rajawali	1
7	Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha	2	23	Universitas Diponegoro	1
8	Universitas Cenderawasih	2	24	Brawijaya University	1
9	Universitas Pattimura	1	25	Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta	1
10	Universitas Cenderawasih	1	26	Universitas Negeri Makassar	1
11	Perbanas Institute	1	27	Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember	1
12	Universitas Yapis Papua	1	28	Politeknik Negeri Bali	1
13	University of Ganesha Education	1	29	Universitas Pembangunan Panca Budi	1
14	University of Iqra Buru	1	30	UNISNU Jepara	1
15	Universitas Bumi Hijrah	1	31	Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya	1
16	Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Administrasi Puangrimaggalatung	1	32	Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Hukum Pengayoman	1

Source: secondary data, processed 2025

The analysis in Table 2 shows the distribution of author affiliations in publications on village financial systems, presenting the number of authors affiliated with various institutions. Based on the data, Semarang State University recorded the highest number of authors, with 4 authors, indicating the significant role of this institution in research related to village financial systems. Followed by Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Bina Nusantara University, each with 3 authors. In addition,

several institutions have lower contributions, namely, only one author each, such as Pattimura University, the School of Law, and the School of Administration. The research findings can reinforce Tuanaya & Wance (2024), who argue that villages also require more systematic transaction planning, allowing every transaction to be recorded comprehensively, both in planning and in execution.

This author affiliation analysis provides an overview of the distribution of institutional contributions to the development of village finance research in Indonesia. Institutions with the highest number of authors, such as Semarang State University, are likely to have research programs more focused on this topic. In contrast, institutions with fewer contributions may indicate limitations in related research or research that is more interdisciplinary. This research is important for evaluating the role of educational institutions in strengthening the village financial system and for identifying collaboration opportunities that can enhance the quality and depth of research in this field.

Main topics based on themes (clusters)

A research theme analysis was conducted using keyword co-occurrence to identify dominant topics in village financial system research. The mapping results indicate two main clusters, reflecting research concentration on the effectiveness of village fund management and on village financial management and governance. These theme groupings provide an overview of the direction of research development and the issues of primary concern to researchers. The results of the research cluster grouping are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 research issues

Cluster 1	Cluster 2
Effectiveness	Financial management
Multiple linear regression	Siskeudes
Village financial system	Village finance
Village fund	Village financial management
Village fund management	Village government
Village head	
Village official	

Source: secondary data, processed 2025

Based on Table 3, two main clusters describe the dominant topics in village financial system research. Cluster 1, which includes seven topics, focuses more on the analysis of the effectiveness and management of village funds. Topics such as multiple linear regression, village financial system, and village fund indicate that research in this cluster tends to use a quantitative approach to evaluate the effectiveness of village fund management. Methods such as linear regression are used to analyze the relationships among variables in the village financial system. In contrast, the terms village head and village official reflect the importance of village leaders in implementing financial policies.

On the other hand, Cluster 2, comprising five topics, focuses more on the managerial and administrative aspects of village financial management. Topics such as financial management, financial systems, and village financial management indicate that research in this cluster focuses more on the practice of financial management itself, including the use of existing systems to facilitate village fund management. Research in this cluster tends to focus on operational and policy aspects, examining how financial

systems and mechanisms are implemented to achieve efficiency and accountability in village fund management. Overall, these two clusters illustrate two different but complementary approaches to village financial system research: one focuses on quantitative evaluation and effectiveness analysis. In contrast, the other focuses on practical management and policy in village financial implementation.

Research findings from Pangayow & Patma (2021) have implications for the need for a quality financial management process starting from planning, implementation, and reporting to increasing public trust in the level of accountability of village officials, while the findings from Anggreni et al. (2020), the quality of information and trust in technology have been shown to have a positive effect on user satisfaction, in addition, research by Soleman, et al (2020), the hypothesis that supports this study provides the conclusion that the use of IT and the role of village facilitators are variables that affect the quality of village financial reports, in line with the results of research by Mariyatni (2020) which resulted in the quality of human resources and education and training need to be carried out in villages to support the effectiveness of the implementation of village financial systems and computer-based accounting.

Potential topics based on themes

This research aims to identify potential topics for development in village financial system research. By examining existing research trends, it is important to explore new topics that could become the main focus of future research. These potential topics include the use of digital technology in village fund management, the development of village apparatus capacity, and community participation in the village financial system. Identifying emerging topics can help researchers and policymakers prepare to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities in village financial management.

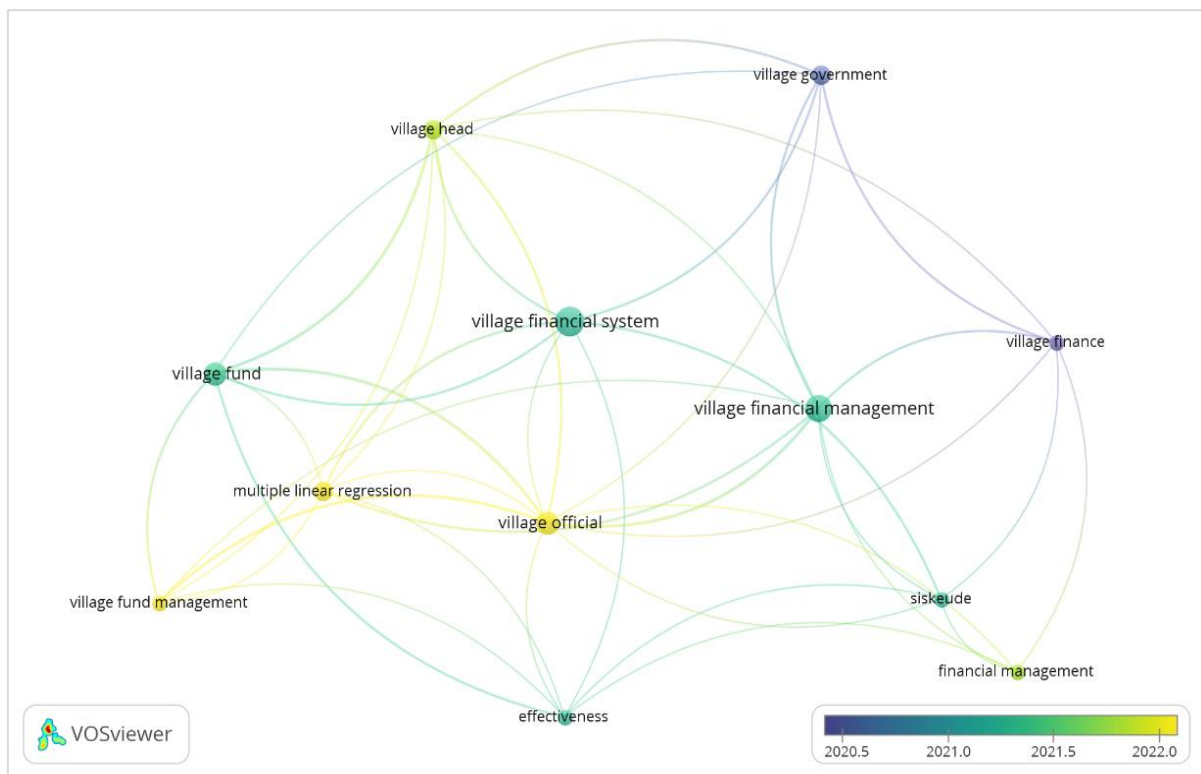


Figure 5 potential topics according to the theme

Source: secondary data, processed 2025

Based on Figure 5, the analysis of keyword visualization mapping in research related to the village financial system is grouped into two clusters based on the relationships among the topics discussed. Cluster 1 (red) focuses on the analysis of effectiveness and quantitative approaches in village fund management. Several main topics that emerge in this cluster, such as village fund, multiple linear regression, village financial system, village fund management, and effectiveness, show that research in this cluster focuses a lot of attention on evaluating the performance of the village financial system through statistical and analytical methods, especially linear regression, which is used to measure the effectiveness of village fund management. This approach emphasizes measurable, data-based metrics of village financial performance.

Meanwhile, Cluster 2 (green) focuses on managerial and policy aspects of village financial management. Topics such as village financial management, village finance, village government, Siskeudes, and financial management indicate that research in this cluster is more directed at the practical and administrative management of village finances, including the use of the village financial information system (Siskeudes) and the implementation of government policies in managing village funds. This cluster underscores the importance of efficient, accountable financial management at the village level, with attention to organizational and regulatory aspects. Overall, this visualization illustrates two complementary approaches in village financial system research: one cluster focuses on effectiveness analysis and quantitative evaluation. At the same time, the other emphasizes village financial management and the practical implementation of policies. This approach reflects the complexity of village finance, involving technical, managerial, and policy elements that interact to improve the quality of village fund management.

Research on the village financial system is of utmost urgency, given the vital role of villages in Indonesia's economic and social development. Since the implementation of the village fund policy, the main challenge has been ensuring transparent, accountable, and efficient management of village funds. Given the enormous potential of village funds, research on the village financial system is crucial to ensure they are used appropriately to meet the needs of village communities. In addition, transparency and supervision in village financial management must continue to be improved. With research that examines the village financial system, both in terms of policy, management, and application of technology, we can identify weaknesses in the existing system and formulate more effective solutions for managing village finances. This research is also crucial for supporting better policies and increasing village officials' capacity to manage budgets more professionally.

The bibliometric analysis used in this study is a very relevant approach to exploring trends and developments in village financial system research. By using this method, we can identify the main topics that are widely discussed in the literature, including developments in the use of information technology to improve efficiency and accountability. Bibliometric analysis also allows us to map the distribution of publications per year, as well as the contributions of various institutions and authors who dominate this field. Through this analysis, we can identify which areas have been widely studied and which have received less attention. For example, the theme of the use of digital systems and sophisticated technology-based village financial applications, such as blockchain for village budget transparency, may be less discussed, even though it has great potential to improve future village fund management. By utilizing this analysis, research can provide deeper insights into the direction of future research and development of village financial systems.

The potential for developing topics in village financial system research is very large, especially by utilizing existing technological advances. One topic that could be a major focus is the application of blockchain to increase transparency and accountability in village fund management. Blockchain technology can provide a decentralized, secure system that enables easier oversight and reduces the risk of fund misuse. In addition, the topic of digitalization in the village financial system is also increasingly relevant to advances in information technology. Implementing an application-based village financial system that allows villagers to access and monitor budget use directly can increase community participation in managing village funds. Research on the capacity of village officials to use this technology also needs more attention, because strengthening village financial managers' capacity is key to the successful implementation of a technology-based financial system. With this progress, the potential for future research to develop innovative solutions to the challenges of managing village funds is increasing and is expected to have a significant impact on improving the village's financial system as a whole.

The village financial system is one of the main aspects that have received attention in various Indonesian government programs, especially through the village fund policy launched in 2015 (Permatasari et al., 2024). The government's village funds aim to accelerate village development and improve community welfare. In this case, research on the village financial system is highly relevant to the government's program, as both support each other in achieving transparency, accountability, and efficiency in village budget management. The village fund program aims to give villages greater autonomy in managing budgets and planning development (Ardiputra et al., 2025). In contrast, research on the village financial system provides a theoretical and practical basis for optimizing the management of these funds. Research that focuses on increasing transparency, the use of technology, and village financial monitoring systems strongly supports the government's goal of achieving better, more measurable village fund management.

However, although the village fund program has been running since 2015, several findings in this study indicate a mismatch between government policy and practice in the field, especially regarding village financial management, which remains largely opaque. Although the government has developed the Siskeudes system to facilitate village budget management, its implementation in the field still faces various obstacles, including the limited capacity of village officials to operate it. These findings indicate that although the government program aims to increase transparency and accountability, many villages have not been able to fully utilize the technology provided, due to limited skills and human resources at the village level. Therefore, although government policy is very much in line with the objectives of this study, practical implementation in the field still requires strengthening in terms of human resource capacity and technological infrastructure at the village level.

In addition, this study found that the potential for new topics, such as the use of blockchain technology to manage village funds, is not fully aligned with existing government programs. Although information technology has been used in the village fund management system, the more sophisticated and secure blockchain concept for village budget transparency has not been implemented in government policies (Kenetey & Popesko, 2025). The government still relies on internet-based systems and applications such as Siskeudes. However, technologies such as blockchain, which can ensure a more secure and transparent system, have not been seriously considered in village financial management (Kaur & Parashar, 2022). Therefore, this finding reveals a

gap between emerging research and current government policies, where more sophisticated technology can provide more effective solutions to increase transparency and reduce the potential for misuse of village funds. Therefore, the government should consider implementing new technologies that better support the objectives of the village fund policy, thereby making village financial management more efficient, transparent, and accountable.

The main findings of this study indicate that although the village fund policy implemented by the Indonesian government since 2015 has provided significant opportunities to increase village autonomy and development, village financial management still faces various challenges, particularly in transparency, accountability, and efficiency. This study found that although the Siskeudes system has been introduced to facilitate village financial management, its implementation in the field remains limited, particularly due to the limited capacity of village officials to operate it. In addition, bibliometric analysis shows that topics such as the digitalization of village financial management and the use of information technology in village fund supervision have begun to receive greater attention in recent research. However, their implementation in government policies remains suboptimal. Another important finding is the potential use of advanced technologies, such as blockchain, to increase transparency and security in village fund management. However, this technology has not been fully considered in existing policies. Overall, this study reveals a gap between developing research and policy implementation, indicating that to achieve more efficient and accountable village financial management, there is a need to increase village officials' capacity and adopt new technologies in the village financial system.

Conclusions

The development of publications on the village financial system has fluctuated, peaking in 2020, reflecting increased academic attention to village fund governance, transparency, and financial accountability. Analysis of publication sources shows that village financial system research is spread across various interdisciplinary journals, with the fields of Business, Management, and Accounting dominating, followed by Social Sciences, Engineering, Economics, Econometrics, and Finance. Furthermore, the results of the research theme mapping identified two main clusters: one focused on the effectiveness of village fund management and the evaluation of village financial system performance, and the other focused on the managerial aspects, governance, and implementation of village financial system applications. These findings indicate that village financial system research is evolving from financial administration issues to more complex issues, such as digitalization, internal control, transparency, accountability, and the transformation of village governance.

Theoretically, this study enriches the literature on village financial systems by presenting a comprehensive mapping of knowledge structures, publication trends, relevant disciplines, and emerging research themes over the past decade. The results also strengthen the relevance of good governance theory, stakeholder theory, intellectual capital theory, and digital transformation theory in explaining the dynamics of village financial management. In practice, the research findings can serve as a reference for the government, academics, and stakeholders in formulating policies that support increased transparency, accountability, and the effectiveness of technology-based village financial management. However, this study has several limitations. First, the data sources were limited to Scopus and Crossref, so there may still be relevant publications that have not been identified in other databases. Second, the analysis

included only documents that met the inclusion criteria, resulting in a relatively small sample. Third, this study focused on bibliometric analysis and therefore did not fully examine the substance and quality of the empirical findings in each analyzed article.

Future research is recommended to expand data sources by integrating additional databases, such as the Web of Science, to achieve broader, more representative literature coverage. Future research could also combine bibliometric analysis with meta-analysis to gain a deeper understanding of the factors influencing the successful implementation of village financial systems. Furthermore, topics that are still relatively under-researched in the literature, such as the use of artificial intelligence, blockchain, village data governance, information security, digital-based community participation, and the integration of village financial systems with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), require further attention. Thus, future research is expected to produce more comprehensive recommendations to support the development of increasingly transparent, accountable, adaptive, and sustainable village financial systems.

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