

Exploring the Nexus Between Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment: A Bibliometric Analysis

Finansal Okuryazarlık ile Kadınların Ekonomik Güçlenmesi Arasındaki İlişkinin İncelenmesi: Bibliyometrik Bir Analiz

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to explore the intersection of financial literacy and women's economic empowerment through a bibliometric analysis. It seeks to identify research trends, thematic priorities, and geographical distribution while addressing gaps in the existing literature.

Design/Methodology: The study employs bibliometric analysis using data sourced from the Web of Science database. Tools such as Bibliometrix and Biblioshiny were utilized to analyze 123 academic articles published between 2009 and 2024. Key metrics include keyword analysis, collaboration networks, and thematic clusters.

Findings: The analysis reveals significant growth in research on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment, particularly after 2020. Themes such as financial inclusion, digital banking, and gender equality are dominant. However, geographical disparities persist, with limited representation from regions like South America and the Middle East. Turkey's minimal contribution highlights a need for more focused research and policy initiatives.

Limitations: The study is limited to data obtained from the Web of Science database, which may exclude relevant studies from other sources. Additionally, the analysis focuses on academic literature, potentially overlooking practical insights from industry or policy reports.

Originality/Value: By synthesizing current trends and identifying research gaps, this study provides a roadmap for future research and policy-making. It underscores the transformative potential of financial literacy as a tool for gender equality and economic development, particularly in underrepresented regions.

Keywords: Financial Literacy, Women's Economic Empowerment, Gender Equality, Digital Financial Services, Bibliometric Analysis.

Öz

Amaç: Bu çalışma, finansal okuryazarlık ile kadınların ekonomik güçlenmesi arasındaki ilişkiyi bibliyometrik bir analiz yoluyla keşfetmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Araştırma trendlerini, tematik öncelikleri ve coğrafi dağılımı belirlemeyi ve mevcut literatürdeki boşlukları ele almayı hedeflemektedir.

Tasarım/Yöntem: Çalışma, Web of Science veri tabanından elde edilen veriler kullanılarak bibliyometrik analiz yöntemini uygulamaktadır. Bibliometrix ve Biblioshiny gibi araçlar kullanılarak, 2009-2024 yılları arasında yayımlanan 123 akademik makale analiz edilmiştir. Anahtar metrikler arasında anahtar kelime analizi, iş birliği ağları ve tematik kümeler bulunmaktadır.

Bulgular: Analiz, özellikle 2020 sonrası dönemde, finansal okuryazarlık ve kadınların ekonomik güçlenmesi üzerine yapılan araştırmalarda önemli bir artış olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Finansal kapsayıcılık, dijital bankacılık ve toplumsal cinsiyet eşitliği gibi temalar baskın olarak öne çıkmaktadır. Ancak, Güney Amerika ve Orta Doğu gibi bölgelerde coğrafi eşitsizliklerin sürdüğü görülmektedir. Türkiye'nin literatüre sınırlı katkısı, daha odaklı araştırma ve politika girişimlerine ihtiyaç olduğunu göstermektedir.

Sınırlılıklar: Çalışma, yalnızca Web of Science veri tabanından elde edilen verilerle sınırlıdır ve diğer kaynaklardan gelebilecek ilgili çalışmaları dışarıda bırakabilir. Ayrıca, analiz yalnızca akademik literatüre odaklanmış olup, sektör veya politika raporlarından pratik içgörüler göz ardı edilebilir.

Özgünlük/Değer: Mevcut trendleri sentezleyerek ve araştırma boşluklarını belirleyerek, bu çalışma gelecekteki araştırmalar ve politika geliştirme süreçleri için bir yol haritası sunmaktadır. Finansal okuryazarlığın, toplumsal cinsiyet eşitliği ve ekonomik kalkınma için dönüştürücü bir araç olarak potansiyelini vurgulamaktadır, özellikle temsil edilmeyen bölgelerde.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Finansal Okuryazarlık, Kadınların Ekonomik Güçlenmesi, Toplumsal Cinsiyet Eşitliği, Dijital Finansal Hizmetler, Bibliyometrik Analiz.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The increased participation of women in the economic sphere provides an opportunity to enhance individual welfare and promote societal development. This, on the whole, contributes significantly toward reducing gender inequalities and ensuring a better distribution of resources in the economy. Women's active involvement in economic life includes working or being engaged, establishing businesses or generating income, and participating in mechanisms of decision-making in the economy. But economic empowerment goes beyond these processes to include financial independence, more access to economic resources, and control over economic life..

One of the fundamental factors that limit women's possibility of playing an effective role in these processes is actually a lack of financial knowledge and skills. Financial literacy is the ability to manage income more skillfully in order to save money or make investment decisions, including seizing economic opportunities. The development of such skills for women allows them not only to have a greater say in economic life but also promotes social equality and development.

This study aims to synthesize the literature on the nexus between women's economic empowerment and financial literacy, and also to reveal research trends, thematic priorities, and gaps in the literature. Using bibliometric analysis, the study will explore the geographical distribution, collaboration networks, prevailing themes, and research trends of research articles on this subject. For this purpose, the study seeks to provide answers to the following questions:

1. What are the thematic focuses in the literature on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment?
2. What is the geographical distribution of this literature, and what are the patterns of international collaboration?
3. What are the prominent research gaps and opportunities for future studies in this literature?

Besides, the study also aims to scrutinize the substantive focuses of literature at the junction of gender equity and financial literacy, research patterns in the discipline, as well as the evolvement of the literature via the employment of bibliometric procedures. The rationale of this research is mainly driven by the quest to understand this topic's stance in scholarly literature and carry significance in designing and implementing financial literacy policies to foster female economic empowerment.

Overall, then, this work, which addresses the current position and future directions of financial literacy as a means of enabling women to play a more productive role in economic life, ought to contribute both to the literature and to the preparation of practical policy and financial education programs for the future.

The economic empowerment of women tends to have an effect on improving individual welfare and plays a vital role in ensuring social equity and economic development. However, one of the major facilitators of women's economic empowerment, namely financial literacy, remains largely underdeveloped in most regions. It is against this backdrop that the extant literature makes useful contributions by discussing the impacts of financial literacy on women's economic participation. The next section discusses these studies in some detail and examines their key findings.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The role played by financial literacy in the economic empowerment of women has been comprehensively addressed by a number of studies. Showkat et al. (2025) examined how financial literacy increases the economic engagement of women through digital financial services. Financial literacy had an additive element in how increased access was coupled with improving knowledge of utilization over the course of action undertaken-the digital route in ways a valuable implement women empowered economically through becoming enabled thereby. By integrating the "Quantitative Model approach inTechnology Acceptance Model(TAM)- and in conjunction with 'Theory of Planned Behavior - T' towards digitised financial Services..

Andriamahery & Qamruzzaman (2022) discuss the impact of financial literacy, capability related to technology, and access to finance on women's entrepreneurial sustainability. The result depicts that financial literacy increases the economic empowerment of women due to an increased capacity

regarding the ability to support entrepreneurship activities. This was also in a position to identify that active policies should be developed with the aim of enhancing women's entrepreneurial sustainability and further enhance the focal areas comprising access to knowledge relating to finance and technical capabilities.

Other research on the levels of financial literacy that affect women's investment decisions was conducted by Kaur & Walia (2020). This study examined the impact of women's financial behavior and perceived risk on economic empowerment and proved that financial literacy is a key determinant for women investors. This paper has discussed demographic profiles and investment preferences of female investors in India and emphasized the implementation of financial literacy programs among women.

Hetling & Postmus test the effect of financial literacy on economic empowerment among female survivors of intimate partner violence. The findings were that increased financial literacy promotes economic self-sufficiency and affects multidimensional components of empowerment, such as public assistance. One may argue that the level of financial literacy improves the economic well-being of women affected by domestic violence..

Finally, Jiyane & Zawada (2013) studied the level of financial literacy among female entrepreneurs in South Africa and their contribution to the economy. The study also established that financial literacy can improve business performance among entrepreneurs for sustained economic growth. The study recommended that management and financial skills training courses for running a business should be provided for women entrepreneurs.

Taken together, these findings provide some opportunities for policymakers in the pursuit of female economic empowerment through financial literacy. Further research should make comparisons of the longer-term impacts of financial literacy programs and how such programs are implemented in different regions..

Kumar et al. (2024) researched the effects of digital literacy on the process of empowerment of women in rural areas and found there was a need for better linking of education with digital skills. The study, conducted in the region of Himachal Pradesh, has emphasized that the development of digital skills serves the cause of gender equality and aids women in attaining an equal position in social and economic life..

Rohatgi et al. (2024) investigated the use of digital banking in towns with respect to women's economic decision-making. The work is based on a survey of various women employees representing the Delhi NCR region. According to the results, the usage of digital banking combined with an increase in financially literate citizens and supportive human resource policies act as the key contributors to the independence of women financially. This positive impact of applying digital banking contributes much to financial empowerment.

Agyemang & Bokpin (2024), researched the impact of digital financial services on the female economic empowerment of Accra in Ghana. This study examined the problems that determine females receiving or not receiving financial services, including digital literacy and access costs. The study showed how important the policy for digital inclusion and gender-related approach is to achieve FEE.

Indriasih et al. (2023) examined the impact of policies aimed at enhancing the economic empowerment of women in West Java coastal villages. The authors, putting stress on local resource development and social capital, underscored empowering women through job training and financial literacy. The research also established that environmental awareness campaigns could enhance women's economic participation.

Setiawan et al. (2024) studied the influence of Fintech utilization on the economic activity of women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), the study explained the behavioral tendencies of women to use Fintech and determined that its utilization had a positive influence on economic independence. However, it also determined the pivotal role of savings behavior and government assistance in the process.

These studies demonstrate the transformative impacts of digital technologies and financial services on the economic and social lives of women. Education, policy support, and community

engagement are crucial to ensuring that women benefit maximally from digital technologies and retain their economic empowerment.

The connection of microfinance with the economic empowerment of women has been an important field in gender equity and poverty reduction. Medatwal (2013) examined the influence of microfinance operations on the social and economic lives of women in the Hadoti region of Rajasthan in India. The research recognized that women gained increased participation in household decision-making, improved access to financial and economic resources, and increased mobility. It emphasized that microfinance programs empowered the savings habit among women and facilitated economic empowerment. The report felt the need to increase the financial literacy of women and enhance partnerships with the private sector for the effectiveness of such initiatives..

In Kazakhstan, another investigation into the effects of a microfinance-based intervention was conducted on women highly vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. The other mechanism in which combined programs of microfinance with reduced risk for HIV provided an advantage of enhanced economic empowerment among women. As this research by McCrimmon et al., 2018, gave emphasis that the change of economic positioning of the status of a woman has necessarily involved complex or multi-dimensional structure.

Rozalinda et al. (2024) discuss how women's economic empowerment in Indonesia is related to policies that foster financial inclusion. They stressed the programs of financial literacy, which they were able to show can uplift the incomes of women outside of banking systems. It also reflected that community-based, financial literacy training enhances women's financial decision-making ability on both the domestic and professional front.

A study of India's SHG models tested the impact of microfinance and health literacy on rural women's lives (Ahmad et al., 2020). The SHG programs were found to enhance women's financial independence and social participation, but interventions for inclusion and continuity were necessary.

Ju et al. (2023) discussed how social media influenced the economic and social resilience of female migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. While, according to the findings, social media increases women's access to information, the negative impacts are dependency and lack of digital literacy. The study recommended developing more inclusive digital strategies that could improve the economic and social resilience of women during crises.

Cumulatively, these research works call for the necessity to successfully combine financial literacy, microfinance, and digital technologies to facilitate women's economic and social empowerment. They also highlight the necessity to adopt holistic policy change adoptions and community-based interventions in realizing gender equality objectives.

Financial literacy gender gaps have been studied from various dimensions in the literature. Espinoza-Delgado and Silber (2024) compared financial literacy levels in the three fundamental components—financial knowledge, attitude, and behavior—in Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay, where they found statistically significant gender gaps. The research emphasized that the degree of financial knowledge was the most explanatory factor for gender gaps in Argentina and Paraguay. Educational and income levels were also important contributors to financial literacy..

Gibson et al. (2024) critically discussed the way that digital financial services and broader financial inclusion were influencing women's economic empowerment. For such a research framework, it developed a digital inclusions framework whereby increased means of access to technology take place alongside a reduction of gender barriers while accessing technology and services. The availability of necessary digital infrastructure is considered to first be supported under a risk-based regulatory approach insofar as it is supposed to be supportive in facilitating more women to get an active place in economic life. The research emphasized how technology and policy need to go hand in hand in order to guarantee gender equality and increased economic participation by women.

Reynolds et al. (2023) investigated the gender gap in mobile money awareness and use in eight low- and middle-income countries. The findings suggested that, within established mobile money markets, gender is not an independent factor, but, on the other hand, in emerging markets, women experience a very high degree of barrier to the use of mobile money. Previous studies have identified

that women have lower access to both mobile phones and bank accounts than men and that social norms are very harmful in such disparities.

Mgomezulu et al. (2024) assess the engagement of men and women in commercial activities in both rural and urban areas of Malawi and seek to address some implications of such a gap on household welfare. The study established businesses run by women having lower profit margins compared to those managed by men, but the researchers insisted that increasing female economic participation is crucial for social welfare. The policies that targeted improving women's financial and business capabilities proved to be very effective in reducing inequalities in rural and urban areas.

Finally, Cardenas et al. (2022) emphasized economic literacy and independence as important for improving the quality of life in Latin women victims of domestic violence. The variables which negatively impacted the quality of life in the study were psychological abuse and economic control, while quality of life improved with economic empowerment. The recommendation was to increase the programs to economically empower women victims of violence.

These studies underscore the pivotal role of financial literacy and inclusion in empowering women economically and stress the importance of adopting multidimensional strategies to address inequalities in this area.

Someia et al. (2024) applied the family-centered empowerment model to improve the mental health status of elderly women. The study was conducted in Tabriz, Iran, and found that depression and anxiety, being the major mental health problems among elderly women, considerably declined through education. The research showed that a family-centered approach to empowerment can work effectively in enhancing the quality of life among elderly women.

Similarly, Meherali et al. (2024) examined among women an MCCH tailored low-literacy intervention in Pakistan. MCHC is devised to enable those women by reinforcing health literacy among them so enabling them with accurate numeracy application for better access the available health opportunity. Results clearly showed that gradually women started proving themselves to take more swift moves in decisions within health parameters thus becoming authoritative relevant to matters involved in family health planning.

Shirindi et al. (2016) examined barriers to adherence with medication in hypertensive women living in the rural areas. The results revealed that insufficient health literacy, financial restraints, and cultural barriers contributed most to low levels of treatment adherence in women. In this respect, it is appropriate to develop health-promoting programs in order to stimulate women to be more proactive in availing themselves of respective health services.

These studies therefore recommend targeted education programs that will bring improvement in the health and social welfare of women. More research should be done on the long-term effects of such programs, as well as comparisons in implementation between different geographical areas.

Johnson (2024), explored "polystrengths" with regards to how they support women's economic self-sufficiency, victims of domestic violence. Such a study emphasizes regulatory forces in increasing economic resilience, including social capital. Indeed, it insisted on the efficiency that will probably arise if this or other approaches be made on empowerment of economy intervention.

The research by Postmus et al. (2012) was based on the relationship between economic abuse and economic independence for women. In the study, the authors were able to illustrate how economic abuse negatively affected the economic self-efficacy of women. Among the findings, it was observed that financial tools were essential in advancing economic independence.

The research study undertaken by Ojo (2021) evaluated the effectiveness of quality institution and governance factors on the financial inclusions of female entrepreneurs within South Africa. Again, this study echoed the call for policies that would help improve women's access to financial services, emphasizing the need for financial literacy programs.

In examining decisions not to seek health care for financial reasons among women in Côte d'Ivoire, Sackou-Kouakou et al. (2021) showed that low-income status, limited education, and lack of

health insurance were very strong pointers for such decisions. The study prescribed the empowerment of women through health literacy as avenues for addressing the situation.

It examines the role played by financial literacy in women's economic empowerment in different regions and contexts. Although the literature brings into focus important conceptual moorings and thematic emphases, the necessity for an intervention that would accord it more systematic and analytical treatment remains vital if wide-angle insight is to be acquired into the subject. The present study tries to fill this gap by undertaking a bibliometric review to assess the thematic focuses, geographical distribution, and research gaps in the extant literature. The next section describes the methodological framework applied for the analysis.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study conducted a bibliometric analysis of the academic literature on the relationship between financial literacy and women's economic empowerment. The dataset used in this research emanates from the database known as the Web of Science WoS Core Collection, acknowledged to be one of the most recognized sources in academia. The steps involved in the process during this research were:

The actual searching was started by selecting "All Fields" after the WoS search engine had been accessed. Keywords "Financial Literacy" and "Women's Empowerment" were set as the main filters. In an attempt to investigate recent and relevant literature of the study, the time frame was limited to 2009–2024. After this process, 123 articles were found in the initial dataset.

Next, the necessary software infrastructure was set up for the bibliometric analysis. The *remotes* package, which enables the installation of GitHub-based tools, was installed in R using the command `install.packages("remotes")`. Subsequently, the widely used *Bibliometrix* package was installed for conducting the analysis: `remotes::install_github("massimoaria/bibliometrix")`. To simplify and visualize the analysis process, the user-friendly *biblioshiny()* interface within *Bibliometrix* was utilized by running the command `bibliometrix::biblioshiny()`.

After this refinement, the *.bib* format file was downloaded with metadata from the WoS database and then uploaded to the *biblioshiny* interface. The file already contained all information about the selected documents: detailed citation data, authors, publishing journals, keywords, and their distribution in time.

The bibliometric analysis in this study adopts a comprehensive tool for the systematic review of the literature. Using data obtained from the Web of Science database, this chapter reveals thematic priorities and geographical distribution of research into financial literacy and female economic empowerment. This analysis will reveal trends and insight into the results that will be discussed further in the next section.

4. FINDINGS

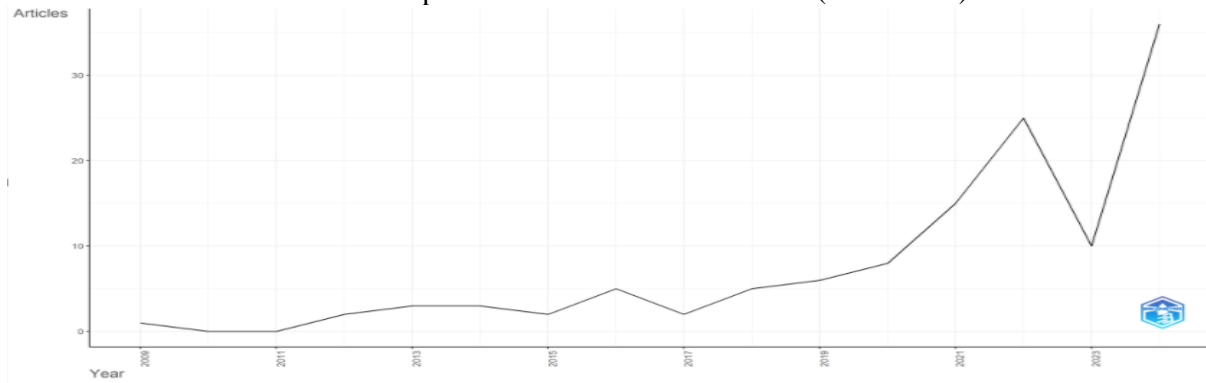
In addition, different research works have completely considered the role played by financial literacy in the economic emancipation of women. Showkat et al. (2025) examined the increasing economic participation of women through financial literacy in respect to digital financial services. This study emphasized that financial literacy makes a channel for access and hence utilization of the digital platforms, thereby being an important tool for women's economic empowerment. The study employed a quantitative approach whereby the 'Technology Acceptance Model-TAM' and 'Theory of Planned Behaviour-TPB' frameworks were positioned in a digital financial services setting to act as an accelerator for women's economic empowerment.

Similarly, Andriamahery & Qamruzzaman (2022) explored the roles played by financial literacy, technical ability, and access to finance in influencing women entrepreneurs' sustainability. The findings revealed that economic empowerment among women is increased through financial literacy and enables entrepreneurial behavior. It further asserted that policies need to effectively be formulated to increase the sustainability among women entrepreneurs in terms of access to financing knowledge and technical ability.

The findings indicate that research into financial literacy and women's economic empowerment is supported by international collaboration and exhibits broad geographical representation. International collaboration among analyzed publications was at 43.09%, which underlines the universal relevance of this subject and the need for its cross-cultural discussion. Besides, such a huge array of 546 contributing authors-in the vastness of most interdisciplinary collaborations-was itself convincing enough to draw out the truly integrative character which this field actually represents, binding expertise from every domain.

These findings provide the necessary basis for understanding the scope, thematic focuses, and developmental dynamics of studies on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment. Further research may investigate in greater detail the impact of financial literacy programs on women's economic empowerment. Besides, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration in this field could enable the topic to be approached from a broader perspective.

Figure 1: Annual Distribution of Academic Publications on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment in the WoS Database (2009–2024)



Graphically, the following depicts the trend of the academic production related to financial literacy and women's economic empowerment throughout the period from 2009 to 2024. In fact, during the same period, when few publications are considered at the very beginning, an explosive increase in such publications can be seen since the year 2020..

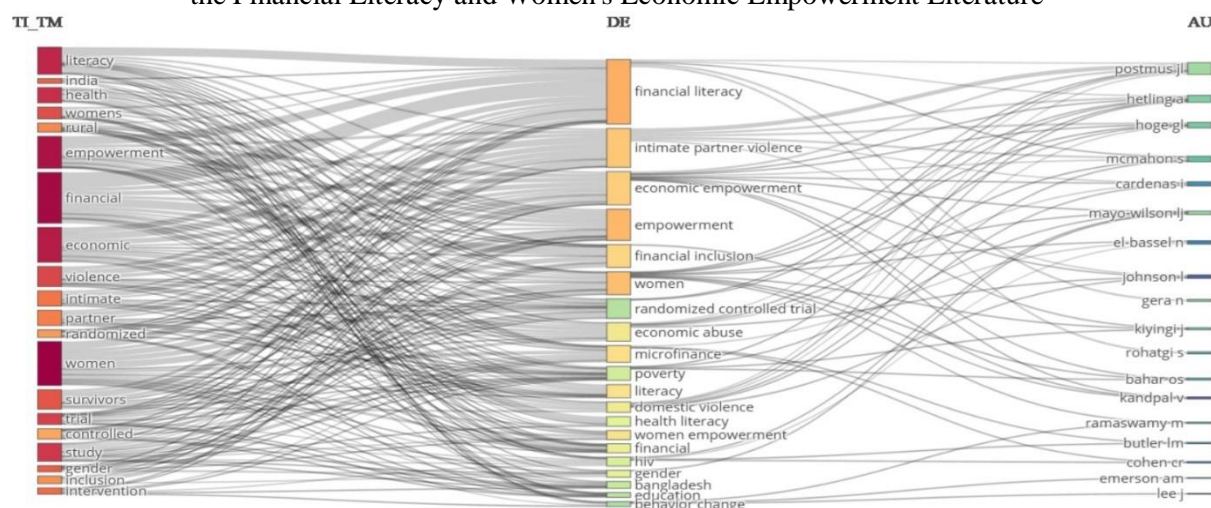
Prior to 2015, academic output is minimal; since 2016, there is an upward trend towards upscales. This growth indicates an increasing sense of the significance of financial literacy as well as women's economic power. The rise in global awareness can be linked to several policy advancements and socioeconomic changes, such as the increasing inclusion of financial literacy in national educational programs and gender empowerment initiatives. Hung et al. (2009) highlight that the delineation and quantification of financial literacy is an initial step which intensified the spread of research and consciousness worldwide. Similarly, Lusardi & Mitchell (2014) highlight that economic well-being depends heavily on financial literacy and is becoming evermore prominent in national policy debates. Additionally, the highest leap occurred in the year 2020, while the trend's peak occurred in the year 2023. Such acceleration post-2020 is due to global crises, especially the pandemic, which highlighted the imperative to have financial literacy as an economic crisis-resilient tool and as the pillar to women's economic empowerment. Klapper & Lusardi (2020) highlight robust evidence that shows the increase of resilience of the finances, particularly economic shocks, and note that they are essential to enable women. Hunt & Samman (2016) highlight that crises exacerbate economic imbalances and further solidify the importance of ensuring that there is financial literacy so that it can enable women's economic empowerment.

Parallel to that, the peak in this academic production in 2023 indicates that from both theoretical and real perspectives, matters are taken more seriously into consideration, and the subject is approached in an extended circle of interest among experts. The peak in 2023 indicates growth in theoretical interest and practicability in this area. As noted by Klapper & Lusardi (2020), growth in academic work exploring both issues of policy and behavior of financial literacy could be seen. In addition, Xu & Zia (2012) found that women's empowerment research involves more and more interdisciplinary methodologies, which reflects higher academic interest. This growth also indicates that women's

economic empowerment and financial literacy have been explored in broader contexts in terms of policy, educational programs, and gender equality.

In general, the graph reflects the intensive growth of academic research in this field and the acquired dynamics of research. The information received indicates that financial literacy is extremely necessary for all individuals and for the building of the whole society. The current state, therefore, indicates additional academic work and an appeal for further analyses through interdisciplinary methods conducting research into the issue of financial literacy and women's economic empowerment in the coming period.

Figure 2: Connections Between Top Authors and Frequently Used Terms in Titles and Keywords in the Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment Literature



The Sankey chart illustrates prolific authors in the literature on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment, and the most common keywords in titles and theme metadata. This chart therefore gives complete insight into the essential axes and contextual emphases of such literature, with "literacy," "empowerment," "financial," "economic," and "violence" being prominent terms or keywords in the titles. These terms strongly indicate the research emphases of the literature, while contextual terms like "India," "rural," and "health" show the significance of geographical, societal, and health dimensions in this area.

Within the section of the descriptors, the overarching themes of "financial literacy," "economic empowerment," and "financial inclusion" are reflective of the primary emphases of the literature. Again, there are terms available for social problems, like "poverty" and "intimate partner violence," signifying the money concepts are not just individual abilities, but are part of broader societal issues. This emphasizes that money literacy must not only be addressed from an economic or individualistic point, but socially, in terms of societal issues and disparities. Demirgüç-Kunt et al. (2018) assert that money literacy must be corrected to reduce systemic disparities, particularly among marginalized groups. Further, Bannier & Schwarz (2018) note that money education must address issues of social justice in order to correct embedded gender disparities.

Among these authors, "Postmus JL," "Hetling A," and "McMahon S" are particularly important because of the very relevant academic contribution they have made to this discipline. The literature is multi-disciplinary, with input from authors in different academic fields. This figure shows collaboration webs among authors, thematic richness, and relationships among prominent concepts, giving an integrated picture of the literature about women's economic empowerment and financial literacy. Xu & Zia (2012) emphasize multi-disciplinary collaboration towards meaningful impacts in research into financial literacy. Their study shows that synthesizing sociological, economic, and gender study insights makes it possible to use financial literacy as an option for social mobility, particularly among marginalized individuals. Similarly, OECD (2013) shows that integrating financial literacy programs with health and gender-related initiatives makes them effective, particularly among marginalized groups, where this union is essential to create sustainable avenues of economic empowerment.

This becomes an essential frame of mind for the researchers since it flags some gaps in literature and enables them to locate other areas which may have been untouched by earlier research. Fernandes et al. (2014) posit that even with advancements, there exist many gaps in how the long-term effects of financial literacy interventions are understood. These gaps involve especially the sustainability of behavioral changes in personal finance over time and how they translate into socio-economic impacts, an area which to date has not been well-examined. Similarly, Sabri & MacDonald (2010) emphasize the need for more longitudinal studies to capture deeper insights into women's economic empowerment. Such studies are crucial as they will allow for a clearer understanding of how financial literacy programs influence women's empowerment in the long run, especially in low-income and rural settings. The Sankey diagram combines in one diagram a synthesis of core themes, collaboration dynamics, and contextual elements from the literature. This makes it of great importance for the understanding and continuation of research on this critical issue.

Figure 3: Distribution of Authors by Countries

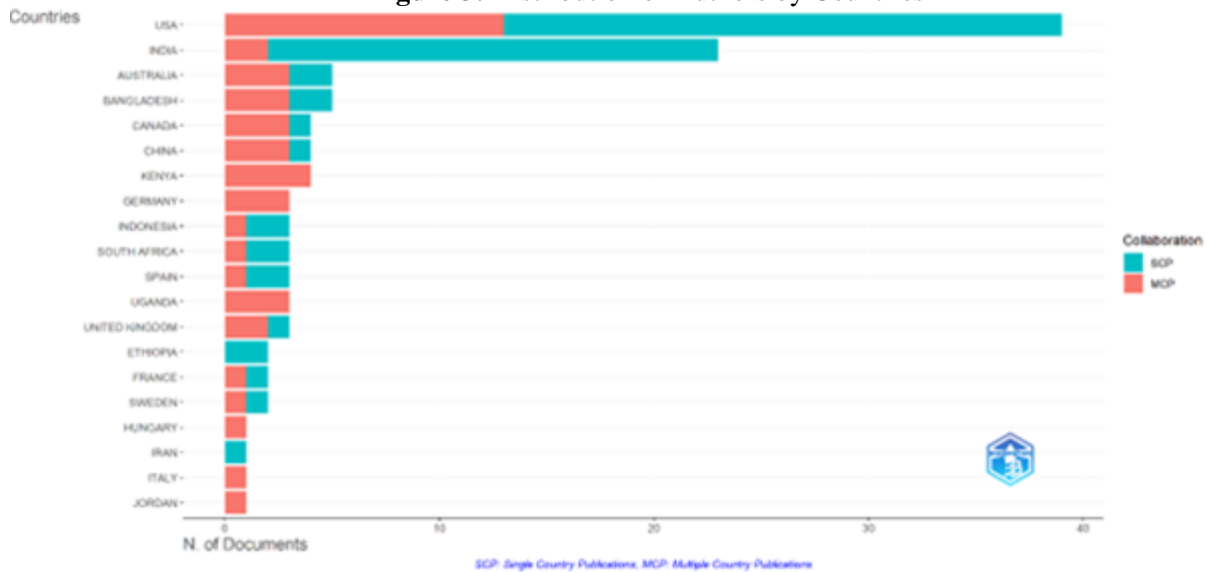


Figure 3 presents the author countries and country-level collaborations present, besides reflecting the national / international levels observed in the respective literature on themes of financial literacy to women's economic empowerment. The resulting chart is already a gold mine about such contexts needed within the analysis or research capacity mapping, geographical peculiarities, as well as areas such as collaboration within this field in different countries..

This graph shows the leading position of the United States in this area. Having the highest number of single-country publications, the U.S. is the highest contributor to SCPs and MCPs, making it very well placed as a key actor in the literature on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment. That is huge research capacity for the US and the emphasis it sets on international collaborations. This dominance in the literature can be attributed to the significant policy advancements in the U.S., where financial literacy has been incorporated into national education programs and financial inclusion strategies. Demirgüç-Kunt et al. (2018) posit that the massive efforts of the government of the United States, e.g., the National Strategy for Financial Literacy, have contributed significantly towards influencing worldwide trends in financial education. Likewise, Klapper & Lusardi (2020) point out that institutional backing not only stimulates academic output but also supports global collaborations, ensuring the worldwide dissemination of research into financial literacy.

The contributions of the study are predominantly from the U.S., but India plays an integral part. Academic contributions coming from Indian research are strongly nationally collaborative, following the country's nature to be more insular and self-evolving with issues that involve the people, such as localized solutions and strategies in the area of financial literacy. Rooij et al. (2012) point out that India's financial literacy programs tend to be shaped according to the country's local socio-economic needs with special emphasis put on low-income and rural areas. The programs target the financial exclusion of large parts of the population and equip them with the resources needed to plan for fiscal security. Moreover,

Agarwalla et al. (2015) note that India places emphasis on in-country capacity building through region-specific financial education systems.

Other prominent participants are from nations in Africa, such as Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa. These nations raise the question of how two issues, women's economic empowerment and financial literacy, are put into an order of importance and implication in developing countries. Allen et al. (2016) emphasize that women's economic empowerment alongside financial inclusion are essential development priorities in both Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. These countries have tremendous impediments to economic parity, and economic education initiatives have an essential part to play in easing these impediments. Doss (2013) highlights that enhancing women's access to financial education in these areas has proven to reduce poverty rates and improve socio-economic outcomes, particularly in rural communities.

International collaborations among countries are represented above all by Germany, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Spain, and France. It also reflects the global concern about the research theme of financial literacy and female economic empowerment, as well as the encouragement of interdisciplinary collaboration.

However, Turkey is represented here with just one paper, which is an SCP. The sparse contribution from Turkey to the literature suggests that additional academic research in this field is warranted. Akben Selçuk (2015) observes that, although policy interest in financial literacy is on the rise in Turkey, holistic academic research is not yet common. Furthermore, as Coskun et al. (2019) highlight, Turkey's comparative rates of financial literacy are considerably lower than in other nations in the OECD region, and further targeted research and education are needed. Region-specific financial literacy plans, developed with consideration for Turkey's distinct socio-economy, could continue to develop the literature in this field.

Overall, country distribution as revealed through the graph indicates that both problems of women's economic empowerment, as well as financial literacy, are addressed both internationally and domestically; hence, international collaborations are an important contribution to these researches. The growing contributions from underrepresented regions will turn this field into a more inclusive and diverse research area. In this context, countries like Turkey may contribute more in this area and help to fill the gap in the literature, further developing new perspectives.

Figure 4: Keyword Cloud from the Literature on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment



Figure 4 visualizes main keywords in the literature on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment: From this one can immediately derive the thematic underpinning of the literature and appreciate the issues that have priorities in this topic. Keyword size represents their importance and frequencies within the literature.

In the word cloud, keywords such as "Financial Literacy," "Empowerment," and "Women" have been focused on in the literature. These three concepts underscore that there is a strong relationship

between financial knowledge and skills and women's empowerment; financial literacy has a crucial role in increasing women's economic independence and promoting gender equality.

It further points out the prominence of terms like "Intimate Partner Violence" and "Domestic Violence." The terms show that financial literacy is not only a means of economic empowerment but also one of the practical ways through which women can triumph over social issues like domestic violence. Economic independence for women is considered a crucial step toward overcoming the cycle of violence and thus empowering them in a better position to take charge of their lives.

Keywords like "Financial Inclusion," "Economic Empowerment," and "Microfinance" therefore usher in the thinking that financial service access constitutes an integral platform for women empowerment, particularly in developing societies. Microcredit programs and general access to finance allow low-income women to mount businesses and in effect, give them the propensity to contribute in social development endeavors. In relation, financial literacy is one kind of tool instrumental not only at a personal level but also is a facilitator toward societal reformation.

Other terms, such as "Digital Banking Usage" and "Sustainability," reflect modern financial technologies and underline the growing research interest in how digitalization influences financial literacy and economic empowerment. Digital banking is increasingly used and thus constitutes a means of integrating women into the financial system and contributing to the sustainable development perspective.

Figure 4 shows the multi-disciplinary nature and wide scope of the literature on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment. This study will support not only the economic independence of women but also provide valuable inputs for gender equality, health, digitalization, and sustainability. Thus, this word cloud has been a guiding resource in identifying thematic areas that future studies should focus on and further develop..

Figure 5: Trends in Keyword Usage Over Time in Studies on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment

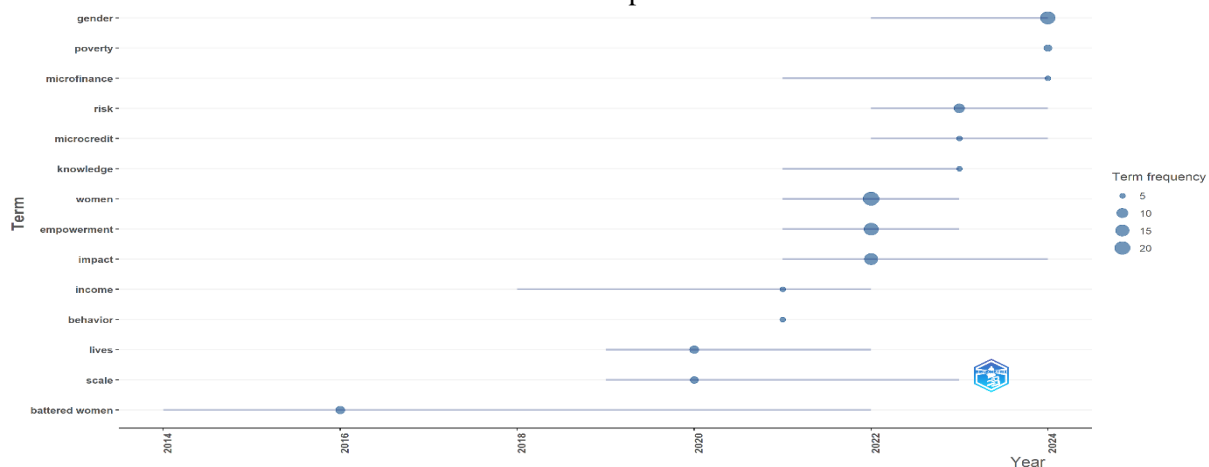


Figure 5 shows the temporal trends of some commonly used keywords within the titles and texts of the studies related to financial literacy and women's economic empowerment. Bubbles show the importance of those terms in the literature and identify the periods when they have been most in vogue.

Keyword analysis indicates that "gender," "empowerment," and "women" are the essential concepts present throughout the literature. Klapper & Lusardi (2020) highlight that these themes are paramount to identifying the channels through which improved financial literacy supports economic agency among women. Correspondingly, Demirgüç-Kunt et al. (2018) affirm that initiatives centered around gender-specific financial inclusion have been the impetus for much of the new academic interest in this space. This convergence indicates how the literature is ever more frequently positioning financial literacy as not just an economic independence tool, but also as an impetus towards the furtherance of gender equity in different socio-economic environments.

These are the signifying words of the important place that financial literacy plays in women's economic and social empowerment and are the focal point of the study. As noted by Lusardi & Mitchell (2014), one of the essential building blocks enabling individual economic security and overarching gender balance, is financial literacy. Hunt & Samman (2016) add that finance education is one important tool through which women are socially and economically empowered, particularly in poor environments.

The increased consciousness about gender parity, women's economic participation, and their empowerment has led to these terms acquiring more significance. Duflo (2012) illustrates that enhancing women's economic independence yields quantifiable economic growth and poverty decreases.

The use of terms like "microcredit" and "microfinance" in an avant-garde manner in the year 2020 gives power to the term financial tools regarding the poor population and the roles of women in such an environment. Roodman (2012) highlights that microfinance programs have played a central role in empowering women with capital and increasing their entrepreneurial skills. Bateman & Chang (2012) also state that though microfinance holds opportunities, with time, it is reliant upon being incorporated with other methods of empowerment.

These examples highlight that financial literacy is not just the tool of the individual's growth but is also an engine of growth that acts at the community level. Fernandes et al. (2014) affirm that well-developed financial education interventions develop greater socio-economic impacts. Xu and Zia (2012) point out that community-level interventions in financial literacy develop collective resilience and socio-economic progress.

Other words, such as "risk," "knowledge," and "impact," also indicate that women's economic empowerment, as well as economic literacy, have been contested, with an emphasis being placed upon outcomes that result from the outcome-oriented research regime. Hunt & Samman (2016) note that risk literacy is essential for enabling women to make economic decisions that are well-informed. Sabri & MacDonald (2010) note that outcome-oriented personal finance education yields tangible effects upon women's long-term economic security.

Another prominent keyword that arises is "battered women," or investigations into how economic literacy can help women overcome societal problems like domestic violence. Postmus et al. (2012) illustrate that economic education is crucial to enhancing the economic independence and safety of domestic violence survivors. Adams et al. (2008) further prove that economic empowerment plays a critical function in ending cycles of abuse, pointing out the relevance of incorporating economic literacy programs into survivor support services.

This reinforces the image of fiscal literacy as both economic empowerment and agent for larger societal transformation. Sanders & Schnabel (2006) highlight that economic literacy supports not just economic autonomy but also women's agency and civic engagement. In the same manner, Postmus et al. (2021) prove that fiscal education prepares women, particularly domestic violence survivors, with the skills they need to attain autonomy and safety.

Table 1: Thematic Clustering of Keywords in the Literature on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment

label	group	freq	centrality	impact
care - conf 100% child marriage - conf 100% depression – conf 100%	1	4	4,58	1,464
care - conf 100% child marriage - conf 100% depression – conf 100%	1	4	4,58	1,464
gender - conf 100% africa - conf 100% agency - conf 100%	2	7	4,987	1
scale - conf 100% behavior - conf 100% domestic violence – conf 100%	3	5	9,354	1,89

Table 1 presents the keyword analysis in literature on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment, grouped into thematic groups, frequency, centrality scores, and impact values. This therefore shows the relationships between and the relative importance of different terms in academic discourses, or the multidimensionality of the field.

In group 1, keywords such as "care," "child marriage," and "depression" are the highest frequency. With the frequency value of 4, centrality value of 4.58, and with an impact value of 1.464, these keywords illustrate that financial literacy can significantly address women's and children's social and psychological issues. Sanders & Schnabel (2006) highlight that economic improvement is not just achieved through education, but women are also empowered to deal with societal and family issues. Postmus et al. (2021) also show that money skills are critical in enabling abuse survivors to take control of their lives.

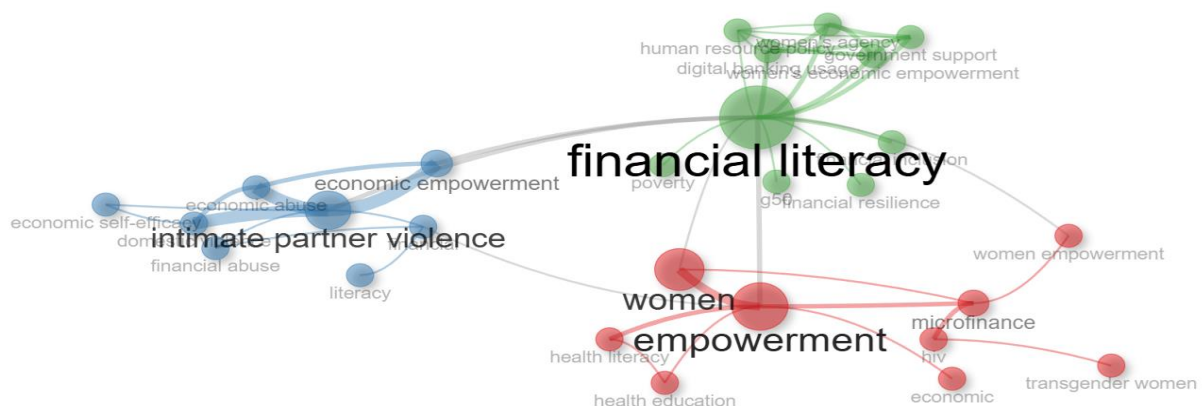
The cluster "agency," "gender," and "Africa" emerges as the second cluster. This cluster features the highest frequency of 7, centrality score of 4.987, and value of impact of 1. These are indicative of the prominent contribution, which the achievement of financial literacy would place towards gender equality as well as personal agency in developing parts of the world like Africa. Dupas & Robinson (2013) observe that women's decision power as well as autonomy increase significantly with greater availability of money tools and education in African environments. Demirgüç-Kunt et al. (2018) also maintain that gender-focused financial inclusive schemes have achieved concrete progress towards reducing disparity in developing countries.

The third cluster also includes terms like "scale," "behavior," and "domestic violence." This cluster is emphasized with the highest frequency of 5, centrality score of 9.354, and an impact score of 1.89. This cluster emphasized the potential contribution of economic empowering through economic literacy towards eliminating domestic violence and changing behavior among people in society. It is believed by Adams et al. (2008) that economic empowering through economic literacy plays an integral part in eliminating domestic violence. Postmus et al. (2021) also note women who have been equipped with economic education are likely to break abusive relationships and achieve economic security in the long term.

The table shows that the body of literature in financial literacy is multi-dimensional since it deals with issues at the structural, psychological, and social levels. The third cluster, however, shows an extremely high value of centrality where domestic violence and dimensions of behavior take over the spotlight of the literature. The positioning of gender and agency shows that regional interventions are particularly important in the developing world.

The analysis highlights the imperative of situating financial literacy efforts in terms of social and structural determinants. Such future research on these issues can make the literature more expansive and effective. Financial literacy research can, in the meanwhile, broaden the scope of investigation into multifaceted societal issues by focusing on such intertwined problems.

Figure 6: Co-occurrence Network of Keywords in the Literature on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment



This co-occurrence network illustrates co-occurrence among frequently used keywords. The more frequently used keywords are represented by more prominent nodes, while the edges symbolize co-occurrence among similar studies. Color variation marks thematic groups, which are discrete and overlapping regions of study.

The emphasis of "financial literacy" highlights that it is the bridge in discourse, linking various issues like "women empowerment," "economic resilience," and "health literacy." Financial literacy, according to Lusardi & Mitchell's argument (2014), is essential in ensuring economic stability, as well as total resilience outcomes. Financial education, according to Klapper & Lusardi's proposals (2020), also serves as the essential bridge, linking women's empowerment and money habits towards health.

The cluster of "economic empowerment" and "intimate partner violence" is centered around the intersection of economic literacy and societal concerns with an aim to elucidate the contribution of economic literacy towards the societal realm and how economic literacy can initiate social transformation. Postmus et al. (2021) illustrate economic education as playing an important role in empowering survivor women to become economically independent and secure. Like Adams et al. (2008), economic empowerment is identified as being paramount in halting abuse patterns and creating effective societal transformation.

Likewise, references to "poverty," "microfinance," and "transgender women" are reflective of an inclusive perspective, detailing issues that are relevant to diverse groups and economic situations. Roodman's study (2012) shows how microfinance programs have been an integral part of anti-poverty interventions among vulnerable groups. Peterson et al. (2017), further describe financial inclusion interventions among the transgender women with special emphasis being placed on program design oriented towards their economic vulnerabilities.

This network is an excellent reflection of the interconnectedness of economic, social, and health-related fields of study. This network not only reflects the wider picture of intersections, it is also incredibly helpful as a pointer towards other areas of research. Awareness of such relationships allows the researcher to explore new avenues to incorporate financial literacy into comprehensive developmental models.

Figure 7: Thematic Distribution of Keywords in the Literature on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment

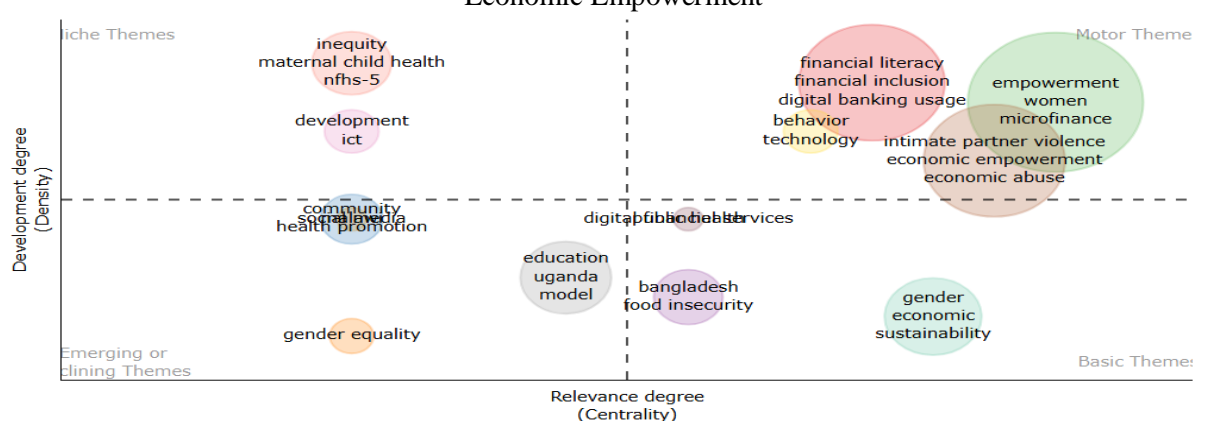


Figure 7 illustrates thematic trends in the literature on women's economic empowerment and financial literacy, where the themes are classified according to their density and significance. On this map, there are four broad thematic regions: Motor Themes, Basic Themes, Niche Themes, and Emerging or Fading Themes. These regions act as guidelines for examining the theory and application significance and developmental phases of the themes in the literature.

Motor Themes: "Financial Literacy," "Financial Inclusion," "Digital Banking Usage," "Empowerment," and "Economic Empowerment." The themes propose that digitalization must have an

imperative role in enhancing women's economic literacy level and economic empowerment. According to Bongomin et al. (2018), digital financial services, such as the use of mobile money, have an extraordinary effect in enabling improved money and information access for women, particularly in developing settings. Similarly, OECD (2018) posits that the use of digital technologies in finance-related education efforts significantly improves women's economic inclusion and long-run empowerment. Increased online scope of banking applications and broadening microfinance initiatives would enable such themes to effectively materialize in the Turkish context.

Basic themes include concepts such as "Economic Sustainability" and "Gender Equality." These concepts point to the robust connection that women's economic participation has with sustainable development. Duflo (2012) emphasizes that increased women's economic agency is positively correlated with increased developmental outcomes, such as reduced poverty and social stability. The World Bank (2019) also affirms that empowering women economically is the building block to attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In Turkey, expanding targeted economic education programs both in rural and urban zones to aid gender equality can be an important measure towards strengthening these themes.

Niche themes are more specific, such as "Maternal and Child Health," "Development," and "ICT" - Information and Communication Technologies. These support the research basics to integrate financial literacy practices with social health services and technological tools. Projects in Turkey that could integrate financial awareness with maternal and child health support initiatives may yield social and economic benefits.

The emerging or declining themes are terminologies such as "Community Health Promotion," "Bangladesh," and "Food Insecurity." Although these themes are widely debated in low-income countries, they also offer great potential for advancement in improving the economic status of women in developing countries like Turkey. Kabeer (2015) notes that context-specific financial empowerment initiatives have demonstrated significant success in enhancing women's economic standing in various developing regions. Similarly, Demirgüç-Kunt et al. (2018) highlight that tailored financial inclusion strategies are essential for bridging gender gaps in economic participation across emerging economies. Community-oriented financial literacy initiatives could promote independence among women's economic lives as well as within the societal building process.

Figure 7 shows thematic diversity in literature on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment but also the relevance of such themes in the global and local contexts. This includes topics of digitalization, gender equality, sustainability, core current foci within academic research, and practical policy-making. It would, thus, be found that these very thematic trends start signaling a very clear roadmap toward the expansion of digital financial tools and their strategic use by inclusive finance into rural communities of Turkey.

Figure 8: Thematic Evolution in the Literature on Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment (2009-2024)

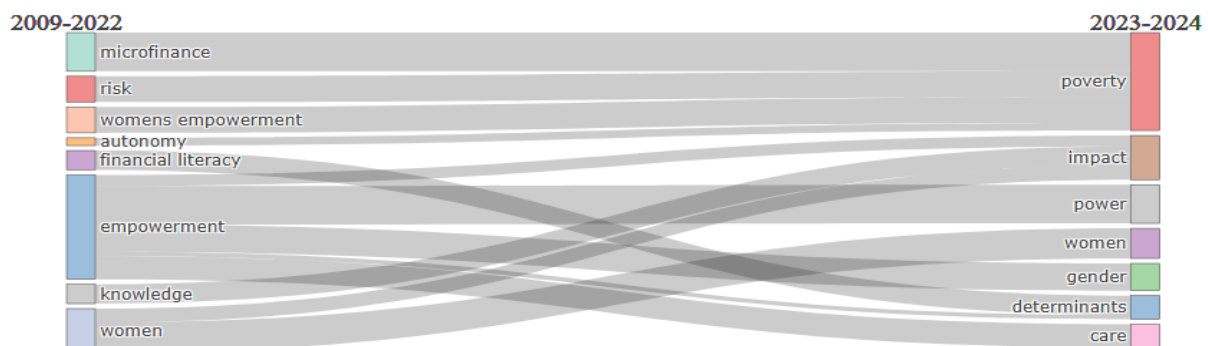


Figure 8 quite succinctly provides the evolution and shift in the themes regarding the literature of financial literacy and women's economic empowerment across the two decades. For the period spanning from 2009 to 2022, themes include "microfinance," "risk," "women's empowerment," "agency," "financial literacy," "knowledge," and "women." Within this phase, the purely economic

conceptions included the use of such financial terms as microfinance and risk, whereas concepts related to social or gender-centered approaches would encompass the likes of agency and women's empowerment.

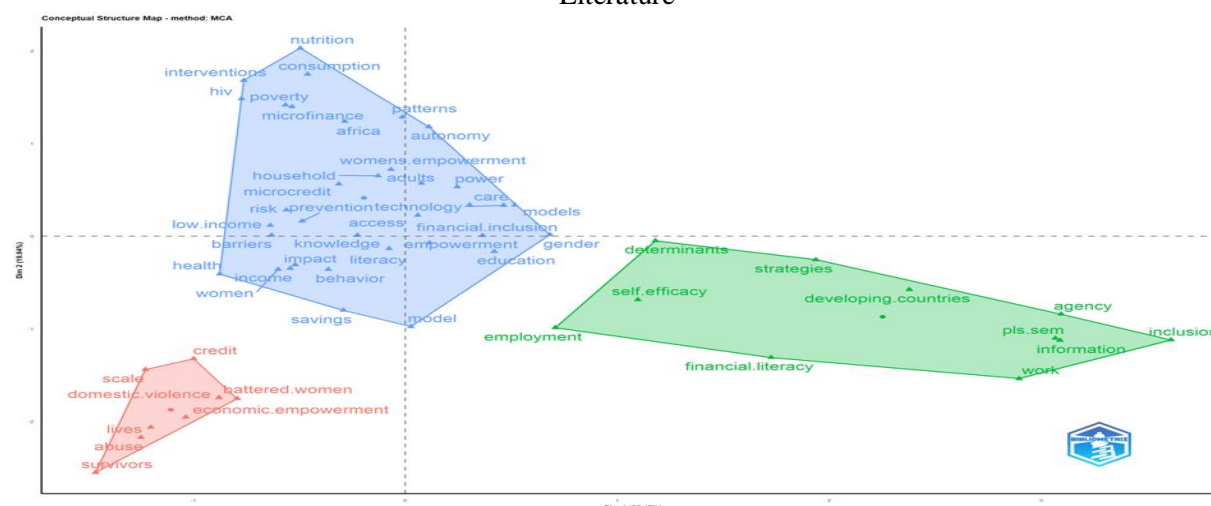
Going into 2023–2024, there is a break in the literature. The emerging key themes for this period include "poverty," "impact," "power," "women," "gender," "determinants," and "care." These show a rising importance of words like "poverty" and "determinants," which postulates that the research started to pay more attention to the impact that economic empowerment has on poverty reduction and its determinants. Duflo (2012) stresses that women's economic empowerment is an important element in realizing meaningful poverty reduction impacts, with an explicit linkage observed between gender-specific financial interventions and overall improvement objectives. Kabeer (2015) also highlights that both financial inclusion and targeted programs aimed at empowerment are essential in tackling both poverty and the factors that cause it in developing environments. Some other relevant concepts, which capture the attention toward the contribution of financial literacy to enhancing social and personal well-being, are "care" and "gender."

This transformation indicates that the issues in the literature have moved beyond an economic scope to become more multifaceted with an emphasis on gender and individual dimensions. Postmus et al. (2021) note that not only do many insights support the application of financial literacy in enhancing economic autonomy, but it also promotes greater social empowerment, especially for vulnerable groups. Xu & Zia (2012), equally, postulate that research on financial literacy has incorporated gender and social justice orientations, with evidence of its expanding multifaceted scope. The prevalence of terms such as "impact" and "power" also indicates growing interest in looking closely at the actual impacts that financial literacy does have among people and communities. Fernandes et al. (2014), for example, have concrete evidence that interventions in the realm of money management through financial literacy do produce measurable improvements, while Sabri and MacDonald (2010), note how initiatives in the areas of money management and economic education are critical to improving women's autonomy and active involvement in economic activity. This evidence supports the confirmation of money management as an indispensable tool for growth with both economic and societal applications.

This thematic shift, in the Turkish perspective, emphasizes the need to expand economic to social dimensions in terms of financial literacy policies. Additional research into microfinance and women's empowerment can yield evidence which highlights such areas as women's poverty or gender disparity. Similarly, economic participation programmes aimed at women need to scrutinize determining factors in greater detail in order to formulate improved strategies for implementation.

In this respect, of great significance would be the fact that more in-depth studies are conducted by Turkey, thereby contributing to the volume of literature locally and globally. By addressing these evolving themes, Turkey can play an active role in shaping inclusive and impactful financial literacy initiatives.

Figure 9: Conceptual Structure Map of Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment Literature



This concept map effectively visualizes the relationships and structural connections of key themes in the literature on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment. It organizes themes into three main clusters: Social and Economic Contexts, Strategic and Developmental Approaches, and Violence and Trauma Themes. Each cluster represents a distinct focus in the literature and highlights the interconnections between these focal points.

The blue cluster encompasses the economic and social environments, focusing on such terms as microfinance, behavior, women's empowerment, knowledge, and poverty. This cluster highlights the significance of fiscal literacy in countering poverty and promoting community-led initiatives for economic growth. Duflo (2012) emphasizes that women's economic empowerment is a prime impetus for the reduction of poverty, whereas Xu & Zia (2012) observe that community-specific fiscal literacy initiatives dramatically enhance local economic resilience. These themes further depict the impact of fiscal literacy among vulnerable groups in society. Financial inclusion stands out as the source or leading force in empowering marginalized groups according to Kabeer (2015), with evidence seen in Fernandes et al. (2014), which shows that effectively designed fiscal education can significantly enhance economic stability in vulnerable groups. Such evidence supports the expansion of such efforts and can shape strategic blueprints for empowering women's fiscal independence in nations such as Turkey..

The green cluster concerns strategic dimensions, predominantly focusing on mechanisms enhancing the economic and social independence of individuals. Most prominent keywords in this cluster are self-efficacy, agency, and developing countries. Financial literacy is an efficient mechanism to increase economic independence, the literature proves, with many programmes being effectively carried out in developing areas. Lusardi & Mitchell (2014) prove that financial knowledge plays an essential part in enabling individuals to manage resources and develop long-term independence. Similarly, the World Bank, in a report published in 2019, outlines global initiatives where the power of financial literacy played an important role in advancing economic empowerment, particularly among women. Turkish women's financial literacy programs can learn from these global examples, adopt best practices, and translate them into local conditions.

Red cluster highlights violence and trauma issues; among its prominent terms are domestic violence, economic empowerment, and victims of violence. This cluster shows how economic literacy can be applied to address traumas at the societal level. Postmus et al. (2021) note that economic education makes domestic violence survivors economically independent, while Adams et al. (2008) reassert that economic stability is key to allowing women to leave abusive relations. Literature still proves that economic independence and economic tool availability are key determinants for women's power in order to address societal problems such as violence. Postmus & McMahon (2020) show that economic independence builds women's resistiveness and recovery from abusive relationships, and the availability of economic resources is, according to Kim & Gray (2008), protective against all sociological vulnerabilities. In this context, integrating financial literacy programs with social services through collaborations between non-governmental organizations and the government could provide a comprehensive solution in Turkey.

This concept map provides a detailed perspective on the multidimensional role of financial literacy in women's economic empowerment. In the Turkish context, all these themes are crucial for the advancement of women's social, economic, and individual empowerment. More particularly, the themes of violence and economic independence could offer a developmental framework through which existing policies and programs in Turkey can be improved. This analysis thereby gives a great potentiality both from the academic-research side and the practical, thus opening the way for impactful initiatives in such a direction.

Figure 10: Global Collaboration Map in Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment Studies

Figure 10 illustrates the global collaboration network among countries involved in studies on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment. The map demonstrates the prominent place of developed nations, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom, as academic hubs of collaboration. The nations commonly collaborate with scientists from the developed and developing worlds, enabling the exchange of ideas and information across the globe. Wagner & Leydesdorff (2005) observe that research collaboration worldwide is part of scientific advancement nowadays, while Glänzel & Schubert (2004) observe that these collaborations make research output more visible and accessible globally.

The United States is closely aligned with or is the dominant partner with Europe, Asia, or even Africa. Or, there are nations, like India and Australia, that are very active in forging global academic collaborations. The trend reflects increased appreciation of economic literacy and the economic impacts on gender equality and women's empowerment among various socio-economies. It is noted by Klapper & Lusardi (2020) that economic education plays an important role in constructing women's economic agency, and Demirgüç-Kunt et al. (2018) ascertain that economic inclusion efforts have direct economic impacts towards enhancing gender equality.

On the other hand, the collaboration network also features areas with deficiencies in participation from parts of much of the Middle East and much of South America. More, varied research from these currently under-represented nations would add insights and contributions while increasing the store of knowledge of the world regarding money literacy and implication. Gorman & Clayton (2004) argue that contributions from varied geographical locations increase world scholarship, while Wagner et al. (2017) note the persistent disparity in research output between developed and developing countries.

Despite being modestly represented on the map, Turkey contains great potential to increase its network of collaboration, especially with countries like India, which have very many issues of the same socio-economic scale. Increased academic collaboration would put Turkey at the global forefront in the areas of financial literacy and women's empowerment.

The research highlights an expanding body of evidence on women's economic empowerment and financial literacy. Outcomes have outlined several transformational interventions, from microfinance initiatives all the way to Internet-enabled financial services. Geographical disparities and availability constraints to ICTs are still concerns, however. In drawing upon these findings, the current section summarizes the main findings and offers actionable recommendations for policy and further research.

5. CONCLUSION

This study has revealed the significant and multifaceted role of financial literacy in the economic empowerment of women, emphasizing its importance not only as an individual skill but also as a societal tool that drives gender equality, financial inclusion, and economic independence. Furthermore, the findings highlight its potential to bridge socio-economic divides, especially in underserved communities, making it an essential driver of inclusive growth. The bibliometric analysis underscores that financial literacy is not merely a technical competency but a transformative force that fosters individual agency, reduces social inequalities, and enhances women's contributions to both household

and community economies. By synthesizing key trends, gaps, and opportunities, this study illuminates pathways for future research and policy interventions.

This study aims to contribute to the literature by synthesizing interdisciplinary perspectives and offering a broader view of financial literacy's multifaceted role in women's empowerment. While many prior studies have predominantly focused on economic outcomes, this research seeks to highlight the interplay between financial literacy, social resilience, and gender equity, thereby addressing an important gap identified in the literature (Klapper & Lusardi, 2020; Xu & Zia, 2012).

The findings indicate that financial literacy intersects with critical domains such as digitalization, microfinance, and social equity, showing its potential to address deep-seated structural challenges like poverty, domestic violence, and gender-based disparities. Particularly, the integration of digital tools with financial literacy initiatives has shown promise in empowering women by increasing accessibility and scalability of financial services. The growing prevalence of themes like "financial inclusion" and "digital banking" highlights the transformative potential of digital tools in bridging gender gaps and extending financial services to underrepresented communities. However, the analysis also reveals the persistence of barriers, such as unequal access to digital technologies and limited financial education, particularly in developing regions. Addressing these barriers requires a combination of infrastructure development, tailored educational programs, and policies that prioritize digital inclusion. These barriers necessitate targeted interventions to ensure that the benefits of financial literacy are equitably distributed.

A recurring theme in the literature is the synergy between financial literacy and women's economic independence. Studies consistently show that women equipped with financial knowledge are better positioned to make informed economic decisions, manage risks, and access opportunities for entrepreneurship and investment. Moreover, financial literacy empowers women to navigate complex social challenges, such as intimate partner violence and economic abuse, by enhancing their economic resilience and self-efficacy. This underscores the importance of a multidimensional approach that combines financial literacy training with gender-sensitive social support systems, ensuring that women in vulnerable situations are comprehensively supported. This underscores the need for integrating financial literacy programs with broader social support systems, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable populations.

The geographical distribution of the literature reveals significant contributions from countries like the United States and India, which lead in research output and collaboration. However, the underrepresentation of regions such as South America, the Middle East, and parts of Africa highlights the need for more inclusive and context-specific studies. The lack of localized research in these areas not only limits the understanding of regional challenges but also hinders the development of targeted interventions. Turkey's limited presence in the literature indicates an opportunity for the country to strengthen its academic and practical contributions in this area. By leveraging international collaborations and addressing local socio-economic challenges, Turkey could play a pivotal role in advancing financial literacy and women's empowerment.

The thematic evolution of the literature from economic-centric approaches to more holistic frameworks encompassing social and individual dimensions highlights the growing recognition of financial literacy as a tool for development. Emerging themes such as "poverty reduction," "gender equality," and "community health promotion" reflect the expanding scope of research and its alignment with global development goals. This shift demonstrates the increasing need for interdisciplinary research that bridges economics, sociology, and technology to create sustainable and impactful strategies. These trends suggest that future research should adopt interdisciplinary approaches, combining economic, social, and technological perspectives to create comprehensive strategies for women's empowerment.

It should be noted that the study has certain limitations due to its reliance on bibliometric data, which, although extensive, may not fully capture localized nuances or informal financial literacy initiatives that are less represented in formal publications. Future research could benefit from incorporating qualitative and case-study-based methods to better explore contextual dynamics and the lived experiences of women in diverse socio-economic settings (Postmus et al., 2021; Sabri & MacDonald, 2010).

To maximize the impact of financial literacy initiatives, policymakers and practitioners must focus on designing programs that are inclusive, culturally sensitive, and aligned with local needs. Community-based interventions, digital literacy training, and tailored financial education programs can address specific barriers faced by women, such as limited access to resources and socio-cultural constraints. Moreover, integrating financial literacy with digital financial services and microfinance initiatives can provide women with the tools and opportunities needed to achieve economic independence and social mobility. Policymakers should also prioritize monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness and scalability of these initiatives.

For policymakers, the findings suggest a need to consider integrating financial literacy with broader gender equality strategies, particularly through cross-sectoral partnerships involving education, social services, and digital infrastructure development. In developing contexts such as Turkey, drawing on international best practices while adapting interventions to local circumstances may enhance effectiveness (World Bank, 2019; Roodman, 2012).

In conclusion, financial literacy emerges not only as a means of enhancing individual capabilities but also as a catalyst for societal transformation. By empowering women economically, financial literacy contributes to broader objectives of gender equity, poverty reduction, and sustainable development. The integration of academic inquiry, targeted policy measures, and international collaborations can amplify the transformative potential of financial literacy initiatives, ensuring long-term and equitable outcomes. The findings of this study provide a roadmap for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to harness the transformative potential of financial literacy, ensuring that women worldwide can fully participate in and benefit from economic life. Through sustained academic inquiry, interdisciplinary collaboration, and targeted policy interventions, the goal of a more inclusive and equitable society can be realized.

Ethics Statement: In this study, no method requiring the permission of the “Ethics Committee” was used.

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