Jurnal Studi Pemerintahan dan Akuntabilitas (JASTAKA)
ISSN: 2776-7574, Vol 6, No 1, 2026, 45-56 https://doi.org/10.35912/jastaka.v6i1.6038

Financial Technology for Strengthening MSME Financial Management: A Systematic Literature Review (PRISMA) 2021-2025

Kiki Anggraeny[1*], Rischa Meiyani[2], Haryono Haryono[3], Maria Septijantini Alie[4]
Universitas Mitra, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia[1,2,3,4]
kikianggraeny2025.student@umitra.ac.id[1*], rischameiyani2025.student@umitra.ac.id[2], haryono2025.student@umitra.ac.id[3], maria_alie@umitra.ac.id[4]

Article History
Received on 27 December 2025
1st Revision on 30 December 2025
2nd Revision on 03 March 2026
3rd Revision on 30 March 2026
Accepted on 07 April 2026

Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to systematically examine the role of Financial Technology (FinTech) in strengthening financial management practices among Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), particularly in improving access to finance, cash flow management, and transparency.

Research Methodology: This study adopts a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach based on the PRISMA protocol. Peer-reviewed journal articles published between 2021 and 2025 were retrieved from the Scopus database using predefined keywords related to FinTech, financial management and MSMEs. The selected studies were analyzed through content analysis to identify patterns, mechanisms, and research gaps in the adoption of FinTech and MSMES financial management.

Results: The findings indicate that FinTech significantly enhances MSMES financial management through digital payment systems, digital lending platforms, accounting information systems, and data-driven financial tools. FinTech adoption improves transaction efficiency, the accuracy of financial records, access to alternative financing, and overall financial resilience. Financial and digital literacy are critical factors influencing successful FinTech utilization.

Conclusions: FinTech serves as a strategic enabler of MSME financial management and business sustainability. Effective integration, supported by adequate literacy and regulatory support, enhances financial performance and resilience of the sector. Policymakers should promote inclusive fintech ecosystems.

Limitations: This review was limited to English-language publications and cross-sectional studies, restricting insights into long-term effects.

Contribution: This synthesis of recent evidence offers valuable insights for academics, policymakers, and practitioners in developing inclusive digital financial solutions.

Keywords: *Financial Management, Financial Technology, MSMEs, PRISMA, Systematic Literature Review*

How to Cite: Anggraeny, K., Meiyani, R., Haryono, H., & Alie, M. S. (2026). Financial Technology for Strengthening MSME Financial Management: A Systematic Literature Review (PRISMA) 2021-2025. *Jurnal Studi Pemerintahan dan Akuntabilitas (JASTAKA)*, 6(1), 45-56.

1. Introduction

The MSMEs in many countries still face structural constraints in accessing financing, weak financial record-keeping, and low cas flop efficiency, which hinder business scale and economic sustainability. FinTech offer instrument new (payment rails, digital lending, e-wallet, supply-chain finance) that have potential reduce obstacle and improve efficiency operational aspects of MSMEs (El-Islamy & Salsabila, 2025). The latest research literature confirms that ecosystem FinTech expands service finance for MSMEs and reduces cost transactions as well as information asymmetry (Guan, Sun, Wu, & Sun, 2025; Verma, Shome, & Hassan, 2023a). In addition to access financing, the internal financial management of MSMEs, including recording, budgeting, and cash management, is often not sufficiently digitalized, so decision-making becomes reactive and based on memory (Jedeot, Santi, June, & Anggraeni, 2025). The adoption of financial digital tools (e.g., apps), accountancy-based clouds, integrated POS, and simple analytics) has proven to increase quality record-keeping and transparency in MSMEs, thereby improving liquidity and profitability (Divianto, Kamaludin, Santi, & Saiful, 2024; Sismiati, Sulaiman, Usmar, Lanori, & Susanto, 2025; Zaniarti, Margaretha, & Subagja, 2025). Empirical and review literature shows a positive connection between digitalization finance and repair practice management finance business small-medium (Li, Lu, & Yin, 2023).

The Role of FinTech not only increases access to credit but also introduces mechanism evaluation risk alternatives (digital credit scoring, big-data underwriting) that reduce obstacles to information for giving loans (Wulandari, Astuti, & Barokah, 2025). Mechanism This enables MSMEs that were previously " did not bankable" to get financing with conditions faster and more transparently, which then impacts their ability to invest and manage working capital. An empirical study shows that fintech-driven credit scoring and supply chain finance moderately limit financing for MSMEs (Wang, Yao, Ge, & Wang, 2025).

However, the adoption of FinTech by MSMEs is heterogeneous: factors such as digital/financial literacy, trust towards platforms, digital infrastructure, and regulations influence the strength of reception technology (Hlaing, & Aung, 2025; Mahsun, Junaidi, Sumiyana, Nurdiono, & Suparmono, 2025). Research reviews and cross-country studies have explained that non-technical constraints (literacy, culture) finance, policy, and consumer protection) often become the main inhibitors, although technology is available. Therefore that, understand determinant adoption FinTech is essential for designing strengthening interventions management MSMEs finances in general inclusive (Verma et al., 2023a).

The impact of FinTech on MSMEs performance can also be mediated through improved operational efficiency, for example, accelerated payment reception, reduced receivable delays, and automated reconciliation, which in turn improves liquidity and profitability (Bilgah, Agustina, & Andrie, 2025). A meta-review shows that the integration of digital payment solutions and accounting tools contributes to improving the cash conversion cycle and resilience of MSMEs finance. These findings confirm the importance of evaluating the effect of FinTech not only on access to capital but also on internal managerial practices (Guan et al., 2025).

On the side policy, literature international emphasize role balanced regulation support innovation FinTech while guard protection consumers and market stability for the benefit for MSMEs can maximum without cause risk new issues such as, over-indebtedness and data privacy (Ayustia & Trisilo, 2023). The latest bibliometric study recommends a synergy policy between authority finance, technology regulators, and stakeholders' interests of MSMEs to overcome regulatory obstacles and accelerate the inclusion of digital finance. This is important for context research that focuses on implementing FinTech solutions at the operational level of MSMEs (Fauzi, Handayati, & Siswanto, 2025; Zhou, & Wang, 2024).

Apart from the aspect of pure finance, FinTech opens opportunities for innovation services such as, analytics for management inventory, integration marketplace-finance, and features budgeting automatic which supports taking strategic decisions for MSMEs actors. Empirical research shows that the use of real-time analytic finance and integration of e-commerce transaction data can help MSMEs optimize working capital and determine price strategies. Therefore, studying how and which FinTech features strengthen financial management is relevant for identifying the most valuable interventions (Li et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2025). Even though the potential is large, some studies warn of the existence of a digital divide in MSMEs in underdeveloped regions or very small micro-enterprises that have not yet enjoyed the benefits of FinTech in a proportional way (Tayibnapis, 2021). This is demanding research that not only evaluates the average effect but also the heterogeneity impact based on sector, business size, and regional context. The analysis of the differential helps formulate recommendations for targeted training policies and programs to narrow the digital-financial divide (Olatunji, Sajuyigbe, Tella, Oke, Babalola, & Adebayo, 2025).

From a methodological perspective, recent SLR and bibliometric studies reveal persistent research gaps in the FinTech–MSMEs literature, particularly the limited use of longitudinal designs to assess the long-term impact of FinTech adoption on MSMEs financial resilience, as well as the lack of integrative approaches combining digital transaction data with qualitative insights into managerial behavior change. To address these gaps, this review synthesizes empirical evidence published between 2021 and 2025 to offer a structured and up-to-date mapping of the field. The study contributes by identifying key thematic clusters (digital payments, digital lending, financial management systems, and data-driven financial tools), explicating the underlying mechanisms through which FinTech strengthens MSMEs financial management (efficiency, transparency, access to finance, and resilience), and formulating a clear future research agenda that emphasizes longitudinal, mixed-methods, and policy-oriented studies. This review provides actionable insights for academics, policymakers, and practitioners to support inclusive and sustainable digital financial transformation among MSMEs.

2. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

2.1 Financial Technology

Financial Technology (FinTech) refers to the application of technology to improve, automate, and simplify financial services across various sectors, including digital payment systems, online lending, robo-advisors, and ever-evolving blockchain and AI-based services (Putri & Lutfianti, 2024). FinTech is not just a financial software innovation but also a paradigm shift in the way financial services are provided, driving efficiency, transparency, and broader access for consumers and businesses. Globally, FinTech has become a rapidly growing research sector because its combination of technology and traditional financial functions is transforming the structure of the financial industry (Kou & Lu, 2025).

A recent bibliometric analysis revealed that FinTech research has increased significantly since the mid-2010s, reflecting the expansion of academic and practical attention to the impact of financial technology in areas such as banking services, financial inclusion, system security, and operational risk. This trend analysis indicates that FinTech is not only focused on technical innovations, such as the use of AI, blockchain, and big data, but also on social and regulatory implications, as well as the integration of technology into business strategies and fiscal policies. Thus, FinTech plays a role as a driver of the transformation of traditional financial structures and as a source of fundamental changes in practice management and finance (Jafri et al., 2025). Study literature show that FinTech own potential big for increase access and inclusion finance, especially among MSMEs and underprivileged populations served in a way financial, through service like peer-to-peer lending, digital wallets, and payments cashless technology This No only expand range service finance, but also offers efficiency operational, reduction cost transactions, as well as analysis greater risk Good through integration of AI and machine learning in system modern finance. However, challenges such as data security, regulation, and user readiness remain the main focus of contemporary FinTech literature (Kou & Lu, 2025).

2.2 Management MSMEs Finance

Management MSMEs finance places cash management, record keeping accountancy simple, planning budgeting, and working capital management as core elements that determine continuity business term short and growth long term (Sriningsih et al., 2024). Studies empirical and review literature show that practice base like recording orderly, budgeting, and control cost relate positive with performance

MSMEs financial and capabilities endure moment shock economy. For theoretical context, attention to liquidity and funding structure is also often the main focus in MSMEs finance literature (Basha et al., 2023; Ramzi et al., 2023).

The role of financial literacy and the adoption of digital technology (FinTech, applications bookkeeping/payment) appears as a driver of important efficiency management MSMEs finance. Research International recently showed that financial literacy increases the ability to access formal financing, assess digital finance products, and use financial data to make decisions. The temporary adoption of digital solutions helps automate cash recording and monitoring, thereby reducing errors and transaction costs. The combination of literacy and digitalization has been shown to strengthen financial inclusion and improve business performance (Abdallah et al., 2025; Rini et al., 2025).

While evidence supports the importance of financial practices, the literature also identifies gaps, including contextual heterogeneity across countries, limited longitudinal studies on long-term effects, and the need for intervention models that combine literacy training, hands-on mentoring, and technology/financial access. Therefore, further research is recommended to evaluate mediating mechanisms such as, financial recording → credit access → business sustainability) and the effectiveness of combination programs (literacy + digital tools) in various economic contexts. These findings will form the basis for supporting policies for MSMEs and designing more integrated capacity-building programs (Piyani et al., 2023).

3. Research Methodology

This study adopts a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) to map and synthesize the role of Financial Technology (FinTech) in strengthening MSMEs financial management. The review process followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) protocol to ensure transparency, reproducibility, and minimization of selection bias.

3.1 Criteria Inclusion and Exclusion

To ensure relevance and analytical rigor, explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied (Table 1). These criteria ensured that the selected studies reflected recent, credible, and directly relevant scholarly evidence.

Table 1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criteria Type	Description
Inclusion	(1) Peer-reviewed journal articles (empirical or review); (2) Explicit focus on FinTech and MSMEs financial management; (3) Published between 2021–2025; (4) Full-text accessible; (5) Written in English
Exclusion	(1) Non–peer-reviewed publications (e.g., reports, theses, conference papers); (2) Studies focusing solely on individual/consumer FinTech adoption; (3) Articles unrelated to MSMEs operational or financial management

3.2 Data Search Strategy

A literature search was conducted electronically using the Scopus database. Scopus was selected as the sole database because it offers broad multidisciplinary coverage, rigorous journal indexing standards, and strong representation of high-impact journals in finance, management and information systems. Its structured metadata facilitate systematic screening and replication. The search employed the following Boolean keyword combinations: ("Financial Technology" or "FinTech") and ("Financial Management" or "Cash Flow") and ("SMEs" OR "MSMEs") and ("Digitalization").

3.3 Study Selection Stages

The literature selection process was carried out in four main stages. Identification: All articles appearing from the search keywords were collected. Screening: Removal of duplications and initial selection based on the title and abstract. Eligibility: Review the full text to ensure that the article specifically addresses financial management strengthening mechanisms. Inclusion: Establishing the final list of articles to be synthesized in the study.

3.4 Synthesis of Results

Analysis done with technique analysis content analysis for identify patterns, trends, and gaps research gaps. The synthesis results aim to answer How FinTech features mitigate asymmetry information, repair cycle cash conversion, and increase resilience of MSMEs financial based on proof empirical latest.

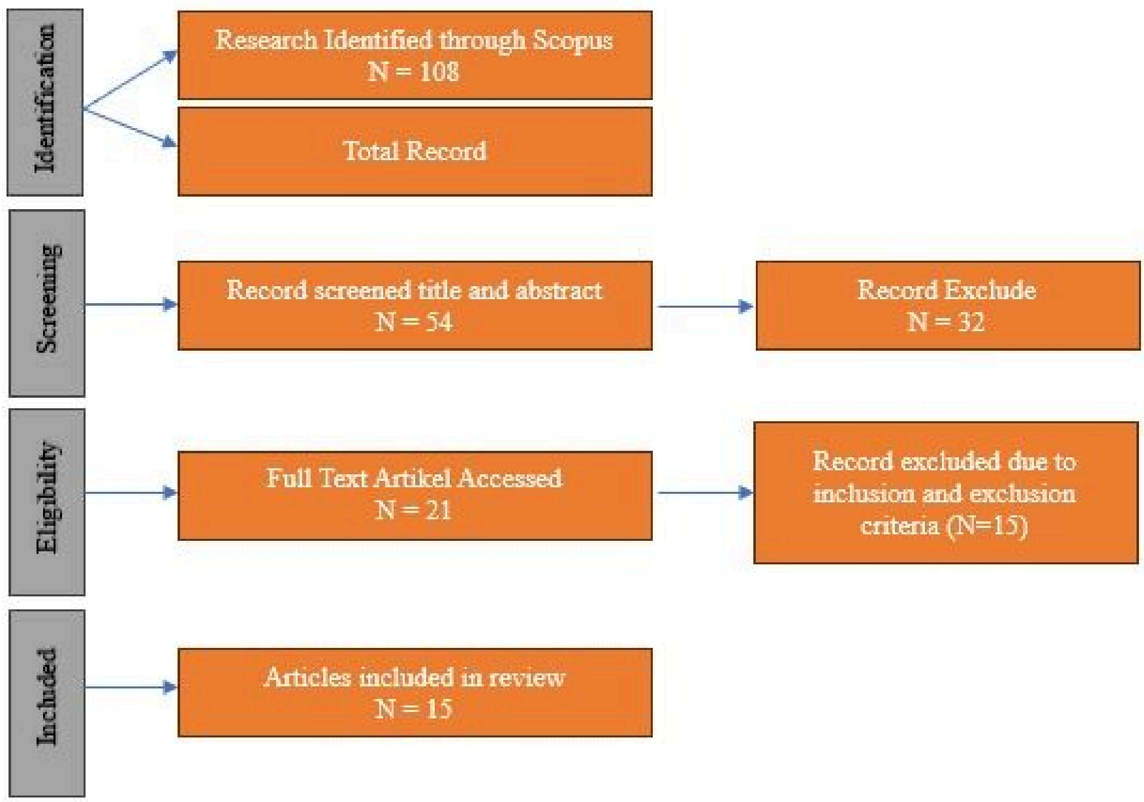

Figure 1 Prism model.

Figure 1 shows the prism model of this study. The study selection process followed the PRISMA framework. A total of 108 records were identified from Scopus. After title and abstract screening, 54 articles were assessed, with 32 records excluded due to irrelevance. Subsequently, 21 full-text articles were evaluated based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria, resulting in 15 excluded articles. Finally, 15 articles were included in the systematic literature review for further analysis.

4. Results and Discussions

Content analysis shows that research on FinTech and MSMEs financial management grew rapidly between 2021 and 2025, with a strong trend towards three main clusters in Table 2:

Table 2. Synthesis table of key studies on FinTech and MSMEs financial management

Author(s) – Year	Context (Country/Region)	Method	Key Findings (Evidence-Based)	Practical Implications
Thathsarani and Jianguo (2022)	Sri Lanka	Survey, SEM	Digital finance significantly improves financial inclusion and SME performance	Promote digital finance literacy to maximize inclusion benefits
Islam et al. (2023)	Bangladesh	Case study	FinTech supports green innovation and sustainable supply chains	FinTech can align MSMEs with ESG-oriented finance

Author(s) – Year	Context (Country/Region)	Method	Key Findings (Evidence-Based)	Practical Implications
Zhou and Wang (2024)	China	Panel data regression	FinTech redistributes financial services toward underserved firms	FinTech reduces financing inequality among MSMEs
Zhu and Guo (2024)	China	Econometric analysis	Inclusive finance mediated by FinTech enhances bank–SME relations	Policymakers should incentivize FinTech-driven inclusion
Unegbu et al. (2024)	Nigeria	Mixed methods	Digital transformation improves SME resilience and liquidity	Digital tools enhance crisis preparedness
Rifai and AlBaker (2025)	MENA region	Policy analysis	Regulation shapes FinTech impact on inclusion	Balanced regulation is essential for MSMEs access
Al-Okaily (2025)	Jordan	SEM	AIS usage improves financial control via IT knowledge	Capacity-building in digital accounting is critical
Sugahara and Kano (2025)	Japan	Survey, moderation analysis	Digital self-efficacy enhances financial performance	External accounting support boosts FinTech outcomes
Munawaroh and Widuri (2025)	Indonesia	PLS-SEM	Digital payments mediate literacy and MSMEs performance	Literacy-driven FinTech adoption improves transparency
Wahyudi et al. (2025)	Indonesia	Qualitative	Islamic FinTech supports inclusion and sustainability	Sharia-based FinTech broadens MSMEs access
Zhou and Pacala (2025)	Global manufacturing SMEs	Regression analysis	FinTech improves financial access and sustainable practices	FinTech enables long-term competitiveness
Wang et al. (2025)	China	Panel regression	Digital inclusive finance stimulates SME innovation	Innovation policy should integrate FinTech tools
Guan et al. (2025)	China	Econometric modeling	Supply chain finance improves SME financing efficiency	Platform-based finance stabilizes cash flow
Olatunji et al. (2025)	Nigeria	Survey	Digital services enhance transaction efficiency	Infrastructure investment is necessary
(Verma, Shome, & Hassan, 2023b)	Global	SLR	FinTech research lacks longitudinal evidence	Future studies should adopt long-term designs

4.1 FinTech as Driver Inclusion Finance and Access to Financing

FinTech has become the main driver of expanded financial inclusion and access to financing for MSMEs, especially in developing countries that previously faced limited access to formal financial institutions. Studies such as Al Rifai and AlBaker (2025), Thathsarani and Jianguo (2022), and Zhu and Guo (2024) show that digital innovations such as digital payment systems, mobile banking, e-wallets, and crowdfunding platforms have open track new for perpetrator business small for access service finance with more fast, cheap, and efficient. This technology not only expands the range of financial services to informal and regional sectors in rural areas but also simplifies the transaction process, recording, and reporting of finances. With the presence of FinTech, MSMEs can more easily obtain working capital, build digital credit history, and increase credibility in their finances in the eyes of financing institutions, which ultimately strengthens their business stability and sustainability.

Furthermore, FinTech also plays a role as a catalyst that drives the transformation of MSMEs finance towards a more ecosystem inclusive and adaptive to technology. Through integration between service digital finance and devices analytic based on data, MSMEs actors can access various product more financing personalization in accordance with profile risk and capacity business they. This is marking shift paradigm from system finance exclusive traditional become more systems open, participatory, and based technology. However, the effectiveness of FinTech as a driver of financial inclusion is highly dependent on the level of digital and financial literacy of MSMEs actors, adequate digital infrastructure, and supporting regulations. With Thus, collaboration between government, providers FinTech services, and institutions finance become crucial for ensure that this digital transformation truly push access inclusive and sustainable financing for all over MSMEs layer.

4.2 Digitalization of MSMEs Financial and Accounting Systems

Digitalization of MSMEs financial and accounting systems has become a key factor in improving the efficiency, transparency, and accuracy of financial management. Al-Okaily (2025) and Sugahara and Kano (2025) confirm that the implementation of Accounting Information Systems (AIS) based on technology, as well as improved digital literacy in MSMEs managers, significantly improves recording, reporting, and control processes in finance. With a digital accounting support system, MSMEs can monitor cash flow in real time, optimize the use of funds, and minimize errors in financial reporting. Technology integration this also allows owner business for make decision more business fast and data-driven decisions, so that strengthen Power competitiveness in the digital economy era. In addition to automation, digitalization accountancy plays a role in building financial discipline and improving the credibility of MSMEs in the eyes of investors and institutions.

Furthermore, research by Al Munawaroh and Widuri (2025), and Wahyudi et al. (2025) broadens the perspective by highlighting the emergence of FinTech innovations based on Islamic financial values and digital payment systems. Innovations such as Islamic crowdfunding, e-waqf, and digital payment services not only support transaction efficiency but also strengthen the principles of financial inclusion and sustainability. This digital-based financial transformation is changing the way MSMEs interact with the financial ecosystem, where technology is not only an administrative tool but also a strategic means to expand markets, accelerate capital circulation, and build a financial system that is more adaptive to the needs of modern businesses. Thus, the digitalization of financial and accounting systems is a key foundation for MSMEs to optimize efficient and transparent financial management in accordance with the demands of the digital era.

4.3 FinTech Integration with Sustainability and Competitiveness of MSMEs

FinTech Integration with draft sustainability and power MSMEs competitiveness shows that technology finance now plays a role more from just instrument financial, it becomes the foundation for resilience economy term long-term (financial resilience). Articles by Unegbu et al. (2024), and Zhou and Pacala (2025) confirm that FinTech implementation helps MSMEs build system more finances tough to shock economy, especially through diversification source financing and efficiency cash management. By utilizing technology such as digital lending, supply chain finance, and e-invoicing, MSMEs can guard liquidity, reduce risk delay payment, and retain stable cash flow. This not only strengthens stability efforts but also improves trust in partner businesses and institutions to finance MSMEs. FinTech, in context this, to be strengthening catalyst capacity adaptiveness of MSMEs to change environment global economy and help they still competitive in the middle rapid market dynamics changed.

Furthermore, Islam et al. (2023) show that digitalization finance also opens the road for green innovation and sustainable digital supply chains. FinTech supports practice friendly business environment through use technology without paper, system payment contactless, as well as management chain supply efficient data-based. In the context of sustainability, FinTech encourages

MSMEs to be not only profit-oriented but also pay attention to social and environmental aspects of their business strategy. The use of digital financial platforms allows perpetrator businesses to access green incentives, such as financing based on Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) criteria, which in turn increases the global competitiveness of MSMEs. Thus, the integration of FinTech with the sustainability agenda not only strengthens the position of financial MSMEs but also places them as important actors in the transition to an inclusive and sustainable digital economy.

General patterns that emerge from various study show that FinTech has evolve from just tool transaction become a management strategy integrated and strategic finance for MSMEs. If at first technology finance only viewed as means for speed up the payment process or make things easier access financing, now his role has expanding covers management more finances systematic start from digital recording, control cash flow, up to analysis performance financial data driven. This makes FinTech an integral part of system management in MSMEs finance, not just an additional innovation technology. In this context, the ability of MSMEs to utilize technology effectively depends on the available digital infrastructure and the level of financial and digital literacy of the actors' efforts. Second form literacy the functioning as factor mediation the key to success to what extent FinTech can contribute to improvement efficiency operational and performance financial research as done by Al Munawaroh and Widuri (2025) and Sugahara and Kano (2025) shows that MSMEs actors with level literacy high finance and digital tend more fast adopt system digital payment, system information accounting, as well as financial platforms-based technology that improves transparency and accountability decision finance.

Meanwhile that, pattern geographical from existing research also shows that developing countries such as Indonesia, Nigeria, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka become context dominant in FinTech and MSMEs studies. This caused by characteristics structural MSMEs in these countries which are generally own limitations access to institution formal finance, level adoption various technologies, as well as high demand will system finance inclusive and efficient. In this context, FinTech is seen as a catalyst capable of closing the gap between the formal finance system and actors' micro-businesses, while strengthening the financial impact of MSMEs on the dynamics of an increasingly digital global market.

The analysis results show that the methodology of the studies on the role of FinTech in strengthening MSMEs finances is still dominated by the quantitative approach. Around 60% of articles analyzed use method statistics like regression, Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), and Partial Least Squares (PLS) for measure connection between variables main like literacy finance, level FinTech adoption, and performance MSMEs finance (Al Munawaroh & Widuri, 2025; Thathsarani & Jianguo, 2022; Zhou & Pacala, 2025). Approach: This study aims to validate theoretical models that explain the mechanism by which technology finance influences efficiency and profitability in small businesses. Approximately 30% of the research utilizes case studies or mixed methods that combine quantitative and qualitative data to understand the context-specific implementation of FinTech in various developing countries (Al Munawaroh & Widuri, 2025; Islam et al., 2023; Thathsarani & Jianguo, 2022; Unegbu et al., 2024; Wahyudi et al., 2025; Zhou & Pacala, 2025). Meanwhile, some small studies depend on qualitative conceptual and policy analyses (Al Rifai & AlBaker, 2025; Zhu & Guo, 2024), which focus on the framework regulations, policies inclusion finance, as well as implications strategic from adoption technology financial. In a way general findings cross studies the show relative pattern consistent: FinTech plays a role significant in increase efficiency transactions, transparency finance, and convenience access financing for MSMEs.

Digitalization of financial processes allows perpetrator business do better recording and reporting accurate, fast cash turnover, as well as make things easier connection with institution formal finance. Digital literacy and literacy factors finance appear as determinant important success FinTech adoption, because ability understand and operate technology become prerequisite main in optimizing its benefits. However, a number of barriers were also identified, such as low-level trust in digital systems, limitations of internet infrastructure in rural areas, and uneven support policies. Even though, more than 70% of the studies analyzed show the positive impact of FinTech on productivity and performance MSMEs finance, emphasizing that innovation in digital finance has the potential to become an instrument for strengthening the power of small business sectors in the era of digital transformation.

Synthesis results of several articles show the existence of three gap studies that can become the direction of the advanced study related to the role of FinTech in strengthening MSMEs finance management. First, there is a conceptual gap in which a large study is still looking at FinTech in a narrow context, such as digital payments, access financing, or inclusion finance. In fact, FinTech has potential big for form system management more finances holistic and integrated, encompassing management cash flow, planning budget, compliance taxes, as well as reporting finance-based technology. The lack of research that highlights the integration between various functions of digital finance causes an understanding of the role of strategic FinTech in the overall cycle of MSMEs finances to remain limited. In addition, there are not many conceptual models that explain the synergistic mechanism between technology, financial literacy, and financial decision-making in the context of MSMEs in the digital era.

Furthermore, significant contextual and methodological gaps remain in the literature. In terms of context, most studies still focus on MSMEs in urban or medium-sized areas, while micro-MSMEs and businesses in rural areas are relatively neglected. This group constitutes the majority in developing countries and faces distinct challenges in terms of technology access, digital adoption culture, and social and gender factors. Methodologically, most existing research is cross-sectional, thus failing to capture the long-term dynamics of the impact of FinTech adoption on MSMEs financial resilience and growth. Longitudinal studies and field experiments are needed to continuously measure the impact of FinTech and to assess the effectiveness of digital readiness interventions. By addressing these gaps, future research can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of how FinTech strengthens MSMEs financial management systems across various social and economic contexts.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Conclusion

This systematic literature review concludes that Financial Technology (FinTech) plays a strategic role in strengthening financial management practices among MSMEs. Evidence demonstrates that FinTech enhances access to financial services, improves cash flow management, and increases transparency and operational efficiency. Digital payment systems, lending platforms, and accounting-based FinTech solutions enable MSMEs to monitor their financial performance in real time, maintain accurate records, and make informed managerial decisions, thereby enhancing their competitiveness in the digital economy. However, the effectiveness of FinTech adoption is strongly conditioned by the level of financial and digital literacy among MSME owners, indicating that technology alone is insufficient without adequate human capital. The review also reveals that FinTech adoption remains predominantly transactional, focusing on payments and credit access rather than being fully integrated into comprehensive financial management strategies. This highlights the need for more strategic utilization of FinTech that supports long-term financial planning, risk management, and business resilience.

5.2 Research Limitations

This study has several limitations that require acknowledgment. First, the analysis is limited to conceptual and quantitative studies employing cross-sectional approaches, which cannot capture the long-term dynamics of the impact of FinTech on MSME financial management. Second, most studies focus on specific developing country contexts, limiting the generalizability of findings across diverse sectors and geographical regions. Additionally, the restriction to English-language publications may have excluded relevant studies published in other languages.

5.3 Suggestions and Directions for Future Research

Future studies should employ longitudinal and mixed-method approaches to explore ongoing changes in MSME financial behavior and assess the long-term effectiveness of FinTech integration. Comparative studies across different regions and economic sectors are needed to enhance the generalizability of the findings. Researchers should also examine the effectiveness of digital policies and interventions designed to strengthen FinTech adoption in MSME financial management systems. Finally, investigating the mechanisms through which financial and digital literacy programs can optimize FinTech utilization provides valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners.

Acknowledgement
The authors would like to express their sincere appreciation to the researchers and scholars whose previous studies have provided valuable insights and academic foundations for this systematic literature review. The authors also acknowledge the support of academic databases and scientific publications that facilitated access to relevant literature for the completion of this study. Appreciation is extended to colleagues and academic communities for their constructive feedback and support during the research and manuscript preparation process. This study was conducted independently, and no specific external funding was received for the implementation of this research.

Author Contributions
KA contributed to the conceptualization of the study, development of the research framework, formulation of the research objectives, and drafting of the original manuscript. RM was responsible for the study design, literature search strategy, data screening and selection based on PRISMA guidelines, and contributed to data analysis. HH conducted the content analysis, synthesized the findings, interpreted the results, and contributed to the discussion and the conclusions. MSA provided methodological supervision, critically reviewed and revised the manuscript for intellectual content, and ensured the coherence and academic rigor of this study. All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

References
Abdallah, W., Harraf, A., Ghura, H., & Abrar, M. (2025). Financial literacy and small and medium enterprises performance: the moderating role of financial access. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, *23*(4), 1345-1364. https://doi.org/10.1108/JFRA-06-2024-0337

Al Munawaroh, F., & Widuri, R. (2025). The role of digital payment adoption in mediating the effect of financial literacy, performance expectancy, effort expectancy, and digital literacy on smes performance.. *Journal of Theoretical and Applied Information Technology*. Retrieved from http://jatit.org/volumes/Vol103No12/21Vol103No12.pdf

Al Rifai, M., & AlBaker, Y. (2025). The role of financial technology in enhancing financial inclusion: A regulatory perspective on current industry trends. *Corporate and Business Strategy Review*, *6*(1), 43-52. https://doi.org/10.22495/cbsrv6i1art4

Al-Okaily, M. (2025). The antecedents and outcomes of accounting information systems usage: the indirect effect of IT knowledge. *Knowledge and Information Systems*, *67*(5), 4651-4675. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10115-024-02306-0

Ayustia, R., Parlindungan Nadapdap, J., & Trisilo, R. G. (2023). Literasi keuangan dan adopsi financial technology untuk usaha kecil dan menengah di daerah perbatasan. *Mega Press Nusantara*.

Basha, S. A., Bennasr, H., & Goaied, M. (2023). Financial literacy, financial development, and leverage of small firms. *International Review of Financial Analysis, 86, 102510*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.irfa.2023.102510

Bilgah, Agustina, T., & Andrie Kurniawan, A. (2025). FinTech, transformasi bisnis, dan manajemen keuangan di Era 4.0. *Takaza Innovatix Labs*.

Divianto, D., Kamaludin, K., Santi, F., & Saiful, S. (2024). The impact of intellectual capital on business efficiency and financial success in creative SMEs. *International Journal of Financial, Accounting, and Management*, *6*(3), 361-383. https://doi.org/10.35912/ijfam.v6i3.2512

El-Islamy, R., & Salsabila, S. (2025). Peran Teknologi Finansial (FinTech) dalam Meningkatkan Inklusi Keuangan di Era Digitalisasi Ekonomi. *Advanced Studies in Economic, Finance and Banking, 1–38*. https://doi.org/10.123456/asefba.v1i1

Fauzi, M. R., Handayati, P., & Siswanto, E. (2025). The role of fintech in SME financing: A bibliometric review. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce, and Management*, *2*(2), 339-346. https://doi.org/10.62951/ijecm.v2i2.632

Guan, Y., Sun, N., Wu, S. J., & Sun, Y. (2025). Supply chain finance, fintech development, and financing efficiency of SMEs in China. *Administrative Sciences*, *15*(3), 86. https://doi.org/10.3390/admsci15030086

Hlaing, S. W., & Aung, M. M. (2025). Managerial competencies and performance of small and medium enterprises in Yangon, Myanmar. *International Journal of Financial, Accounting, and Management*, *7*(1), 105-124. https://doi.org/10.35912/ijfam.v7i1.2669

Islam, A. A. A., Irwan, T., & Suryanto. (2023). SMEs' flight to digital and green economy: Evidence from Indonesia.. *International Journal of Business and Society*, *24*(1), 362-379. https://doi.org/10.33736/ijbs.5622.2023

Jafri, J. A., Mohd Amin, S. I., & Abdul Rahman, A. (2025). Financial technology (Fintech) research trend: a bibliometric analysis. *Discover Sustainability*, *6*(1), 513. https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-025-01225-6

Jedeot, A., Santi, F., June, C. G. T., & Anggraeni, A. Y. (2025). Integrasi akuntansi sebagai pondasi keuangan dalam manajemen kas usaha mikro. *Jurnal Ilmiah Bisnis dan Perpajakan (Bijak)*, *7*(1), 20-27. https://doi.org/10.26905/j.bijak.v7i1.15088

Kou, G., & Lu, Y. (2025). FinTech: a literature review of emerging financial technologies and applications. *Financial Innovation*, *11*(1), 1. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40854-024-00668-6

Li, H., Lu, Z., & Yin, Q. (2023). The development of fintech and SME innovation: Empirical evidence from China. *Sustainability*, *15*(3), 2541. https://doi.org/10.3390/su15032541

Mahsun, M., Junaidi, J., Sumiyana, S., Nurdiono, N., & Suparmono, S. (2025). Development of a quality evaluation model for village government financial reporting in Boyolali Regency, Center Java, Indonesia. *Studi Akuntansi, Keuangan, dan Manajemen*, *4*(2), 435-446. https://doi.org/10.35912/sakman.v4i2.3614

Olatunji, F., Sajuyigbe, A. S., Tella, R. A., Oke, O. D., Babalola, O. A., & Adebayo, W. (2025). Assessing the impact of financial service digitalization on SME businesses In Lagos, Nigeria. *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Business*, *6*(1), 94-118. https://doi.org/10.24123/jeb.v6i1.7212

Piyani, H. O., Chandrarin, G., & Sihwahjoeni. (2023). Analysis of the influence of financial literacy on business sustainability through the utilization of e-commerce: A study of MSMEs in the food and beverage industry sector in Balikpapan City. *European Journal of Business and Management Research*, *8*(1), 306-314. https://doi.org/10.24018/ejbmr.2023.8.1.1829

Putri, D. C. P., & Lutfianti, A. (2024). Peran teknologi finansial fintech dalam mengubah layanan perbankan tradisional. *Media Hukum Indonesia (MHI)*, *2*(4). https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14067398

Ramzi, M. I., Ridzwan, R., Baharudin, M. H., & Wan Mohamad, W. M. F. (2023). Financial management practices and business performance of SMEs in Malaysia: A proposed model. *International Journal of Academic Research in Accounting, Finance and Management Sciences*, *13*(2). https://doi.org/10.6007/IJARAFMS/v13-i2/17297

Rini, A., Kurniawan, K., Salida, A., Haeril, H., & Fatra, E. (2025). The role of financial literacy and digital innovation in enhancing SME performance. *Journal La Bisecoman*, *6*(1), 75-84. https://doi.org/10.37899/journallabisecoman.v6i1.1882

Sismiati, S., Sulaiman, S., Usmar, U., Lanori, T., & Susanto, P. C. (2025). Enhancing employee competitiveness: The role mediation of human resources competencies. *Annals of Human Resource Management Research*, *5*(1), 77-89. https://doi.org/10.35912/ahrmr.v5i1.2789

Sriningsih, E., Mustamin, I., & Ramlah. (2024). Faktor-faktor penentu keberhasilan manajemen keuangan pada UMKM. *JISMA: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Manajemen, dan Akuntansi*, *3*(3), 1363-1374. https://doi.org/10.24042/ekr3em22

Sugahara, S., & Kano, K. (2025). The moderating role of external accountants' advice on the relationship between small business owner-managers' digital self-efficacy and financial performance. *Pacific Accounting Review*, *37*(5), 740-761. https://doi.org/10.1108/PAR-01-2025-0010

Tayibnapis, A. Z. (2021). Kebangkitan UMKM di Indonesia. *Jakad Media Publishing*.

Thathsarani, U. S., & Jianguo, W. (2022). Do digital finance and the technology acceptance model strengthen financial inclusion and SME Performance?. *Information*, *13*(8), 390. https://doi.org/10.3390/info13080390

Unegbu, H. C. O., Yawas, D. S., & Dan-asabe, B. (2024). The Impact Of Digital Transformation On Nigerian Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises (Smes) In The Global Business Landscape.. *Jurnal Mekanikal*, 66–85. https://doi.org/10.11113/jm.v47.478

Verma, S., Shome, S., & Hassan, M. K. (2023a). FinTech in small and medium enterprises (SMEs): A review and future research agenda. *Systematic literature reviews in management research: Exploring current challenges and setting future agendas*, *41*(6), 950-971. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.emj.2023.07.003

Verma, S., Shome, S., & Hassan, M. K. (2023b). FinTech in small and medium enterprises (SMEs): A review and future research agenda. *European Management Journal*, *41*(6), 950-971. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.emj.2023.07.003

Wahyudi, H., Wisandani, I., Saputra, C., Lestari, W. R., & Leny, S. M. (2025). Digitalisation of islamic finance in the era of industrial revolution 5.0: The contribution of crowdfunding and e-Wakaf to islamic fintech. *International Journal of Economics and Financial Issues*, *15*(2), 46-53. https://doi.org/10.32479/ijefi.17480

Wang, J., Yao, Y., Ge, H., & Wang, J. (2025). The impact of digital inclusive finance on SME innovation. *Sustainability*, *17*(8), 3633. https://doi.org/10.3390/su17083633

Wulandari, H. A., Astuti, R. P., & Barokah, M. (2025). Peran teknologi finansial (fintech) dalam meningkatkan efisiensi layanan keuangan di Indonesia. *Menulis: Jurnal Penelitian Nusantara*, *1*(5), 113-120. https://doi.org/10.59435/menulis.v1i5.240

Zaniarti, S., Margaretha, M., & Subagja, A. D. (2025). Influence of allowance, lifestyle, and financial inclusion on financial management practice among Indonesia college students. *International Journal of Financial, Accounting, and Management*, *7*(1), 1-13. https://doi.org/10.35912/ijfam.v7i1.2270

Zhou, B., & Wang, Q. (2024). FinTech matters in sustainable finance: Does it redistribute the supply of financial services?. *Journal of International Financial Markets,*, *91*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intfin.2023.101913

Zhou, Y., & Pacala, A. (2025). Empowering manufacturing SMEs: Financial accessibility and sustainable practices in the age of digitalization. *Sustainability*, *17*(8), 3571. https://doi.org/10.3390/su17083571

Zhu, K., & Guo, L. (2024). Financial technology, inclusive finance and bank performance. *Finance Research Letters, 60, 104872*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.frl.2023.104872