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The role of financial technology to increase financial inclusion in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The growth of digital technologies has changed the way of doing financial transactions. Even though the transaction value for financial technology in 2018 grew by 24%, the financial inclusion rate in Indonesia is still low, with 64% unbanked. The aim of the study was to analyze the factors of the growing digital technology that influence customer decisions in choosing financial technology services using customer knowledge as the intervening variable. The growing digital technology is measured using social networking, regulatory services, and financial service facilities variables. The sample of this research focused on the microsegment customers located in Java Island. Statistical data are analyzed using Algorithm PLS. Results show that customer decision in choosing financial technology services was strongly influenced by customer knowledge. Customer knowledge was formed from information gathered from the social network, the formal assurance by the government, the financial service facilities, and financial inclusivity. The study recommends a need to educate, promote, and provide adequate information to increase familiarity and literacy rate with regard to financial technology. The study also recommends an urgent clear government regulation to protect the interests of customers and industries.

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1. Introduction

As the world advances rapidly, digital technology continues to develop. Considered one of the emerging countries in the world, Indonesia also faces the growth of digital technology innovation. Indonesia has a population reaching 265.4 million, with more than 143.2 million people as active users of the internet and 130 million of these with social media accounts (World Bank Report, 2018). The Indonesian government has launched an e-commerce roadmap with the aim of creating a new 1.000 startup business with a market valuation of US \$10 billion and the value of the e-commerce reaching US \$130 billion by the end of 2020. The policy initiated some strategy in developing information technology across the nation through the utilization of financial technologies, Internet of Things (IOT), as well as the utilization of higher market share in the field of information and communications technology (ICT) on-demand services (Kementerian Informasi dan Komunikasi, 2018). In 2018, the financial technology businesses grew at 24.6% annually with the total market transaction value reaching US \$22.338 million (Kementerian Informasi dan Komunikasi, 2018). The government was also committed in developing the national fiber optic infrastructure (was called Palapa Ring) to provide the availability of communication services. This project would give more affordable communication services, accelerate development in the Eastern region of Indonesia, as well as support the implementation of electronic application and increase prosperity for all including more access for financial inclusion through the utilization of financial technologies (Kementerian Informasi dan Komunikasi, 2018). Although the rate of economic growth and consumption in Indonesia reached 5.8% in 2017, the level of financial literacy of the community was low. Only 48.9% of its people had access to banks, and only 23% of them were using financial technology in conducting their financial transactions. Ultramicro segments, considered the backbone of the economy contributing 59% to GDP and 97% of the country's labor

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absorption, experienced difficulties in accessing financial institutions. Fifty-nine percent of them had limited access to the banking system, and only 26% were able to utilize credit loans from banks to develop their businesses. Financial institutions in Indonesia were able to distribute loans as much as 148 trillion rupiahs in 2017, mostly for big corporations (Herdiawan, 2017). To support the growth of businesses, the government provided regulations to encourage the ultramicro segment to get business loans from financial technology companies, especially from the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending in Indonesia (Bank Indonesia FinTech Office, 2017). This new platform was expected to encourage the growth of the digital economy while simultaneously exposing the public to financial services (financial inclusion). The island of Java has recorded the highest loan growth rate, especially in Central Java. This is expected since more than 50% of the ultramicro segment markets are locally concentrated in Java. Currently, the majority of small—medium enterprises (SMEs) are served financially by conventional rural banks. Indonesia has 1,726 rural banks; 62% of them are located in Java Island and serve 12.5 million customers. Only 0.4% of these have mobile money accounts, and 11.2% do online financial transactions (IBRD/The World Bank, 2018). Table 1 shows the number of financial transactions conducted by rural banks (nationally) for four consecutive years.

Table 1Rural Banks Financial Transaction

Year (as per 31 December)	Number of Customers	Amount Third Party Fund (in trillion rupiahs)	Amount Credit Distribution (in trillion rupiahs)
2014	13 Million	86	68
2015	13 Million	83	74
2016	14 Million	90	80
2017	12.5 Million	88	79

Source: Bank Indonesia Report (2018).

From the above table, an 18% decline in the credit distribution amount can be observed in 2017. This is the result of an increase in number of loans offered by P2P lending and infrastructure gaps (Bank Indonesia Report, 2017). The SMEs' decision in using financial technology was strongly influenced by their knowledge and familiarity of the new financial platform. Therefore, the objective of the research was to analyze the role of digital technology to increase customer decision in using financial technology (herein termed fintech) services by using customer knowledge as an intervening variable.

2. Literature Review

Accenture's (2016) research showed that global investment was growing rapidly, around 67% per year, in the Asia-Pacific region, in which Indonesia had the highest position. Digital technology advancements changed the business model and how companies could create value by utilizing the internet (Hartman et al., 2000). The digital economy had several characteristics, such as the growth of the internet, the rise of innovation, and globalization, that would change the current economic system in various industries such as finance and banking. Information technology transformed social interaction and personal relationships by taking advantage of ICT advancement (OECD, 2017). Fintech is a new business model that combines financial services and technology. Its growth changed the current conventional banking system. It is a financial business innovation encouraged by the rise of the sharing economy system, the relaxation of government regulation, and the advancement of information technology (Bank Indonesia Report, 2018). Fintech brings more advantages to customers, the government, and related industries. It provides a variety of product options for customers, along with better quality in affordable prices. Fintech also supports the government by contributing to the development of the nation, reducing unemployment, increasing welfare, and strengthening the economic system (Lee & Shin, 2018). It became a business opportunity to shorten the transaction chain, increase the efficiency, support the financial inclusion, and create smooth information exchange flow (Herdiawan, 2017). Financial inclusivity is a condition where affordable financial products and services, delivered in a responsible and sustainable way, are available for people to meet their needs. It gives equal opportunities for people, especially those unbanked and underbanked, to get better access into financial services (Nanda & Kaur, 2016). It aims to provide people with reasonable access at a reasonable cost to comprehensive financial services, including savings or investment services, payment, and credit services. These financial activities are governed by regulations to protect the consumers and ensure healthy competition in industries. Financial inclusion is expected to reduce poverty and boost shared prosperity among people in Indonesia (World Bank Report, 2018).

Crowdfunding or P2P lending is an alternative new business model of fintech that provides services, such as fund collection and lending, with the use of technology (Blohm, Leimester, & Kremar, 2013). To better understand the competition and the dynamics of fintech industry, the fintech ecosystem needs to be studied (Bank Indonesia Report, 2018). Diemers, Lamaa, Salamat, and Steffens (2015) explained five major elements of the fintech ecosystem: fintech startup, technology developers, government, customers, and other traditional financial institutions such as banks, insurance, and others. Fintech startup refers to any financial startups that provide financial services such as lending (P2P lending). These new platforms offer unbundling financial services that are not offered by conventional banks (Walchek, 2015). P2P lending brought more options to individuals or corporations to give or receive lending activities from one another with the use of the internet. The platform offered more simple and speedy lending solutions with lower interest rates. One significant difference between financial startups and banks was the involvement in the process, as P2P lending startups are not directly involved in the lending process and only acted as intermediaries that connect fund owners (lenders) to borrowers. They provide the ICT infrastructure to support the

transaction. Transaction fees are collected from both lenders and borrowers (Bank Indonesia Report, 2018). While large capital is not required like banks, P2P lending startups ensure that all financial transactions done in their platform are safe and are based on formal and proper regulations to protect the interest of all parties (Williams-Grut, 2016). The lending process begins by analyzing sources of information carefully, accelerating the lending process, simplifying the administration process, and setting up maximum nominal lending amount and repayment period (Zhu, Dholakaia, Chen, & Algesheimer, 2012). The success of the P2P lending depends on their strategy for risk mitigation. Technology developers refer to internet provider companies that provide cloud computing, social media developers, and big data analysis. Appropriate technology infrastructure enables customers to access financial transactions anytime and everywhere (Reuters, 2016). The government, as part of the fintech ecosystem, established clear financial regulation related to capital adequacy requirements, customer protection, and tax incentives (Holland FinTech, 2015). In the new financial platforms, establishing proper financial policies by the government will likely minimize possible risks related to technology innovation (Herdiawan, 2017). In addition, the relaxation of government regulation encouraged more P2P lending startups to give more personalized services at more affordable prices and easier access (Bank Indonesia Report, 2018).

Another part of the fintech ecosystem, customers, refers to all parties (individual or institution) that use fintech in doing their financial transactions. The main customers of P2P lending are those who had good prospects of their businesses but had limited access to borrow funds from conventional banks. Holland FinTech (2015) showed that the majority of P2P lending customers are SMEs and the millennial generation who are active users of internet and social media. With the size of their business and the limited capital to expand, SMEs were the main target of P2P lending. In addition, their limited assets as collateral provided SMEs with difficulties in borrowing funds from banks. Traditional financial institutions such as banks, insurance, or leasing companies and pawnshop also influence the fintech ecosystem. Banks, with bigger financial resources, had more advantages in terms of their capabilities to achieve the economies of scales. Since banks could only serve comprehensive bundling products to the customers, the existence of P2P lending became a serious threat for these institutions (Yang, 2015). Social networking played an important role in the success of this new business platform (Zvilichovsky et al., 2013). The social networking theory focuses on the importance of social relationships for information transmission that encourages the change in people's behavior. Kuppuswamy and Bayus (2013) explained the significant effect of families and friends in financial decisions, as families and friends gave more information and recommendation regarding the trusted fintech. Understanding the fintech ecosystem would give more adequate information for customers of new platforms before making decisions in choosing the P2P lending for their financial transactions (Khosravi, 2014; Uddin, Lopa, & Oheduzzaman, 2014). As customers rely on P2P lending to get more information about the platform, P2P lending startups had to develop good communication channels to share all related information (Tseng, Shu-Mei, & Pin-Hong Wu, 2014). Salomann, Dous, Kolbe, and Brenner (2005) stated that customer knowledge is categorized into three dimensions (Khodakarami & Chan, 2014), namely knowledge for customers (all available information provided for the customers), knowledge about customers, and knowledge from customers (all available information provided by customers as source of innovation). The more information the customers could access, the better it assists them in making sound financial decisions (Nguyen & Harrison, 2018; Kurniasari, Jusuf, & Gunardi, 2018). As customers seek plenty of information related to the P2P lending from trusted sources such as family and friends, various communication elements and interaction behavior could influence their decisions, such as trust, satisfaction, and clear information (Anothai & Beise-Zee, 2014; Gaur, Xu, Quazi, & Nandi, 2011). This exchange will develop interaction and build long-term relationships (Tai & Ho, 2010). Egbunike, Emudainohwo, Gunardi, Kurniasari, and Prihanto (2018) stated that social interaction is an important media for information exchange. With the available information, customers will likely have a thorough understanding of the fintech ecosystem and will assist them in choosing the P2P lending startup to do transactions with (Khosravi, 2014; Uddin et al., 2014). A theoretical framework is developed from the literature review studied, as can be seen in Fig. 1.

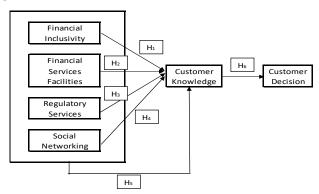


Fig. 1. Conceptual Framework

Based on the conceptual framework, the following hypotheses are proposed:

- H₁: There is a positive relationship between the financial inclusivity and the customer knowledge.
- H₂: There is a positive relationship between the financial service facilities and the customer knowledge.
- H₃: There is a significant relationship between the regulatory services and the customer knowledge.

H₄: There is a strong relationship between the social networking and the customer knowledge.

 H_5 : There is an effect from financial inclusivity, financial service facilities, regulatory services, and social networking technology to customer knowledge.

H₆: There is a significant relationship between customer knowledge and customer decision in choosing the P2P lending platform.

3. Methodology

This was descriptive research with a single cross-sectional data collection, since data collection was done once within the specific period of time (Malhotra, 2010). Nunnaly (1978) stated that the minimum sample that can be tested statistically is 30. The research mainly focuses on the ultramicro segment markets located in Java Island. The targeted sample used was 1,000 respondents collected using stratified random sampling method to give the generalization of the population. These respondents are located in municipalities from 6 provinces in Java, with each province represented as follows: Banten province (160 respondents), East Java (166 respondents), Central Java (166 respondents), West Java (173 respondents), DKI Jakarta (168 respondents), and Yogyakarta (167 respondents). The respondents would choose the best answer provided in the questionnaire designed in the Likert scale. The questionnaire has two parts: the first part covered the demographics and characteristics of the respondents and the second part was related to the research questions. As a quantitative research, all primary data collected had been analyzed statistically using Algorithm PLS. Hypotheses developed in the conceptual framework were analyzed. Financial inclusivity variables were measured with some indicators, such as bank accessibility (X_1) , financing distribution (X₂), financial transaction (X₃), and business profile (X₄) (Bank Indonesia Report, 2018). The variable of financial service facilities was measured by lending facilities (X₅) and relationship quality (X₆) (Michael, Falzon, & Shamdasani, 2015). Regulatory services variables were indicated by customer protection (X₇) and industry protection (X₈) (Liu, Sidhu, Beacom, & Valente, 2017). Social networking variables were explained by the technology/ICT usage (X₉) and group networking (X₁₀) (Perner, 2017). McDaniel and Gates (2015) stated that customer knowledge (Z_{11}) was related to all the information received by customers. Finally, customer knowledge would be a critical basis in assisting customers in making appropriate decisions for P2P lending platforms (Y₁₂) (Khosravi, 2014).

4. Empirical Results

Demographic analysis showed the respondents' profile including characteristics and behavior. All respondents are rural bank customers, with 58% of them as existing customers for three to five years. One point to consider in choosing rural banks is its safety, since the government protects all financial transactions (38%). The biggest transaction made (63%) was in credit activities to develop businesses (73%), with the maturity date between three and five years (47%) and with the average nominal amount of one hundred up to five hundred million rupiahs (22%). The main constraint when applying credit was the availability of assets (35%), longer time for credit approval (28%), and complex administration and documentation requirements (21%). This research showed theoretical analysis for each dimension, which can be used in making managerial decisions. Tables 2 and 3 show results for both financial inclusivity and financial service facilities dimensions. The highest score for the financial inclusivity dimension was seen in bank accessibility. The customers' aim in applying credit in rural banks is business expansion. Fintech would shorten the settlement of the financial transaction, but it would not replace the existence of rural bank employees. Customers needed the assistance of employees in handling and giving solutions to their financial problems.

Table 2 Descriptive Analysis for Financial Inclusivity Dimension (n = 1.000)

Code	Financial Inclusivity (FI)	Score
	Bank Accessibility (X ₁)	
FI 1	I am a customer of Rural Bank in Indonesia	18,680
FI 2	I always use banking services in doing my financial transactions (include the activities of saving, cash withdrawal, payment, transfer and fund borrowing)	15,320
FI 3	I must fill the application form and complete all the supporting documents	14,870
FI 4	I must follow long and difficult process in doing my financial transactions	12,110
	Financing Distribution (X2)	
FI 5	The rural bank has a strategic branch location	9,880
FI 6	The rural bank has flexible office hours	9,002
	Financial Transaction Accessibility (X3)	
FI 7	I can borrow money from the rural bank easily	12,870
FI 8	I have to provide collateral if I apply the credit	15,520
FI 9	The rural bank will make an appraisal of my collateral	12,230
FI 10	The approved nominal credit is lower than the nominal amount of my collateral	12,110
FI 11	There will be long process in applying the credit	14,890
	Business Profile (X ₄)	
FI 12	I am doing the financial transaction for my personal interest.	10,250
FI 13	I always use banking services in running my business	10,760
FI 14	My business net sales is less than 200 million rupiahs per year	9,870
FI 15	My employees are less than 50 persons	15,620
	Total Score	194,000
	Average	12,930

Source: SPSS Result (2019).

Table 3

Descriptive Analysis for Financial Service Facilities Dimension (n = 1,000)

Code	Financial Service Facilities (FS)	Score
	Lending Facilities (X ₅)	
FS 1	I always borrow money from the bank to expand my business	18,680
FS 2	My payment term is less than 1 year	15,320
FS 3	I have to pay higher interest rate for my credit	14,870
FS 4	I can borrow more than 2 billion rupiahs as long as I have collateral	12,110
	Relationship Quality (X ₆)	
FS 5	I need adequate information before doing my financial transaction	9,880
FS 6	I always need staff support in doing my financial transaction	9,020
	Total Score	79,880
	Average	13,310

Source: SPSS Result (2019).

Meanwhile, the government had to set the maximum limit of interest rates to protect both customers and financial industries, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4

Descriptive Analysis for Regulatory Service (n = 1,000)

Code	Regulatory Services (RS)	Score
	Customer Protection (X_7)	
RS 1	I feel secured when I borrow money from the Bank	19,800
RS 2	I know that the government make a clear regulation to protect the customer	16,600
RS 3	The financial digital platform is not regulated clearly by the government	19,400
RS 4	I know there's a formal government body if I have some complaint about the financial institution services	19,760
	Industry Protection (X ₈)	
RS 5	There must be a government regulation to control the financial digital protection	20,100
RS 6	The government must set maximum limit of interest rate	24,300
RS 7	The government must set maximum nominal amount of credit	22,180
RS 8	The government must set minimum financial competence for human resources qualification	19,850
RS 9	The government must set tight regulation in verifying the approved credit application	23,180
	Total Score	185,170
	Average	20,570

Source: SPSS Result (2019).

Table 5 shows results for the social networking dimension. Customers were very familiar in using digital technology devices including mobile phones and the internet in doing their financial transactions such as bill payments or transfers. Membership in the social media community had strong influence in building trust in using fintech.

Table 5

Descriptive Analysis for Social Networking (n = 1,000)

Code	Social Networking (SN)	Score
	Technology/ICT Usage (X ₉)	
SN 1	I am using electronic devices in doing my financial transactions	24,800
SN 2	I am having difficulties in using my digital financial transactions	23,320
SN 3	Only limited transaction can be accessed using electronic banking	19,150
SN 4	The frequency of my electronic banking transaction is more than 10 times a month	20,250
	Group Networking (X10)	
SN 5	I am joining social media group	13,750
SN 6	I always communicate with other members of the group	14,900
SN 7	I am doing online business frequently	12,180
	Total Score	128,350
	Average	18,340

Source: SPSS Result (2019).

Table 6

Descriptive Analysis for Customer Knowledge (n = 1,000)

Code	Customer Knowledge (CK)	Score
	Customer Knowledge (Z11)	
CK 1	I know there's an electronic platform providing the credit	33,680
CK 2	Credit online process is speedy and simple	34,420
CK 3	Credit online doesn't request any collateral	28,760
CK 4	Credit online is charging high interest rate	32,200
CK 5	Credit online is limited in short-term repayment (less than a year)	30,060
CK 6	Maximum nominal amount for credit online without collateral is 500 million rupiah	28,900
CK 7	I am applying credit online to expand my business	29,900
	Total Score	217,920
	Average	31.130

Source: SPSS Result (2019).

Knowledge of fintech characteristics would assist customers in making decisions with regard to the appropriate service to use. They know that fintech offers simple and easier procedures for credit application. While the services offered limited credit nominal and shorter maturity date, these services did not ask for any asset as collateral. Therefore, they had to pay for a higher interest rate. Understanding the benefits, risks, and weaknesses of the fintech system would allow them to make sound decisions in borrowing funds from P2P providers, as shown in Table 6 and Table 7.

Table 7 Descriptive Analysis for Customer Decision (n = 1,000)

Code	Customer Decision (CD)	Score
	Customer Decision (Y12)	
CD 1	I am interested in borrowing the money using digital platform	9,650
C2 2	I prefer to borrow the money online using digital platform than from the conventional bank	8,800
	Total Score	18,450
	Average	9,230

Source: SPSS Result (2019).

The Cronbach's alpha test was done to check the reliability of the research questions. It was designed to accurately measure all the variables used in this research (Hair, 2013). A minimum score of 0.700 would explain a strong internal consistency and high reliability of the research indicators (Hair, 2015). With a minimum score of 0.500, the average variance extraction (AVE) would give better discriminant validity (Park & Mercado, 2015). Table 8 shows that all dimensions used in this research were highly correlated and had high internal consistency. The dimensions recorded a Cronbach's alpha score of more than 0.700, with the highest score (0.911) seen for the customer decision dimension. In addition, the AVE score for each dimension is more than 0.500, with the customer decision dimension receiving the highest score (0.915). On the other hand, financial inclusivity had the smallest score for both Cronbach's alpha and AVE (0.718 and 0.546, respectively).

Table 8Validity and Reliability Constructs

Constructs	Cronbach's Alpha	rho_A	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extraction
Customer Decision (CD)	0.911	1.017	0.956	0.915
Customer Knowledge (CK)	0.865	0.882	0.898	0.598
Financial Inclusivity (FI)	0.718	0.788	0.824	0.546
Financial Service Facilities (FSF)	0.761	0.818	0.891	0.603
Regulatory Services (RS)	0.882	0.898	0.901	0.695
Social Networking (SN)	0.893	0.929	0.927	0.915

Source: SPSS Result (2019).

Statistical collinearity presented in Table 9 would explain the positive and strong relationship between each variable. Hair (2013) stated that the minimum score of collinearity was 0.900. Each independent variable in this research had a strong relationship with both intervening and dependent variables. Social networking had the strongest collinearity with customer knowledge (with a score of 1.886), whereas financial inclusivity had the weakest collinearity with customer knowledge (a score of 1.331). Other two independent variables, namely regulatory services and financial service facilities, had scores of 1.851 and 1.765, respectively. Meanwhile, customer knowledge had a positive collinearity with the customer decision variable (score = 1.000). Scores higher than 0.900 could mean multicollinearity among the variables.

Table 9 Statistical Collinearity

	CD	CK	FI	FSF	SN
Customer Knowledge (CK)	1.000				
Financial Inclusivity (FI)		1.331		1.000	
Financial Service Facilities (FSF)		1.765			1.000
Regulatory Services (RS)		1.851	1.000		
Social Networking (SN)		1.886			

Source: SPSS Result (2019).

Table 10 R-Square

	R Square	Adjusted R Square
Customer Decision	0.040	0.031
Customer Knowledge	0.687	0.532
Financial Inclusivity	0.005	0.256
Financial Service Facilities	0.237	0.334
Regulatory Services	0.369	0.418
Social Networking	0.462	0.454

Source: Data Analysis using LISREL 8.80.

The statistical calculation of R-square was used to determine the coefficient and interrelation of the variables (Hair, 2013). R-square measures the degree in which the independent variables (financial inclusivity, financial service facilities, regulatory services, and social networking) explain the customer knowledge and customer decision variables. Customer knowledge had

the highest score (0.687) as seen in Table 10, which means that 68.7% of customer decision was influenced by the customer knowledge variable. Meanwhile, the customer knowledge itself was determined by social networking (46.2%). Table 11 shows the important role of the intervening variable, customer knowledge. Financial inclusivity, financial service facilities, regulatory services, and social networking variables did not have any direct effect to customer decisions.

Table 11
Indirect Effect

	CD	CK	FSF	RS	SN
CK					-0.036
FI	-0.015	-0.014			
FSF	-0.040	0.289			
RS	-0.077	0.051	-0.048		-0.024
SN	-0.117				

Source: Data Analysis using LISREL 8.80.

Table 12 presents the path coefficient of all variables. Social networking had a t-value score of 6.692, the highest among variables with an effect on customer knowledge. This is followed by the regulatory services (2.836), financial services (0.853), and financial inclusivity (0.691).

Table 12
Path Coefficient

	Sample Mean	Standard Deviation	t-Values	P-Values
CK → CD	-0.025	0.090	2.233	0.026
FI → CK	0.102	0.103	0.691	0.490
FI → FS	-0.080	0.086	0.832	0.406
FS → CK	-0.103	0.109	0.853	0.394
FS → SN	0.503	0.073	6.820	0.000
RS → CK	0.336	0.117	2.836	0.005
RS → FI	0.692	0.078	8.725	0.000
SN → CK	0.587	0.087	6.692	0.000

Source: Data Analysis using LISREL 8.80.

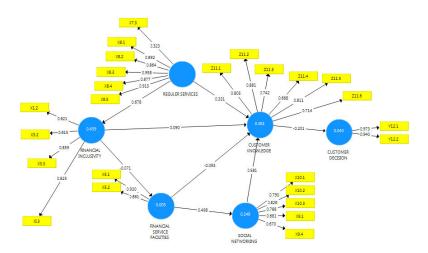


Fig. 2. Algorithm PLS

Source: Data Analysis using LISREL 8.80.

Data from Table 12 (path coefficient), Fig. 2 (algorithm PLS), and Fig. 3 (bootstrapping) explained the hypothesis testing seen in Table 13.

Table 13The Result of Hypothesis Testing

The result of hijpothesis results				
Hypotheses	Variables	Coefficient Standard	t-Value	Statistical Conclusion
H_1	FI → CK	0.090	0.691	Data Supported
H_2	$FSF \rightarrow CK$	-0.093	0.853	Data Supported
H_3	$RS \rightarrow CK$	0.331	2.836	Data Supported
H_4	$SN \rightarrow CK$	0.581	5.692	Data Supported
H ₅	FI, FSF, RS and SN → CK	0.709	9.972	Data Supported
H_6	$CK \rightarrow CD$	-0.201	2.233	Data Supported

Source: Data Analysis using LISREL 8.80.

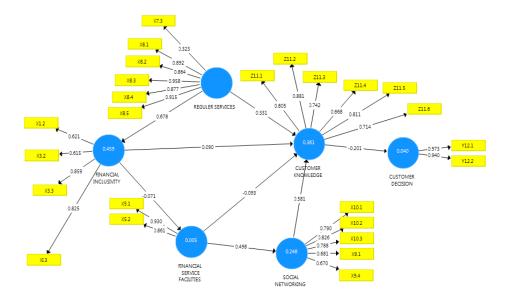


Fig. 3. Bootstrapping

Source: Data Analysis using LISREL 8.80.

Results from the research and testing the hypotheses showed that in digital technology, social networking has the greatest influence in customer knowledge. Membership in groups in social networks exerts influence through mutual exchange of information. With the growth of digital technology, social media can be accessed easily. Customers tend to immediately trust the information obtained from a member of their group. This finding was in line with the previous research conducted by Aisenberg et al. (2016) who stated that social media is a source and center of knowledge transmission. It is an interactive media where information is transmitted and communication between members of groups occurs. This research also supported data from the World Bank Report (2018) that showed the majority of Indonesians borrowed money from families and friends.

In addition, customer knowledge about fintech was influenced by the presence and clarity of government rules and regulation governing the fintech business. Government regulations could reduce uncertainty and risks related with failures in the fintech business. Regulations provide guarantee and protection for customers in terms of financial procedures, such as interest rate, administrative procedures, and default settlement. The findings were in line with previous research stating that transparency and continuous regulation must be conducted to support the sustainability of banking business, since each country had different cultures that would reflect into the characteristics of the purchase behavior (Egbunike et al., 2018). This study revealed the following limitations of the fintech system: the small nominal amount of the loan and the short loan duration. Meanwhile, the primary reason why customers needed the loan was to expand their business activities. All the independent variables (financial inclusivity, financial service facilities, regulatory services, and social networking) simultaneously had the most significant effect to customer knowledge toward the fintech business. The existence and completeness of the fintech information would affect customer decisions in using fintech as an alternative solution in seeking business loans. This research would give another perspective in increasing the penetration of fintech business in the Indonesian market and, at the same time, strengthening the financial inclusivity for SMEs to borrow loans for their businesses. Since fintech is likely seen as an alternative source of financing using information technology, an increase in participation of all variables in the fintech ecosystem, including the government, financial industries, and banking institutions related with the regulation and protection aspects, is necessary. There is also a need to encourage active participation in educating the community with the advantage of fintech business in doing financial transactions.

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