

Sharia And Trust: Uncovering The Influence Of Governance, Performance, And Religiosity On Non-Muslim Customer Loyalty In Islamic Banks

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Abstract - This study aims to analyze the influence of governance, performance, and religiosity on the loyalty of non-Muslim customers in Islamic banks, with trust as a mediating variable in this relationship. Although Islamic banks were initially designed to serve Muslim customers, the development of the industry has shown a significant increase in the number of non-Muslim customers. However, studies examining the factors influencing non-Muslim customer loyalty are still limited. This study used a quantitative approach by collecting data through questionnaires from non-Muslim customers in Islamic banks in Indonesia. The data were analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to test the relationship between the variables. The results indicate that corporate governance and performance do not have a positive effect on customer loyalty, which subsequently leads to customer loyalty. On the other hand, religiosity has a direct influence on customer loyalty. These findings emphasize the importance of religious values in building trust and loyalty among non-Muslim customers in Islamic banks. This research provides an important contribution to the development of Islamic banking management strategies to be more inclusive and effective in attracting and retaining non-Muslim customers.

Keywords: Customer Loyalty, Governance, Corporate Performance, Religiousness

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Islamic banking has proven to be an alternative that is increasingly attracting global attention, particularly in Indonesia. Based on the principles of Islamic law (Bidabad, 2012), this system presents a different way of conducting financial transactions, prioritizing fairness, ethical values, and adherence to religious teachings (Abad-Segura & González-Zamar, 2020). This foundational principle has enabled Islamic banks to grow rapidly and compete in an era of booming conventional banks. A study conducted by Bank Indonesia shows that the level of Islamic financial literacy in Indonesian society continues to increase, along with a growing preference for Islamic financial products and services (Azizon et al., 2024). Another study from an international research institute also revealed that global Islamic banking assets have recorded higher growth than conventional banking assets in recent years (Ariss, 2010).

Data shows that total Islamic financial assets in Indonesia, excluding Islamic stocks, have reached trillions of rupiah, with Islamic banking as the largest contributor. By December 2024, total Islamic financial assets reached IDR 2,883.67 trillion, with Islamic banking holding the largest share. This growth is driven by supportive regulatory policies from Bank Indonesia and the Financial Services Authority, including regulations related to licensing, supervision, and customer protection, which have significantly increased public trust in the industry. This positive trend is reflected in the continued annual growth of Islamic Commercial Bank assets (Dinc et al., 2023). The major merger of three Islamic banks in 2021, which formed Bank Syariah Indonesia (BSI), was a significant milestone that accelerated the development of this sector, making BSI one of the largest national banks by assets. Furthermore, Islamic banking has demonstrated strong performance in collecting Third Party Funds (TPF) and disbursing financing, with consistent annual growth. The contribution of Islamic banking is evident not only in its substantial assets (Wajdi Dusuki, 2008), but also in its active role in supporting economic development, particularly through financing MSMEs and infrastructure projects (Raimi et al., 2024).

Although Islamic banks have shown significant growth (Hoque et al., 2022), several challenges remain, particularly in attracting the loyalty of non-Muslim customers. One major obstacle is the unequal perception and understanding among non-Muslim communities (Jikeli, 2023) regarding the concept and operation of Islamic banks. The limited range of products and services offered is also a major challenge affecting non-Muslim customers' loyalty to Islamic banks compared to more established conventional banks. Although innovation in financing products, investments, and digital services within Islamic banks continues to develop (Hijazin & Badwan, 2025; Qudah et al., 2023), the variety and comprehensiveness of these products still cannot match those offered by conventional banks, which have longer experience and wider operational networks. This situation limits the choices of non-Muslim customers, who tend to seek more specific and diverse financial solutions tailored to their needs.

This study aims to comprehensively analyze how Sharia governance, financial performance, and religiosity influence non-Muslim customer loyalty to Islamic financial institutions. The primary focus of the study is to determine the extent to which the application of Sharia principles in governance structures and operational effectiveness, as reflected in

financial performance, can build and maintain loyalty among customers who are not directly connected to Islamic teachings. Therefore, this study seeks to fill the gap in knowledge regarding the factors that drive non-Muslim customer loyalty, a topic that has not been widely discussed in Islamic finance literature (Ashraf, 2021).

Research by Saiti et al. (2019) shows that the attractiveness of Islamic banking to non-Muslim customers is strongly influenced by aspects of fairness, transparency, and business ethics. The implementation of effective governance, particularly through the role of an independent Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) (Bouteraa et al., 2024), increases perceptions of integrity and ethical compliance among non-Muslim customers. The trust formed from this perception forms a strong foundation for their loyalty, even without direct religious motivation (Dormandy, 2021). Furthermore, good financial performance has also been shown to encourage customer loyalty, including non-Muslims (Wisker, 2023), who assess a bank's profitability, service efficiency, and financial stability. Good performance reflects competent management and the Islamic bank's ability to provide value and financial security. While religiosity is a primary factor for Muslim customers in choosing Islamic banks due to adherence to religious teachings, for non-Muslim customers, these Islamic values are interpreted as universal principles such as justice, ethics, and social responsibility (ElMassah & Abou-El-Sood, 2022a, 2022b).

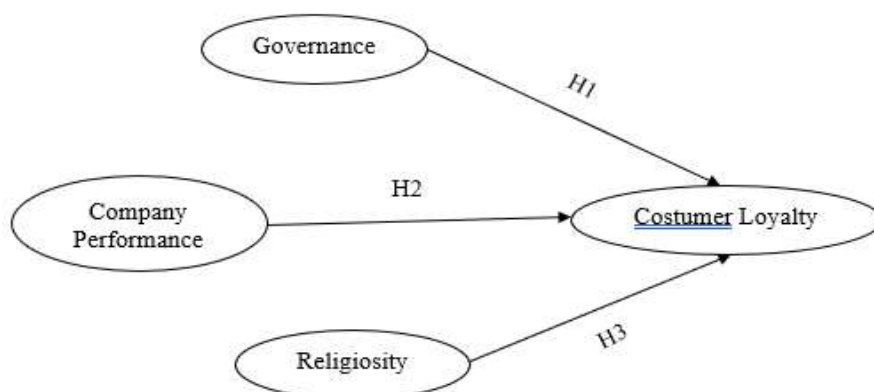
Research on the influence of governance, performance, and religiosity on customer loyalty in Islamic banks has largely focused on Muslim customers (Jan & Shafiq, 2021), while studies specifically examining the impact of religiosity on non-Muslim customer loyalty are still very limited. Furthermore, the influence of corporate governance and performance on non-Muslim customer loyalty has also not been studied in depth, even though these two factors have the potential to make important contributions to shaping loyalty. Previous research (Abror et al., 2023; Sungnoi & Soonthonsmai, 2024) on the role of trust in influencing non-Muslim customer loyalty also showed inconsistent and unclear results, so a more comprehensive study is needed to clarify this relationship. This research gap is also evident in how religiosity acts as a direct driver for Muslim customers. No research has specifically examined how non-Muslim customers' perceptions of the religiosity inherent in the Islamic banking business model itself, rather than the customers' personal religiosity, influence their attitudes and loyalty (Heriyati et al., 2025).

This study is novel because it specifically examines the influence of three key variables: governance, performance, and religiosity, simultaneously on the loyalty of non-Muslim customers in Islamic banks. Most previous studies have focused primarily on Muslim customers or examined only a subset of these variables. Consequently, research integrating these three factors specifically for non-Muslim customers is still very limited. This approach provides a more comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing non-Muslim customer loyalty in the context of Islamic banking. Another novelty in this study is the inclusion of religiosity as a variable with a specific focus on non-Muslim customer loyalty. Unlike previous research that examined religiosity as a driver of Muslim customer loyalty, this study shifts the paradigm by measuring not the personal religiosity of non-Muslim customers, but rather their perceptions of the religiosity inherent in Islamic banks themselves (Allayarova et al., 2024).

II. METHODOLOGY

This study used a quantitative research method with primary data collection through questionnaires. The data were obtained from respondents' completed questionnaires. The respondents were customers of Islamic banks, specifically non-Muslim customers who use Islamic banks. This study used a purposive sampling method to select non-Muslim customers who met the criteria. The scale used in this study was a 4-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree).

Figure 2 .1. Customer Loyalty Model from the Perspective of Non-Muslim Customers



This study employed variance-based structural equation modeling analysis. This study employed Structural Equation Model Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) to assess the measurement model and structural model, and to test the research hypotheses. Furthermore, this study used PLS to address the issue of non-normally distributed data.

III. RESULT

A. Data Analysis And Interpretation

1. Respondent Demographics

Based on Table 1.1, the majority of respondents in this study were entrepreneurial customers of Islamic banks. Furthermore, based on gender, the majority of respondents in this study were both female and male. Furthermore, the majority of respondents in this study were aged under 18 and over 35 years. Educational background ranged from elementary school to doctoral level. The following is a statistical overview of the demographics of the study respondents.

Table 1

Profile	Total	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	36	40%
Female	53	60%
Age		
18-25	61	68%
26-35	22	25%
36-45	4	5%
<56	2	2%
Last Education		
SMP/SMA/SMK	62	70%
S1/S2/S3	25	28%
Other	2	2%

Source: Primary Data Processing, Smart PLS4

2. Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability tests are prerequisites for conducting PLS SEM testing. Methods that can be used include methods for assessing convergent validity, including average extracted variance (AVE), factor loadings, and reliability measures (composite reliability for this study).

Table 2

Construct	Items	Loadings	Composite Reliability	AVE
Customer Loyalty	I am satisfied with my overall experience as a sharia bank customer.	0.833	0.880	0.710
	I feel that Islamic banks understand my banking needs as a non-Muslim customer.	0.874		
	I don't want to take the risk of switching to a new bank.	0.820		
Governance	Sharia banks have an independent and competent Sharia Supervisory Board (DPS).	0.820	0.933	0.700
	Islamic banks routinely disclose information regarding governance structures and performance to the public.	0.712		
	There are clear procedures for handling customer complaints.	0.795		

Company performance	There are clear procedures for handling customer complaints.	0.883	0.968	0.860
	Islamic banks have transparent and accountable procedures	0.876		
	The annual report of Islamic banks is easy to access and understand	0.917		
	Sharia banks have succeeded in showing a significant increase in the number of customers.	0.954		
	Sharia banks always meet my expectations in every interaction and transaction.	0.955		
	I feel my problem was handled quickly by the Islamic bank.	0.890		
	Sharia banks manage human resources (HR) well.	0.931		
	Islamic banks use technology effectively	0.904		
Religiosity	I feel that Islamic banks are honest and transparent in explaining Islamic contracts..	0.918	0.960	0.801
	I believe that the profits I receive from Islamic banks come from halal sources.	0.937		
	Islamic banks actively contribute to social activities.	0.923		
	I feel that Islamic banks have a strong commitment to social justice and.	0.897		
	The sharia principles applied by this bank are in line with moral values.	0.943		
	I believe that Islamic banking contributes to the greater good.	0.734		

Source: Primary Data Processing, Smart PLS 4

The table shows that the validity and reliability tests for this study were conducted twice to obtain valid and reliable results. In the first test, several constructs were removed due to their inaccuracy and unreliability. The second test yielded valid and reliable constructs or variables. The table above shows that the AVE value is greater than 0.50, thus valid. The construct is reliable because its composite reliability value is greater than 0.70.

3. Hypothesis Testing

Table 3				
	STDEV	t-Statistic	P-Value	Hypothesis
GV > CL	0.293	0.227	0.821	H1: Rejected
CP > CL	0.274	1.091	0.276	H2: Rejected
RL > CL	0.114	3.692	0.000	H3: Accepted

Source: Processed by the author, 2025

IV. DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the data analysis, the first hypothesis, namely that governance does not have a significant impact on the loyalty of non-Muslim customers in Islamic banks (Ali et al., 2022), is shown (Ali et al., 2022). This is because the decision to choose an Islamic bank for most non-Muslim customers is often driven by the practical benefits

and tangible advantages they experience (Jamshed & Uluyol, 2024). Furthermore, Sharia principles must be adhered to in every aspect of Islamic banking operations to ensure that transactions are in accordance with Islamic teachings. This is an important guarantee for Muslim customers who want to ensure that their banking activities are free from *riba* (usury), *maysir* (gambling), *gharar* (gambling), and other prohibited elements, and prioritize fairness, transparency, and social responsibility (Islamic et al., 2025). However, for non-Muslim customers, ensuring Sharia compliance may not be a top priority because they are not bound by this religious obligation (Bachtiar et al., 2025; Hariani & Hanafiah, 2024). Therefore, they tend to pay less attention to details such as the role of the Sharia Supervisory Board or the Sharia compliance audit mechanism within the bank. It could be said that non-Muslim customers' primary focus is usually on service and financial benefits without considering compliance with Sharia principles. This research aligns with previous research conducted by (Ullah et al., 2023), which revealed that for non-Muslim customers, good governance is a basic standard expected of all types of banks. If an Islamic bank provides poor service, frequently experiences problems, or lacks transparency, customer loyalty, both Muslim and non-Muslim, will undoubtedly decline significantly (Raza Rabbani et al., 2021).

Furthermore, the second hypothesis states that company performance does not have a significant impact on non-Muslim customer loyalty in Islamic banks (Mochlasin et al., 2023). This may be because, for them, the most important factors are economic aspects and the quality of practical products and services, competitive products, attractive promotions, easy access through strategic locations (Rosário & Raimundo, 2021), and the quality of service they directly experience in their daily activities. Yildiz et al. (2024) and Alshater et al. (2022) in their studies revealed that a good company reputation can attract non-Muslim customers, but their loyalty is more influenced by economic benefits and ease of use of services than by company performance related to compliance with Sharia principles. Previous studies also revealed that service factors, typically considered part of a company's performance, do not always play a significant role in the decisions of non-Muslim customers (Noorliza, 2022), as they prioritize financial benefits and easy access to the products they need.

On the other hand, the findings of the last hypothesis indicate that religiosity has a significant impact or positive influence on non-Muslim customer loyalty (Ratnasari et al., 2021). Religiosity can play a significant role in increasing loyalty. Non-Muslim customers typically evaluate a bank based on financial benefits, such as profit sharing (Dandis et al., 2021). This is because their religiosity fosters strong trust in institutions, including Islamic banks, even if they are not Muslim. This trust arises because customers perceive Islamic banks to adhere to transparent, fair, and ethical principles, in line with their moral values (Sawmar & Mohammed, 2021). Previous literature (Dinh et al., 2022; Hidayat & Idrus, 2023) also shows that religiosity directly strengthens customer loyalty by increasing trust in the bank. Thus, non-Muslim customers with a certain level of religiosity tend to be more loyal because they believe the bank provides stable and ethically beneficial services (Alfawzan et al., 2024).

V. CONCLUSION

The research results show that non-Muslim customer loyalty to Islamic banks is influenced by several important factors. Religiosity is one of the main factors driving customer trust and commitment to Islamic banks, even if they are not Muslim. Furthermore, customer trust acts as a link that strengthens the relationship between religiosity and customer loyalty. Unfortunately, good Islamic bank performance and governance, reflecting the consistent application of Islamic principles, do not have a significant impact on increasing customer loyalty. Therefore, Islamic banks need to manage religiosity and trust in an integrated manner to attract and retain customer loyalty from various religious backgrounds, including non-Muslims. This approach will help Islamic banks compete effectively with conventional banks and strengthen their position in the financial market.

Recommendations for further research include conducting a more in-depth study of the influence of Islamic bank governance and performance, particularly on the loyalty of non-Muslim customers, given that most current studies still focus on Muslim customers. Furthermore, research could be expanded by including other variables such as bank image, service quality, and customer satisfaction as factors that act as mediators or moderators in the relationship between religiosity, trust, and loyalty.

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