

An Overview of the Evolution of Research on Bureaucratic Reform

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Abstract. In order to foster public confidence, bureaucratic reform seeks to establish good governance with highly honest, productive, and well-served officials. This article was written to give an overview of the research on bureaucratic reform because researchers have continued to be interested in this theme. We conducted bibliometric analysis using the Scopus database as a source and found 201 publications that were published between 1982 and 2023. Additionally, we utilise the VOSViewer software to acquire more accurate analysis. As a result, 2020 is the highest point of publications related to this topic (21 documents) and Dobbin F. et al (2015) is the most cited document (216 times). Indonesia is the nation with the highest publication rate, and it is typically associated with political economy and the public sector.

Keywords: Bureaucratic Reform; Overview; Literature Review

1 Introduction

The administration of the Indonesian state uses reform to achieve ongoing improvements in public services. The public's hope for the government's ability to fight KKN is bureaucratic reform. The public's desire for effective, responsive, and accountable public services will be satisfied by bureaucratic reform, which will also result in a clean government.

Historically, the idea of bureaucracy was put forth and put into place as a reform of the elitist, undemocratic, and frequently corrupt political and governmental structures that came before it. These structures included high taxes, patronage, special interest influence, and inefficiency. These days, bureaucracy is frequently linked to other negative ideas like incompetence, being constrained by rules, having poor productivity, being unresponsive, and having high taxes. Bureaucratic reform is frequently advocated as a means of reducing, if not completely eliminating, these problems, improving the responsiveness of government to the needs of the people, and enhancing the political transparency of government [1]

In all political systems, protecting institutions from direct political pressure is a crucial part of good governance [2]. Surprisingly little research has been done on the subject of how competent bureaucracies come to be [3]. Why do political leaders feel compelled to establish these kinds of institutions, and under what circumstances do they do so?[4]. In particular, non-programmatic political parties—that is, parties that lack a clear policy platform and are more inclined to appeal to voters on a clientelist basis—have a significantly negative impact on the success of public sector reform initiatives [5]. These politicians do not rely on the public sector operating at peak efficiency to strengthen the appeal of their policies.

We believed that sustainability, or the attainment and maintenance of success, is the primary concern in governance given the decline in the capacity of governments over the past few decades. But, unfortunately, the attempt at bureaucratic reform appears misplaced and blind to the true issues with governance [6].

Reform initiatives focused on the market have not shown to be helpful in emerging nations. The primary barriers to reform implementation are weak state capacity, a lack of political will, and structural deficiencies. Specifically, the political economy of the nation is characterised by structural limitations, which were eventually identified as a primary barrier to the adoption of market-oriented reforms [7], [8].

Since 2010, bureaucratic reform has started to integrate into the government's top priorities in Indonesia, at least in terms of regulations. Permenpan & RB No. 20 of 2010 concerning Road Map for Bureaucratic Reform 2010–2014 (updated with Permenpan & RB No. 11 of 2015 concerning Road Map for Bureaucratic Reform 2015–2019), Presidential Decree No. 81 of 2010 concerning the Grand Design of Reform Bureaucracy 2010–2025, and Permenpan & RB No. 25 of 2020 concerning Bureaucratic Road Map for 2020–2025 are among the policies that have been published since 2010 and govern macro and systemic bureaucracy.

In order to better understand the concept of bureaucratic reform in Indonesia, the aim of this paper is to make systematic observations and analyses of academic literature on the subject. It is crucial that this literature review be completed in order for the findings to serve as valuable scientific references for upcoming bureaucratic reform research projects. The findings of this study will serve as a "bridge" to explain how historians and bureaucrats view the world differently. In addition, this study will motivate researchers to carry out additional studies on bureaucratic reform.

2 Methodology

As many researchers have already done [9], [10], this study conducts research mapping on specific topics. This literature review was carried out using the bibliometric analysis. Additionally, we mapped the scientific research topics over the whole review period using the VOSviewer tool, and we identified research trend topics based on the average number of citations, average publication year, average number of occurrences, and link strength between keywords.

We extracted the article for this study in November 2023 using the Scopus repository. The following topics are how we filtered the results: Title of article, abstract, and keywords. This search turned up 201 articles between 1982 and 2023, which were organized into 154 journals, 24 conference proceedings, 20 books, and 3 book series. We used all 201 of these sources, and we used the VOSviewer programme to do multiple analyses.

We carried out the analysis in order to respond to the following questions:

- a. How are publications about bureaucratic reform distributed throughout the year?
- b. Which authors and journals are most pertinent to the study of bureaucratic reform?
- c. In the field of bureaucratic reform research, which nations are the most influential?
- d. Which research keywords have been most relevant for bureaucratic reform?
- e. Which topic area concerning bureaucratic reform is the most crucial?

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Results

3.1.1. The Publication Trends About Bureaucratic Reform

This section presents the findings from our examination of research topics related to bureaucratic reform from 1982 to 2023. As seen in Figure 1, we can observe the fluctuations, where the highest number is 21 documents in 2020. Despite a sharp decline to just 12 documents in 2021, research on this theme is still receiving attention in 2023, as evidenced by the upward trend Figure 1.

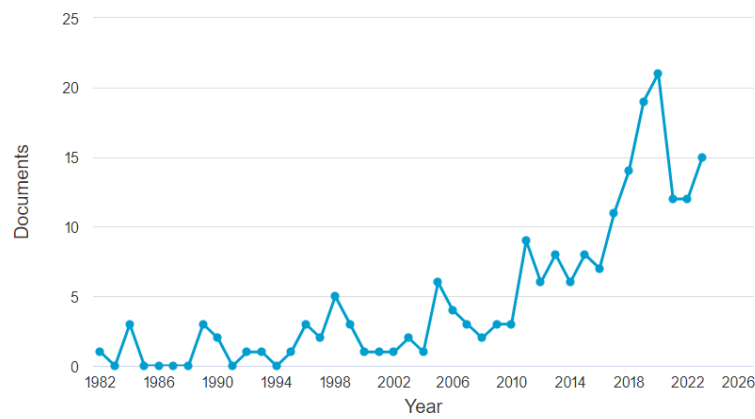


Fig. 1. Publication Trends

3.1.2 The Most Relevant Writers and Publications for the Study of Bureaucratic Reform

The Scopus database lists many writers who have written on this theme. A few of them have multiple documents, as Figure 2 illustrates. The top position with five (5) published documents is Sensuse, D. I.

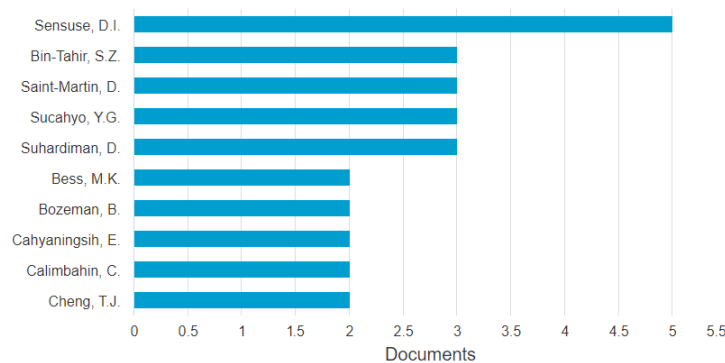


Fig. 2. Top Author from Scopus

To demonstrate the significance of the research, we used VOSViewer to examine the publications with the highest number of citations. Dobbin F. et al (2015) is the most cited document (216 times), as we can see in Figure 3. We analysed the citation based on documents with minimum number of document is 20, and 28 meet the threshold.

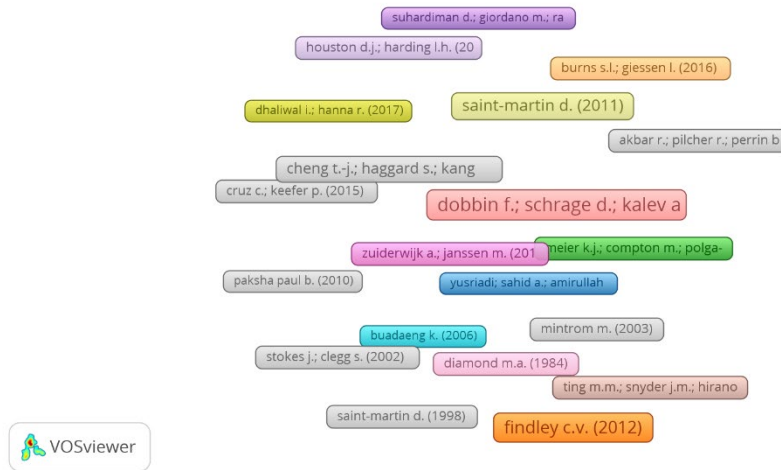


Fig. 3. Top Cited Documents from VOSViewer

The details of Figure 3, which shows the ten publications with the highest number of citations, are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. The Most Cited Writers and Publications

No	Author	Journal/Book	Citations	Source
1	Dobbin, F.; Schrage, D.; Kalev, A. (2015)	American Sociological Review (Q1)	216	[11]
2	Findley, C. V. (2012)	Bureaucratic Reform in the Ottoman Empire: The Sublime Porte, 1789-1922	181	[12]
3	Saint-martin, D. (2011)	Building the New Managerialist State: Consultants and the Politics of Public Sector Reform in Comparative Perspective	139	[13]
4	Cheng, T. J.; Garrard, S.; Kang, D. (1998)	Journal of Development Studies (Q1)	103	[14]
5	Houston, D. J.; Harding, L. H. (2013)	Public Integrity (Q1)	45	[15]
6	Fountain, J. E. (2008)	Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics	41	[16]
7	Stokes, J.; Clegg, S. (2002)	Organization (Q1)	41	[17]
8	Cruz, C.; Keefer, P. (2015)	Comparative Political Studies (Q1)	40	[5]
9	Saint-martin, D. (1998)	Administration & Society (Q1)	39	[18]
10	Akbar, R.; Pilcher, R.; Perrin B. (2012)	Pacific Accounting Review (Q2)	38	[19]

3.1.3 Most Productive Countries/Regions

Indonesia is the country or territory that has conducted the most research on bureaucratic reform, with 76 documents, as shown in Figure 4. Afterwards, there were 49 publications from the United States and 13 publications from the United Kingdom.

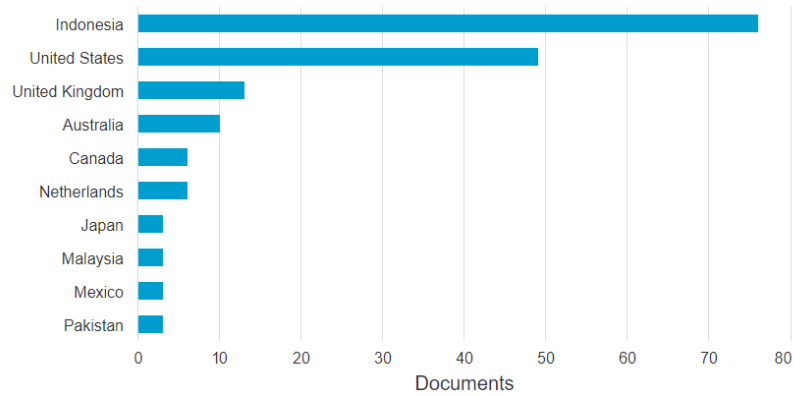


Fig. 4. Documents by Country or Territory

3.1.4 The Most Relevant Research Keywords

The strength of the relationship between the keywords is measured by the total link strength. We analyzed co-occurrence from author keywords. Out of the 201 articles selected, we obtained 509 keywords, with a minimum of 5 occurrences, 10 keywords meet the thresholds, as we can see in Figure 5.

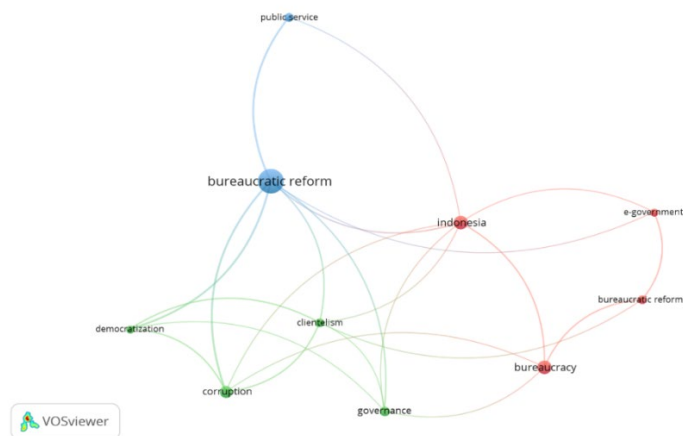


Fig. 5. Co-Occurance Analysis by Author Keyword

The most frequently discussed topic, as determined by a co-occurrence analysis with the VOSviewer software, is bureaucratic reform. Additionally, the link between the three clusters of keywords (each with a different colour) is visible. The cluster can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Keywords Cluster

No	Cluster (Colour)	Item/Keywords
1	1 (Red)	Bureaucracy, Bureaucracy Reform, E-Government, Indonesia
2	2 (Green)	Clientelism, Corruption, Democratization, Governance
3	3 (Blue)	Bureaucratic Reform, Public Service

3.1.5 Subject Area Concerning Bureaucratic Reform

We identify the most important subject area involving bureaucratic reform as demonstrated in Figure 6. The highest percentage (39,8) was in the Social Science area with 132 documents. Following by Business, Management, and Accounting (14,8%) with 49 publications, and Computer Science in the third place with 34 publications (10,2%)

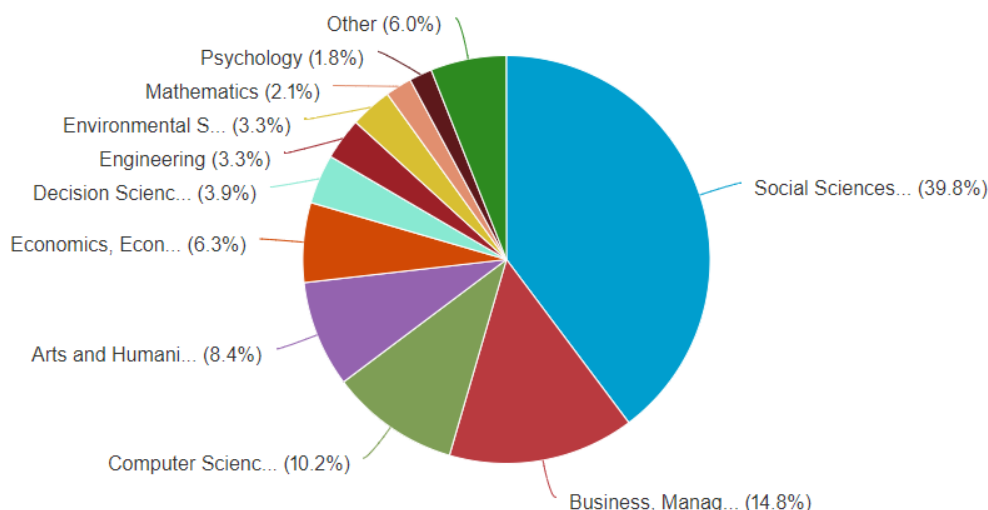


Fig. 6. Document by Subject Area

3.2 Discussion

All of the research questions have been addressed sequentially based on the findings of a document analysis drawn from the Scopus database. The distribution of publications pertaining to bureaucratic reform from 1982 to 2023 demonstrates fluctuating trends. However, it is evident from data that bureaucratic reform is highly visible in Indonesia.

Bureaucratic reform within the framework of The Government of Indonesia is a major area of study conducted in Indonesia [20]–[23]. The remaining studies are carried out in West Java Province [24], [25], regencies and the city governments in the Special Region of Yogyakarta [26], governmental offices in the Aceh Province [27], Indonesian fisheries court [28], The Investment and One Stop Integrated Service Office of Badung Regency [29], Wonosobo Regional Government and the Regional House of Representatives [30], Tana Toraja Regency[31], One-Stop Service (OSS) Bone Regency [32], National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI) in Jakarta and Provincial Office of Libraries and Archives (ROLAs) [33], Semarang City Tax Office [34], Health Services in Merauke Regency[35], Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) [36], Indonesian Directorate of Tax [37], and the Government of Terong, Bantul District, Yogyakarta Province [38].

4 Conclusion

Research on bureaucratic reform was carried out between 1982 and 2023. The highest number is 21 documents in 2020, and despite a sharp decline to just 12 documents in 2021, research on this theme is still receiving attention in 2023. The most cited writer is Dobbin, F.; Schrage, D.; Kalev, A. (2015) with 216 citations, from *American Sociological Review* (Q1). In the field of bureaucratic reform research, Indonesia is the most influential. The research keywords have been most relevant is bureaucratic reform itself and the most crucial topic area concerning bureaucratic reform is Social Science.

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