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Economic consequence of social and environmental concern in Islamic bank – Do COVID-19 pandemic matter?

Asrori^{1*}, Hasan Mukhibad¹ and Ahmad Nurkhin¹

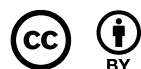
Abstract: Islamic banks should care about social and environmental issues. However, the economic consequence of social and environmental concerns is still being debated. This study aims to prove the role of economic consequences of social and environmental concerns and market competition on financial performance. Based on the system-oriented view, the entity is assumed to be influenced by, and in turn, to have an influence upon, the society in which it operates, including the crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had an impact on bank operations. Based on this argument, this research aims to examine the role of the COVID-19 pandemic in the relationship between social and environmental concerns and market competition on financial performance. This study uses hand-collected data on the annual reports of 14 full-flagged Islamic banks (IBs) in Indonesia between 2009 and 2021. Data were analyzed using GLS regressions with robust standard

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PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

Islamic bank (IB) is a bank that operates using Islamic law (shariah), which is based on the Qur'an and Sunnah. IBs should care about social and environmental issues. However, prior literature on social performance in IB emphasized disclosure performance and was limited to social fund distribution. This study expands the existing literature. First, this research proves the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns for IBs. Second, we use the distribution of zakat fund and *qardul hasan* fund as social and environmental concerns of IB. This is because the standard-setting body in Indonesia stipulates that IBs issue reports on the statement of sources and distribution of *zakah* fund and statement of sources and uses of *qardul hasan*. Third, this research expands on previous references by providing evidence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns.



errors. This study showed that social and environmental concerns and market competition did not affect financial performance. Therefore, the COVID-19 pandemic plays a major role in the extent to which social and environmental concerns affect financial performance. The findings suggest that directors should increase the effectiveness of the distribution of social funds to improve financial performance.

Subjects: Environmental Economics; Finance; Business, Management and Accounting

Keywords: System-oriented view; environmental concern; economic consequence; Covid-19 pandemic; *qardul hasan funds*

1. Introduction

Islamic bank (IB) is a bank that operates using Islamic law (shariah), which is based on the Qur'an and Sunnah. Al-Qur'an has revealed 675 verses in 84 chapters throughout all 30 parts of the Qur'an, with environmental content relating to the core components of the natural world, including human beings, water, land, plants, animals, and other natural resources (Helfaya et al., 2016). In addition (Mukhibad et al., 2019), added that in Islamic teaching, there are the concepts of *Hablum Minallah* and *Hablum Minannas* which posit that humans must have good vertical relations (humans with God) and good horizontal relations (humans with other humans and nature). Rizk (2014) appointed the concept of *khalifa*, or guardian of the planet Earth that every man and woman inherit the power and responsibility in relation to the planet and all its life forms. From this argument, a good Islamic should care for social and environmental concerns.

Meanwhile, a review of the general literature emphasizes that corporations do not only focus on profit. The company's operations have a negative impact on the environment and, in the long run, will further affect business continuity. From the perspective of legitimacy, companies must conduct business according to firm gain legitimacy by conforming to societal norms and values, such as ethical standards, legal requirements, and environmental responsibilities. They also gain legitimacy by engaging in social and environmental initiatives that benefit the community and the environment. This is the reason that corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a major concern of all three researchers, the business people, and the government.

Regulators from various countries set regulations to increase corporate awareness of CSR. Regulations from the Indonesian government (OJK Regulation No. 51/POJK.03/2017) concerning the Implementation of Sustainable Finance for Financial Services Institutions, Issuers, and Public Companies oblige the company to issue a business continuity report where this report contains the company's contribution to creating sustainable economic growth by aligning economic, social and environmental issues. In IBs in Indonesia, the regulator has adopted a policy that IBs care about CSR. Our identification, the fatwa of the National Shariah Council of the Indonesian UIama Council (DSN-MUI) number 17/DSN-MUI/IX/2000 and 123/DSN-MUI/XI/2018 explain that loan penalty income and non-halal income obtained by Islamic entities must be issued as bank operating income and recognized as social funds. Then the standard-setting body in Indonesia (the Indonesian financial accounting standards board) stipulates those Islamic commercial entities issue reports on the statement of sources and distribution of *zakah* fund and statement of sources and uses of *qardul hasan* fund. These two financial reports describe the receipt and distribution of social funds, including *zakah* (Islamic tax), loan penalty income, non-halal income, etc.

Prior literature on CSR performance evaluation can be summed up in two approaches: disclosure of CSR activities and CSR expense. However, previous studies on social performance in IB put more emphasis on disclosure performance and were limited to social fund distribution performance (see Ahmed & El-Belihy, 2017; Amran et al., 2017; Bukair & Abdul-Rahman, 2013; Farook & Roman, 2007; Farook et al., 2011; Harun et al., 2020; Hassan & Harahap, 2010; Jusoh & Ibrahim, 2018). CSR performance studies on IBs in Indonesia also focus on disclosure-based CSR performance (see

Handayati et al., 2017; Mukhibad, Nurkhin, et al., 2022; Nugraheni & Khasanah, 2019; Probohudono et al., 2021; Qoyum et al., 2017). Researchers use a variety of factors, including corporate governance (Bukair & Abdul-Rahman, 2013; Farook et al., 2011; Harun et al., 2020; Mukhibad, Nurkhin, et al., 2022) and financial factors (Menassa & Dagher, 2019) to explain CSR disclosure performance. Other researchers proved the economic consequences of CSR disclosure on IBs (Alshurafat et al., 2022; Platonova et al., 2016).

Mukhibad and Setiawan (2020) and Mukhibad et al. (2017) measure CSR performance based on the expenditure of IB zakat funds. Mukhibad et al. (2017) use the corporate governance index, financing deposit ratio (FDR), and size factors as factors to explain financial performance (return on assets-ROA) and social performance. They found that the corporate governance index, FDR, and size had an influence on social and financial performance. Furthermore, Mukhibad and Setiawan (2020) complements previous research by using financial factors (leverage, capital adequacy ratio, non-performing loans, profitability) and corporate governance (shariah supervisory board-SSB, independence Board of directors-BOD) to explain the distribution of social funds. They report that independent BOD and profitability had a positive influence on the distribution of social funds.

The heterogeneity of previous research models in explaining the social performance of IB is because there are indications that the IB has not focused on social performance as one of the performance targets. Recent studies indicate that IBs are not completely fulfilling their social role in accordance with Islamic teaching (Farook et al., 2011). The study from Maali et al. (2006) suggests that IBs' CSR reporting falls short of the benchmark for entities whose operations are founded on Islamic principles. IBs use forms of financial instruments, both in mobilizing funds for their operations and in providing finance for their clients, that comply with the principles and rules of shariah. So, IBs required to pay the Islamic religious tax *zakah* provide more social disclosures than banks not subject to *zakah* (Maali et al., 2006). It seems that the implementation of CSR reports is still limited to a mere formality of abortion obligations.

CSR studies on non-religion-based entities also show that they have low social and environmental concerns, and there is still an ongoing debate about its economic consequences (Zhou et al., 2021). Studies of the economic consequence of social and environmental concerns on non-religion-based entities have been proven by many researchers and show that social and environmental concerns increase the corporate's financial performance (Alshurafat et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2011), reducing the cost of debt (Chen et al., 2022; El Ghouli et al., 2011), reducing asset price volatility (Chen et al., 2022), and reducing the firm risk (Do, 2022; Shih et al., 2021; Zhou et al., 2021). Positive economic consequences of social and environmental concerns help corporate gain sociopolitical legitimacy, obtain positive stakeholder responses (Alshurafat et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2011), and increase investor confidence (Chen et al., 2022). However, previous research to prove the economic consequence of social and environmental concerns of IBs is still limited.

Our studies contribute to expanding the existing literature in several important ways. First, this research proves the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns for IBs. IBs use Islamic law as the basis for bank operations emphasizing that IBs must have deep social and environmental concerns as a form of carrying out tasks from God (Farook et al., 2011). Islamic teaching teaches Muslims to take responsibility as God's representatives for the welfare of humans (*hablumminanas*) and nature (*hablumminal Alam*). Thus, the social and environmental concerns in Islam as a form of Worship.

Second, previous research that proves the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns focuses on companies in developed countries as research objects (Chen et al., 2022; Dai et al., 2019; Hao et al., 2018; Magnanelli & Izzo, 2017; Servaes & Tamayo, 2013; Suganda & Kim, 2023; Xue et al., 2023). This study uses a sample of IBs in developed countries, and developing countries have different cultures. Different cultures may also occur in the response of stakeholders

in companies that have social and environmental concerns. This different setting from the culture and operations of the research sample allows different results from previous researchers.

Third, we use the observation period of the year the COVID-19 pandemic occurred. The financial crisis failures occurred in the banking sector as banks were exposed to various types of risk (Elamer et al., 2019). This pandemic can increase company social and environmental concerns as a tool to increase bank legitimacy (Hasanah et al., 2023). However, the COVID-19 pandemic has also caused a decline in sales due to limitations on the government taking policies to limit community activities. Accordingly, this research expands on previous references by providing evidence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns.

2. Background

This research examines the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns and market competition on financial performance in religion-based entities, especially IBs. This research is based on the fact that IBs use shariah as a bank operation (Elghuweel et al., 2017), and shariah encourages Muslims to care about social and environmental issues (Mukhibad, Yudo Jayanto, et al., 2022). Shariah encourages transactions that must be guided by religious/spiritual/ Islamic values of accountability, responsibility, and social justice (Albassam & Ntim, 2017).

The object of this research is IB in Indonesia. Indonesia uses a dual banking system where IBs and conventional banks run bank operations together. Thus, IBs and conventional banks (CBs) compete to provide the best bank services for customers. Prior studies reported that IBs customers tend to be rational in choosing bank services (Aysan et al., 2018; Ismal, 2011). This market characteristic causes IB and CB to compete in providing banking services. Meanwhile, recent literature shows that the level of competition affects bank risk (Mukhibad, Nurkhin, et al., 2022) and bank performance (Alshubiri, 2022; Trinugroho et al., 2018). The competition affects bank margins, and high margins lead to increased financial performance (Trinugroho et al., 2018). This background underlies this research to examine the effect of market competition on bank profitability.

Prior literature on economic consequences of social and environmental corporate concerns is carried out in the context of no crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increase in social and environmental problems. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased public awareness of social and environmental issues. Based on the system-oriented view, the entity is assumed to be influenced by, and in turn, to have an influence upon, the society in which it operates, including the crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had an impact on bank operations. Based on this argument, this research aims to examine the role of the COVID-19 pandemic in the relationship between social and environmental concerns and market competition on profitability.

Based on this research background, the purpose of this study was to examine (1) the influence of social and environmental concerns to have a positive effect on financial performance; (2) Market competition has a negative effect on financial performance; (3) the role of the COVID-19 pandemic in the relationship between social and environmental concern for financial performance; and (4) the role of the COVID-19 pandemic in the relationship between market competition for financial performance.

This paper is presented in several important related sections. The first section presents the research background and research background. The next section of this paper is the theoretical background and hypothesis development. In this section, the paper discusses the legitimacy theory and logical background of the relationship between social and environmental concerns and the corporate's financial performance. The fourth section is the empirical literature review and hypotheses development. The five sections present the research design, including technique

samples, methods of measuring variables, and data analysis. The sixth section is the empirical results and discussion, and the end of the paper explains the conclusions, theoretical and practical recommendations, and research limitations.

3. Theoretical literature review

Despite the growth of literature on social responsibility in the context of IBs, few researchers have addressed the issue of the economic consequence of social and environmental concerns in the context of IBs. While several papers have explored CSR in Islamic institutions and banks, they have generally used CSR disclosure and lack empirical analysis of the CSR expense of Islamic organizations.

While there is a broad, commonly accepted definition of CSR, it generally refers to business decisions making linked to ethical values, compliance with legal requirements, respect for people, and involvement in social activities, communities, and the environment (Hassan & Harahap, 2010). Naylor (1998) defines CSR as the obligation of managers to choose and act in ways that benefit both the interests of the organization and those of society as a whole. With CSR, organizations can manage the economic, social, and environmental impacts of their operations. Based on this definition, the CSR concern of an organization can be measured based on disclosure and CSR expense.

In the CSR literature, the former influence is related to systems-oriented theories such as political economy, legitimacy, and stakeholder theories (Deegan, 2002; Farook et al., 2011). Systems-oriented theories such as political economy, stakeholder, and legitimacy propose that individuals, institutions, and organizations seeking to preserve their own self-interest will attempt to operate and interact within the system through various relationships with other parties (Farook et al., 2011). The systems-oriented theories also emphasize that the actors (individuals, institutions, and organizations) in this system have the right to pursue their own goals and self-interests, and these rights to self-interest are moderated by the social and political environment in which the actors interact (Farook et al., 2011).

The concept of unity (*Tawhid*) prevails in the Islamic paradigm. According to the *tauhid* concept, God is the creator, owner, and source of all things, and God has entrusted mankind to the use of resources. The trusteeship requires a total commitment to the will of God and therefore involves both submission and a mission to follow the shariah in all aspects of life, including economic aspects (Farook et al., 2011). In Islam, the enjoyment of self-interest is only conditioned by the permanent needs of a greater society (*umma*). As such, individual freedom is sacred only as long as it does not conflict with the larger societal interest or as long as the individual does not transgress the rights of others and God's rules.

Similarly, the proponents of political economy, stakeholder, and legitimacy theories define the relationship between individuals, organizations, and society as a "social contract" (Deegan, 2002; Farook et al., 2011). Organizations themselves play a significant role in society and have responsibilities assigned to them based on their status in society. The implications of this concept, both managers and providers of capital, are accountable for their policies both inside and outside their firms; accountability in this context means accountability to the community to establish socio-economic justice within their own capacity. Some examples of this concept are the payment of religious taxes (*zakah*), philanthropic trusts (*waqf*), alms, charity (*infaq* or *sadaqa*), interest-free loans (*qardul-hasan*) (Hassan & Harahap, 2010).

In Islamic banking in Indonesia, the setters of accounting standards in Indonesia (Indonesian financial accounting standards board) issue additional annual reports that specifically apply to Islamic entities, namely statements of sources and distribution of zakat funds and statements of sources and distribution of *qardul hasan* funds. The statement of sources and distribution of zakat funds provides information on the number of zakat funds received and distributed by IB. Zakat

receipts can come from zakat on the bank's net profit or professional zakat for employees and customers. IBs distribute zakat funds to the parties who are entitled to receive zakat or *asnaf*. The *asnaf* are poor, needy, *amil*, *mualaf*, *riqab* or slave, *gharim*, *fisabilillah*, and *ibnu sabil*. Distribution of zakat funds as a form of bank social responsibility and bank participation in overcoming social, economic, and environmental problems.

The statement of sources and distribution of *qardul hasan* funds provides information on the *qardul hasan* funds received and distributed by IBs. *Qardul hasan* fund receipts come from loan penalty income, non-halal income, *infaq* or *sadaqa* funds, etc. The *qardul hasan* fund is channeled in the form of bank social activities, and IBs can have a bank's flagship social program to channel this fund. *Qardul hasan* funds are different from *qard* financing. *Qard* financing is one of IB's products in channeling *qardul hasan* funds. Regulators do not provide specific rules for types of activities, time of distribution, or parties receiving *qardul hasan* funds. Thus, it is possible for IB to use *qardul hasan* funds to finance planned IB social activities, namely social activities that have a major impact on enhancing the bank's reputation. Based on political economy, stakeholder, and legitimacy theories, IBs determine an effective program in realizing the social contract, improving bank reputation, increasing stakeholder trust, and further improving bank financial performance. This policy allows banks to be chosen because regulators do not have specific provisions that IBs must comply with in channeling *qardul hasan* funds, including when and the amount of *qardul hasan* funds distributed by banks.

4. Empirical literature review and hypotheses development

Based on a system-oriented view, the entity is assumed to be influenced by, and in turn, to have an influence upon, the society in which it operates (Deegan, 2002; Gusrianti & Sari, 2023). Stakeholder theory basically operates on the assumption that banks need to manage their relationships with their stakeholders in order to exist in bank operations. Deegan and Blomquist (2006) recognize that, according to stakeholder theory, reporting on specific types of information can be used to attract or maintain particular groups of stakeholders. For example, suppose a powerful individual or group is interested in a firm's social or environmental activities. In that case, the firm's social and environmental concerns are essential to attract or maintain them.

Cragg (2002) shows that the disclosure of CSR values and objectives in corporate statements and goals enhances the appeal of the firm's shares to socially responsible investors. Moreover, Fombrun and Foss (2004) stated that CSR is a valuable tool for creating reputational capital in the form of a good corporate image and enhanced reputation, which affords the firm a competitive advantage. Literature has provided a lot of evidence of the economic consequences of CSR disclosure. Xue et al. (2023) state that CSR disclosure reduces information asymmetry between firms and stakeholders. The CSR disclosure is a tool to facilitate the monitoring of managers by stakeholders outside the company, such as investors, creditors, consumers, debtors, etc., on the company's concern for economic, environmental, and social issues. Thus, CSR disclosure will increase investor interest in investing in the company and further reduce the cost of debt (El Ghoul et al., 2011; Goss & Roberts, 2011; Magnanelli & Izzo, 2017).

Legitimate view, the company's concern for social and environmental issues is a manifestation that banks have established their social contract with society. Conforming to such expected social behavior can be a strategic approach toward enhancing IBs' legitimacy and justifying IB's right to exist (Elamer et al., 2020). This is the main tool to improve the bank's reputation and will further increase customer loyalty. Thus, CSR spending can improve the bank's financial performance. This study links social and environmental concerns with financial performance on the grounds that the financial performance of a firm is driven by the company's fundamental performance, such as return on assets (ROA) and return on equity (ROE) (Horta et al., 2012).

H1: Social and environmental concerns have a positive effect on financial performance.

One of the significant challenges for IBs to improve their performance is the factor of business competition, both with fellow IBs and conventional banks. Even though IBs have different types of products from conventional banks. However, Ismal (2011) and Aysan et al. (2018) reported that IBs customers tend to be rational and do not pay attention to the characteristics of IBs who provide shariah-compliant bank product services. This causes IB to be required to be able to compete with conventional banks in providing banking services. Thus, market competition factors can affect bank performance (Yuanita, 2019).

Recent literature develops two opposite effects of market competition: fragile market competition and stable market competition (Louhichi et al., 2020). The competition-stability view implies that high competition promotes the financial performance of banks. High market power enjoys lower competition in the loan market which encourages them to set high-interest rates for borrowers (Noman et al., 2017). In contrast, the competition-fragility view assumes causing reduced bank performance because competition leads banks to become more fragile and erodes market power (Noman et al., 2017). Based on the Lerner index, Alshubiri (2022) note that LR has a significant negative impact on financial performance. Trinugroho et al. (2018) have provided evidence that bank margins are affected mainly by competition. In a less competitive market, IBs banks are able to set high margins, which leads to increased financial performance.

H2: Market competition has a negative effect on financial performance.

The COVID-19 pandemic that hit all countries caused a decline in economic performance fundamentally. The COVID-19 pandemic caused increases and uncertainties, security prices, and reduced trust, causing financial markets to fall to their lowest point since the 2008–2009 global financial crisis (Makki & Alqahtani, 2023). This condition makes it difficult for the company to maintain sales and reduces the company's fundamental performance (Alsamhi et al., 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a decrease in disbursed credit, a decrease in receipt of income from financing, and an increase in credit risk. Thus, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a decrease in corporate performance (Alsamhi et al., 2022; Makki & Alqahtani, 2023).

Political economy theory, like several other theories such as legitimacy theory and stakeholder theory, is considered to be a system-oriented theory. According to Deegan (2002), political economy theory explicitly recognizes the power conflict that exists within society and the various struggles that occur among groups within society. Based on political economy theory, the reduced corporate performance due to the COVID-19 pandemic has caused banks to adopt normative policies by increasing their social and environmental concern to improve bank image and customer loyalty. In difficult conditions, a good bank image causes banks to remain in demand by customers using banking transactions.

H3: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused social and environmental concerns to have a positive effect on financial performance.

H4: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused market competition to have a positive effect on financial performance.

5. Research design

The object of this research is 14 full-fledged IBs in Indonesia. This research used hand-collected data from annual reports over 14 years from 2009 to 2021 and produced 145 bank-year (unbalanced data). The unbalanced data method was chosen because there were several IBs spin-offs

(separate from the parent bank) during the study period. Table 1 illustrates variables used for measuring dependent variables, independent variables, and control variables.

Data were analyzed using panel data analysis. The Langgrang test and Hausman test will be carried out in this test to determine the recommended analysis method between random and fixed effects. The classic assumption test includes multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, and autocorrelation tests. The multicollinearity test is carried out by testing the correlation between the independent variables and the variance inflation factor (VIF). The Wooldridge test is used to detect the presence of autocorrelation in the model, and the Wald test is used to detect the existence of heteroscedasticity problems in the model.

The following research equations were formed:

$$ROA_{i,t} \text{ or } ROE_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 SEC_{i,t} + \beta_2 LERNER_{i,t} + control_{i,t,c} + \epsilon$$

$$ROA_{i,t} \text{ or } ROE_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 SEC_{i,t} + \beta_2 SEC * COVID_{i,t} + \beta_3 LERNER_{i,t} + \beta_4 LERNER * COVID_{i,t} + control_{i,t,c} + \epsilon$$

6. Empirical results and discussion

6.1. Descriptive statistic

Table 2 describes that the average ROA score is 1.477%, the minimum score is -20.13, and the maximum score is 13.60%. The research sample has an average ROE of 10.215%, a minimum score of -32.040, and a maximum score of 94.010%. Table 2 also presents that IBs channel social funds on average 0.393% of total assets. However, there are IBs that do not distribute social funds.

LERNER's average score is 0.093. LERNER's cores tend toward 0, meaning a purely competitive market and no pricing power otherwise. These results indicate that IBs in Indonesia face a competitive market. IBs in Indonesia face competition from fellow IBs and CBs. Indonesia, as the country with the largest Muslim population country in the world, does not cause them to choose IB in using banking transactions. Mukhibad et al. (2020) reported that IBs in Indonesia have a large annual growth but have a low market share compared to other countries.

6.2. Regression analysis test

Table 3 presents the correlation scores between variables. The largest correlation score is 0.443 (SIZE and CAPITAL). Table 3 shows that the correlation between variables is lower than 0.8 and indicates no serious correlation in the model. The VIF test strengthens this conclusion because all models produce a mean VIF of less than 5.

The results of the autocorrelation test using the Wooldridge test on all models yield a probability < 0.05 and indicate autocorrelation problems in the model. The Modified Wald test is used to test the heteroscedasticity problem and produces a probability of all models less than 0.05 (Table 3) and indicates that there is a heteroscedasticity problem in all models.

The Hausman test is to determine whether the coefficients for the two estimates (fixed effect and random effect model) are statistically different. In this case, the random effects model is better for our case because the probability of this test (prob>chi2 0.99 for models 1 and 2, 0.77 for model 3, 0.96 for model 4) is greater than the threshold of 0.05.

Table 4 presents the results of the model test using random effects. Model 1 test results show that SEC has a coefficient of 0.020 and a p-value score of more than 0.10. The test results indicate that SEC has no influence on ROA. The test results show that LERNER has a coefficient of -0.108, a p-value score is more than 0.10, and indicates that LERNER has no effect on ROA.

Table 1. The operational variables

Variables	Abbreviations	Retained measure	References
Dependent variables			
a. Return on assets	ROA	$ROA_{i,t} = \text{net income}_{i,t} / \text{Total assets}_{i,t}$	Louhichi et al. (2020)
b. Return on equity	ROE	$ROE_{i,t} = \text{net income}_{i,t} / \text{Total equity}_{i,t}$	Louhichi et al. (2019)
Independent variables			
a. Social and environmental concerns	SEC	$SEC_{i,t} = (\text{distribution of zakat fund}_{i,t} + \text{distribution of } qardul\ hasan\ fund_{i,t}) / \text{Total assets}_{i,t}$	developed from literature
b. Market competition	LERNER	$Lerner_{i,t} = \frac{Price_{i,t} - MC_{i,t}}{Price_{i,t}}$ <p>Price_{i,t} is the price of banking outputs for bank i at time t, MC_{i,t} is the marginal cost for bank i at time t. Lerner index is averaged over time under the study for each bank i. Lerner takes values between 0 and 1. Scores tend toward 0, meaning a purely competitive market and no pricing power otherwise. Scores tend toward 1 means low competitive market, reflecting a high markup of price above marginal cost, a high markup of price above marginal cost, the banks have monopoly power, and the market power is increased.</p>	Alam et al. (2019)
c. Pandemic COVID-19 crisis	COVID	This classifies the year of observation during the COVID-19 pandemic era and others. The COVID-19 pandemic crisis is measured by a dummy variable that takes the value of one for the 2020 and 2021 years and zero otherwise.	Mukhibad, Yudo Jayanto, et al. (2022)
Control variables			
a. Financing ratio	FINAN	$FINAN_{i,t} = \text{Total Financing}_{i,t} / \text{Total assets}_{i,t}$	Majid et al. (2014)
b. Capital ratio	CAPITAL	$ROA_{i,t} = \text{Total Equity}_{i,t} / \text{Total assets}_{i,t}$	Louhichi et al.(2019)
c. Non-performing financing	NPF	$\text{Impaired financing}_{i,t} / \text{Gross financing}_{i,t}$	Louhichi et al.(2019)
d. Total assets	SIZE	Natural logarithm of total assets _{i,t}	Louhichi et al.(2019)

Table 2. Descriptive statistics

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.
ROA	1.477	3.514	-20.130	13.600
ROE	10.215	16.019	-32.040	94.010
SEC	0.393	1.875	0.000	14.806
LERNER	0.093	0.178	0.003	0.983
FINAN	0.920	4.330	0.015	38.822
CAPITAL	0.279	0.739	0.019	6.013
NPF	3.736	5.171	0.000	43.990
SIZE	29.741	1.434	24.240	32.474
COVID	0.154	0.362	0.000	1.000

Table 3. Matrix correlation

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ROA	1	1							
SEC	2	-0.051	1						
LERNER	3	-0.026	-0.034	1					
FINAN	4	-0.084	0.146	-0.419	1				
CAPITAL	5	0.027	0.322	0.079	0.276	1			
NPF	6	-0.423	0.045	-0.100	0.112	-0.047	1		
SIZE	7	0.016	-0.104	-0.234	0.109	-0.443	-0.021	1	
COVID	8	-0.025	-0.092	-0.096	-0.012	-0.051	-0.063	0.151	1

The impact of COVID on ROA produces a coefficient of -1.229 and a p-value of less than 0.05 (model 1). These results indicate that COVID has reduced bank profitability. This result is consistent with the model 2 result score coefficient of -1.690 and a p-value score of less than 0.05.

Model 2 is a regression test of the role of COVID on the relationship between SEC and LERNER on ROA. Table 4 shows that SEC has a coefficient score of 5,593 (p-value score less than 0.1), while SEC*COVID has a coefficient score of 13,070 (p-value score less than 0.1). These results indicate that COVID causing SEC has an influence on ROA.

Meanwhile, the results of model 2 show that LERNER has a coefficient score of -0.845 (p-value score more than 0.1), while LERNER*COVID has a coefficient score of -0.267 (p-value score more than 0.1). These results indicate that COVID does not cause LERNER to influence ROA.

Model 3 is a regression test that uses ROE as an indicator of a bank's financial performance. Model 3 results show that SEC has a coefficient of -0.189 (p-value score is more than 0.10), and LERNER has a coefficient score of -3.008 (p-value score is more than 0.10). The results of regression model 3 show that SEC and LERNER have no effect on ROE. However, the results of regression model 4 show that SEC has a coefficient of 3,509 (p-value score is below 0.05) and SEC*COVID has a coefficient of 8,495 (p-value score is below 0.01). The results of regression model 4 show that LERNER has a coefficient of 0.495 (p-value score is more than 0.1) and LERNER*COVID has a coefficient of -0.417 (p-value score is more than 0.1). The results of regression model 4 show that COVID causes SEC to have a positive effect on ROE. However, COVID did not cause LERNER to have any influence on ROE.

Table 4. Regression analysis test

	ROA				ROE			
	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.
SEC	0.020	0.016	5.593*	3.090	-0.189	0.268	3.509**	1.391
SEC*COVID	-	-	13.070*	7.253	-	-	8.495***	3.274
LERNER	-0.108	0.573	-0.845	1.144	-3.008	5.878	0.495	0.583
LERNER*COVID	-	-	-0.267	0.867	-	-	-0.417	0.960
FINAN	0.015	0.064	0.027	0.062	1.209***	0.247	0.099***	0.037
CAPITAL	0.070	0.599	0.014	0.606	-1.631	2.270	-0.259	0.348
NPF	-0.246	0.165	-0.246	0.169	-0.172	0.742	0.037	0.056
SIZE	0.189	0.261	0.167	0.283	1.461	1.151	0.024	0.188
COVID	-1.229**	0.539	-1.690**	0.672	-7.948**	2.704	-1.356**	0.578
_CONS	-2.885	7.511	-2.213	8.179	-31.303	34.645	1.065	5.749
VIF (Mean)	2.51		2.51		2.51		2.51	
Modified Wald test	925.83***		1.3e+05***		1.6E+06***		8.8E+06***	
Wooldridge test	1.398		1.354		2.539		2.494	
Breusch and Pagan Lagrangian multiplier test	21.47***		22.32***		5.15**		5.13**	
Hausman	0.80		0.60		4.03		3.08	
Wald chi2	168.03***		465.90***		592.58***		265.87***	
R-Sq	0.170		0.1805		0.081		0.159	

We present scores of coefficients and robust standard error. ***, **, * denote 1%, 5%, and 10% significance levels, respectively. Following (Hoechle, 2007), we use random-effect GLS regressions with robust standard errors to solve the problems of autocorrelation and heteroscedasticity. Hausman test result in a p-value score of more than 0.05 recommends using random-effect GLS regressions.

6.3. Discussion

The results of this study (Table 4) provide empirical evidence that social and environmental concerns have no effect on ROA and ROE. These results indicate that bank spending for social and environmental activities of the bank, originating from zakat and *qardul hasan* funds does not affect bank profitability. This result is in accordance with the findings of Kesto (2017) and Schröder (2007) that CSR spending is not able to improve bank performance. This is also in line with the opinion of Friedman (2007) that CSR is served for the personal benefit of managers to raise their reputation in society. In the systems-oriented theories approach, the bank's concern for social and environmental issues as seeking to preserve their bank interest, bank directors will attempt to operate and interact within the system through various good relationships with other parties (Farook et al., 2011). The bank's concern for social and environmental issues indicates that the bank has fulfilled the social contract. However, because society is not concerned about social and environmental issues, it causes society not to use social and environmental concerns as a basis for selecting banks. Following Joshi and Rahman (2015), consumers' social and environmental concerns emerged as the major determinants of consumer behavior to use bank products that care for social and environmental issues. Al Mubarak et al. (2018) report that customers perceive CSR activities as a major element when dealing with banks, and the corporate image is strengthened when banks adopt CSR activities.

The results of the regression test show that market competition has no effect on financial performance. IBs face tremendous pressure to maintain their performance. Regulators and stakeholders demand that IBs provide bank products in accordance with shariah while providing competitive returns like their competitors. However, the investment instruments available on the market are not suitable for IBs because most investment instruments are not in accordance with shariah (Mukhibad et al., 2023). Based on a competition-stability view, high competition causes IBs to try to improve bank services and develop new products to increase customer satisfaction. This policy is to win the market competition and further promote the financial performance of the bank.

IBs in Indonesia have a number of assets that tend to be homogeneous and have a low percentage compared to conventional banks. Low total assets reduce bank economies of scale and affect the market structure as well as bank performance (Alshubiri, 2022; Yuanita, 2019). The homogeneity of the number of IB assets in Indonesia causes them to compete with each other. However, due to their low number of assets, their competition is not able to compete with conventional banks. Keep in mind that IB customers are mostly rational and emphasize economic motivation (see Aysan et al., 2018; Ismal, 2011). This condition causes market competition to not affect IB's financial performance.

The COVID-19 pandemic moderation test (Table 4) on the effect of social and environmental concerns on financial performance shows that the COVID-19 pandemic causes social and environmental concerns to have a positive effect on ROA (model 2) and ROE (model 4). The COVID-19 pandemic has increased social and economic issues and reduced the purchasing power of society. This condition causes a reducing bank lending (Boubakri et al., 2023), it is difficult for banks to maintain performance income and reduces fundamental bank performance (Alsamhi et al., 2022) and profitability (Alsamhi et al., 2022; Makki & Alqahtani, 2023). The COVID-19 pandemic caused an increased economic recession, social imbalance, and inequity, creating even more difficulties for society (Clemente-Suárez et al., 2021). The worsening social and economic problems of the community due to the COVID-19 pandemic have increased the social and economic concerns of society. Society also demands that corporate have social and economic concerns. The consumer's social and environmental concerns are the major determinants of consumer behavior in using bank products (Joshi & Rahman, 2015). Thus, the COVID-19 pandemic causes social and environmental concerns to positively influence financial performance.

The results of this study provide an alternative explanation of recent literature that appears to be rather inclusive of the effects of social and environmental concerns or CSR performance on

financial performance (Nollet et al., 2016). According to Maqbool and Zameer (2018), community groups, consumers, investors, civil society, and other actors have deposited tremendous pressure on corporate people to adhere to social and environmental. Moreover, consumers' social and environmental concerns emerged as the major determinants of consumer behavior to use bank products that care for social and environmental issues (Joshi & Rahman, 2015). In the legitimacy theory and stakeholder theory social and environmental concern approach of banks in increasing bank compliance with social contracts (Deegan, 2002) where consumers' encouragement to comply with social contracts increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the influence of CSR performance on financial performance depends on consumer behavior concerning social and environmental issues.

Table 4 also reports that the COVID-19 pandemic did not cause social and environmental concerns to ROA (2) and ROE (model 4). The COVID-19 pandemic caused reduced bank lending (Boubakri et al., 2023) and the performance of IBs and CBs (Alsamhi et al., 2022). The crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic has not caused a change in market competition among banks. This is the reason the COVID-19 pandemic has not caused a social and environmental concern to bank financial performance.

6.4. Robustness test

Following Mukhibad and Setiawan (2022), we add income diversity variables in the model to the robustness test. We developed models 1a, 2a, 3a, and 4a as robustness tests, and the model test results are presented in Table 5. The results of the regression test in Table 5 show that social and environmental concerns and market competition do not affect ROA and ROE. However, the COVID-19 pandemic moderated the impact of social and environmental concerns on ROA and ROE. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused social and environmental concerns to have a positive effect on ROA and ROE. The research results in Table 5 corroborate the results of the main regression test of this study.

7. Summary and conclusion

This study aims to prove the influence of social and environmental concerns and market competition on financial performance. We also examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on relations social and environmental concerns on profitability as well as the relationship between market competition and financial performance. The results of the research show that in the context of IBs in Indonesia, social and environmental concerns have no effect on ROA and ROE. The research results also prove that market competition has no effect on ROA and ROE. The results of the moderation test show that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused social and environmental concerns to increase ROA and ROE. However, the COVID-19 pandemic did not cause market competition to have an impact on ROA and ROE.

The research results prove that the economic consequence of social and environmental concerns depends on society's social and environmental concerns. The COVID-19 pandemic increases consumers' social and environmental concerns, encourages banks to care about social issues, and will further improve bank performance. Following the legitimacy theory and stakeholder theory view, society's social and environmental concerns will encourage banks to comply with social contracts and increase consumer behavior to use bank products.

These findings could help regulators IBs in Indonesia should give the necessary training, workshop, or expand socialization to improve society's social and environmental concerns. Consumers' social and environmental concerns emerged consumer behavior to use bank products that care for social and environmental issues. This behavior encourages the IBs' social and environmental concerns. Thus, mutually beneficial behavior occurs between the bank and society. For IBs, this result can be used as a basis for increasing the effectiveness of bank policies in channeling social bank funds (*zakah* and *qardul hasan funds*) and regardless of the rules. This policy is important so that the social and environmental concerns of Islamic banks have an impact on improving financial performance.

Table 5. Regression analysis test for robustness

	ROA				ROE			
	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.
	Model 1a		Model 2a		Model 3a		Model 4a	
SEC	0.008	0.016	2.361***	0.795	-0.193	0.273	2.776**	1.090
SEC*COVID	-	-	5.779***	1.862	-	-	6.769***	2.561
LERNER	-0.622	0.782	-0.427	0.465	-5.597	6.413	-0.480	1.019
LERNER*COVID	-	-	0.236	0.443	-	-	-0.183	0.634
FINAN	0.035	0.054	0.035	0.033	1.271***	0.273	0.098***	0.035
CAPITAL	0.041	0.538	-0.075	0.347	-1.902	2.433	-0.253	0.359
NPF	-0.257	0.168	0.046	0.041	-0.169	0.743	0.053	0.054
SIZE	0.220	0.250	-0.140	0.210	1.482	1.198	0.026	0.209
COVID	-1.503**	0.626	-0.056	0.312	-6.119*	3.384	-0.547	0.481
DIVERINCOM	-0.128	0.117	0.118*	0.066	0.151	0.648	0.120*	0.072
_CONS	-4.074	7.322	4.464	6.301	-31.310	36.340	1.352	6.345
VIF (Mean)	2.50		2.50		2.50		2.50	
Modified Wald test (chi2 score)	1.3E+05***		3.7E+05***		48541***		22787***	
Wooldridge test	1.463		1.461		2.547		2.477	
Breusch and Pagan Lagrangian multiplier test	22.76***		22.40***		5.23**		5.46***	
Hausman (chi2 score)	0.57		0.47		4.29		2.91	
Wald chi2	463.98***		150.97***		392.963***		423.66***	
R-Sq	0.180		0.129		0.083		0.155	

We present scores of coefficients and robust standard error. ***, **, * denote 1%, 5%, and 10% significance levels, respectively. Following (Hoechle, 2007), we use random-effect GLS regressions with robust standard errors to solve the problems of autocorrelation and heteroscedasticity. Hausman test result in a p-value score of more than 0.05 recommends using random-effect GLS regressions.

This research contributes to expanding prior literature in two ways. First, we give evidence of the influence of the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns on financial performance that still needs to be improved, evidenced by previous studies. In a broader scope, studies on the economic consequence of social and environmental concerns on financial performance have mixed results. Second, previous research that proves the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns has focused on corporate in developing countries, especially Indonesia. The cultural differences may cause differences in the responses of stakeholders in corporate that care about social and environmental issues. Third, this study expands the literature on the economic consequences of social and environmental concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This research is used as a consideration in determining CSR performance for banks because, in the context of IBs in Indonesia, this performance does not positively impact financial performance. CSR performance can improve financial performance if consumer behavior uses bank products that care about social and environmental issues.

This research only uses the scope of IBs in Indonesia because only IBs in Indonesia are required by regulators to publish the statements of sources and distribution of zakat funds and statements of sources and distribution of *qardul hasan* funds as social activities reports. This research bases the social and environmental concerns of IBs based on these reports. Future researchers can adopt this research in another country by adjusting the rules set by the regulator.

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