

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MOSQUE ACTIVITIES: A BIBLIOMETRIC MAPPING AND ANALYSIS

Norziah Othman¹ & Noor Raudhiah Abu Bakar¹

¹Faculty of Management and Muamalah, Universiti Islam Selangor (UIS), 43000, Bandar Seri Putra, Selangor, Malaysia.

Corresponding Author: Norziah Othman. Faculty of Management and Muamalah, Universiti Islam Selangor (UIS), 43000, Bandar Seri Putra, Selangor, Malaysia. Email: norziah@uis.edu.my.

Abstract

The primary objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive bibliometric mapping and analysis of the research landscape on community empowerment through mosque activities. The study aims to identify key themes, influential authors, and major journals in this field, as well as to explore the development of collaborative research clusters and emerging areas of interest. The study employs a bibliometric analysis approach using data sourced from Scopus academic data base. The time frame for the analysis spans the last twenty years. VOSviewer is a bibliometric tool used to visualize trends and networks within the data. The methodology includes co-authorship analysis to identify prolific researchers and institutions, keyword co-occurrence analysis to uncover dominant and emerging themes, and citation analysis to highlight the most impactful works in the field. The analysis reveals several major themes in the research on community empowerment through mosque activities, including social welfare programs, educational initiatives, and health promotion activities. The study identifies key authors and institutions that have significantly contributed to the discourse. Co-authorship and keyword co-occurrence networks show the development of collaborative research clusters, indicating strong interdisciplinary and international research efforts. Emerging areas of interest include the integration of digital technologies in mosque management and the role of mosques in promoting social cohesion and interfaith dialogue. This study contributes to the literature by providing a detailed bibliometric mapping of research on community empowerment through mosque activities. It highlights influential works and identifies research gaps that can inform future studies. By mapping the collaborative networks and thematic developments, the study offers valuable insights into the evolution of this research field and suggests potential directions for further exploration.

Keywords: mosque empowerment, social welfare, bibliometric, mosque activities, digital technologies

Received: June 16, 2024

Accepted: August 24, 2024

Online Published: December 31, 2024

1. Introduction

A mosque serves as both a house of prayer and a repository for Muslim ideas worldwide. For them, mosques serve as a symbol of Muslim ownership and identity rather than just being locations for religious ceremonies or places of worship. Building a mosque was the first thing the Prophet SAW prioritized when he tried to establish a civilization (Setiawan & Dahliana, 2022; Saumantri et al., 2023). The mosque should be welcoming, equipped with the right amenities and infrastructure, and act as a hub for community gatherings.

The perfect mosque, in Quran, is hygienic, sacred, and healthy since it offers its congregants a place of somber and comfortable prayer. In addition, the perfect mosque fosters good activities that help people grow, creating a more welcoming environment for prayer. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

And remember the time when We made the House a resort for mankind and a place of security; and take ye the station of Abraham as a place of Prayer. And We commanded Abraham and Ishmael, saying, 'Purify My House for those who perform the circuit and those who remain therein for devotion and those who bow down and fall prostrate in Prayer. (2:126).

The cash donated to the mosque through infaq, sadaqah, and zakat are frequently just placed into its savings account without any intention of being used. Despite the fact that the mosque receives the monies for its purpose, the donor recognizes the fund's value. Traditional-minded mosque instructors oppose making any changes to the mosque. Because money deposited into the mosque's account cannot be used to its full potential, this leads to the mosque's economy collapsing, leaving Muslims in the area of the mosque defenseless (Alauddin et al., 2024; Muthoifin, M., & Rhezaldi, A. Y. 2024; Srifyan, Aquil & Zaim, 2023).

The mosque's enormous assets, including cash from infaq, sadaqah, and zakat mosque attendees, make it perfect for Muslims in the surrounding area to be economically empowered. One of the main goals of mosque administrators is to maximize the mosque's role and function as a platform for the welfare and empowerment of Muslims through human resource development through the economic empowerment of mosque attendees. Muslims are able to strike a balance between the interests of the globe and those of other countries, and the growing Muslim economy in the mosque's surrounding area will contribute to its prosperity (Muslimah, Al-amudi & Sembara, 2023)..

The objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive bibliometric mapping and analysis of the research landscape on community empowerment through mosque activities.

The study aims to identify key themes, influential authors, and major journals in this field, as well as to explore the development of collaborative research clusters and emerging areas of interest. The study employs a bibliometric analysis approach using data sourced from Scopus academic data base. The time frame for the analysis covers from the last twenty years. VOSviewer is a bibliometric tool used to visualize trends and networks within the data.

Bibliometric analysis, a method used to quantitatively study the characteristics and impact of academic publications, has been employed in various fields to map research trends and identify influential works and collaboration networks. Prior bibliometric studies in related domains have been proven valuable in uncovering research patterns and guiding future investigations (Chen, Ibekwe-SanJuan, & Hou, 2010). This approach not only discuss on current trends but also highlights potential areas for future research and methodological innovation. This paper aims to comprehensively map and graphically analyse community empowerment through mosque activities from a bibliometric standpoint. It focuses on key topics, existing research dynamics, and future research potentials.

This bibliometric study also aimed to identify the publication patterns and intellectual framework of this field. The research questions (RQs) that are addressed are as follows:

- RQ1: What is the research trend based on the year of publication on community empowerment through mosque activities?
- RQ2: What countries those were actively involved in publications related to community empowerment through mosque activities?
- RQ3: Which university in Malaysia is the most publish about community empowerment through mosque activities?
- RQ4 : Which are the most influential articles on Community Empowerment through Mosque Activities?
- RQ5 : What are the dominant themes in the literature on community empowerment through mosque activities, and how are they interconnected?
- RQ 6 : How do different thematic areas relate to each other within the context of community empowerment through mosque activities?

The remainder of this paper is organised as follows. The first section emphasizes on a literature review on community empowerment through mosque activities, followed by the methodologies employed in the investigation. The analysis and findings are presented next, followed by the discussion and conclusion of this study.

2. Methodology

2.1. Bibliometric Assessment

Bibliometric analysis is a pioneering and meticulous technique for investigating and analyzing scientific evidence. It assists researchers to explore the subtleties of a discipline's evolutionary history while illuminating the newly discovered area of the study (Donthu et al., 2021). Linnenluecke et al. (2020) argued that a bibliometric assessment is

a scientific method for analyzing published reading materials, such as books, journals, and other publications, using appropriate statistical tools. Citation Analysis, as a specialized analytical tool, is a component of the bibliometric method based on citation graphs that effectively refer to a network or graphical representation of citations in a document. It is widely used in the field of library and information sciences. This phase allows for impact assessments on various topics, including the chosen field of study, the researchers themselves, published materials, and efforts to identify the most significant papers related to a specific area of study (Ellegaard & Wallin, 2015). This research employed bibliometric and content analyses to describe and envision the intellectual structure and growth of community empowerment through mosque activities studies throughout the last 40 years.

2.2. Procedure Analysis

Data search was conducted on 25th June 2024 and involved the Scopus database. The search was based on articles whose titles contained words such as "mosque" OR "islamic center" OR "islamic centre" AND "functions" OR "function" OR "activities" OR "activity" OR "programs" OR "programme" OR "program" OR "programmes" AND "community" OR "communities". The retrieved data was limited to subject area of all fields. The data search process is shown in Figure 1.

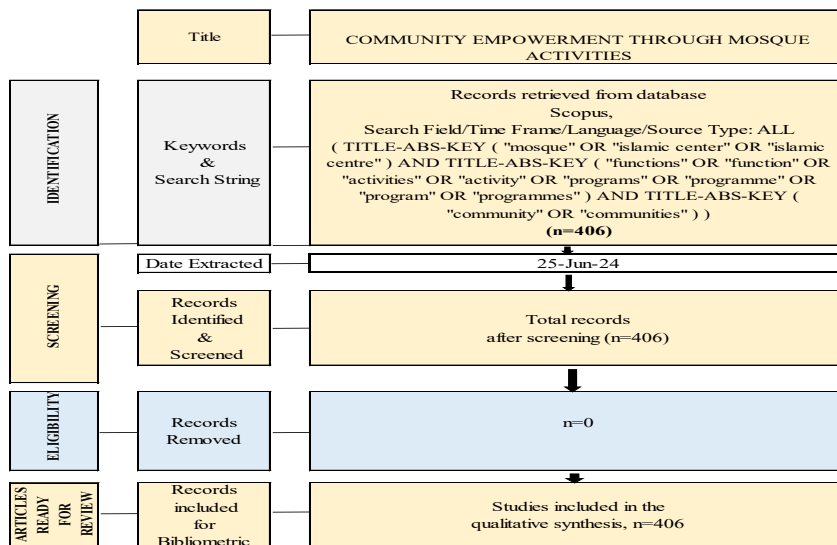


Figure 1 Diagram of the Search Process

Source: Modified from PRISMA (Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. *PLoS Med* 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097).

2.3. Data Analysis

This study collected 406 documents from the Scopus database and the entries yielded authors' names, papers' titles, abstracts, keywords, year of publication, and cited references in plain text format, among other publishing metadata. These data were collected using network analysis, descriptive analysis, content analysis, and bibliometric analysis. Descriptive analysis was used to calculate data frequencies based on the total number of articles published, including the yearly trend, the most active journals, the most prolific countries, and the most prolific author in the research area. As for the citation analysis, data on citation metrics and most popular academic papers on the research topic were collected using Harzing's Publish or Perish software. In addition, the VOSViewer software was used to undertake network and bibliometric analyses. The software calculated the weighted degree of centrality, degree of centrality, Eigenvector analysis, PageRank, and betweenness centrality for this study. This software was also used to analyze citations, co-citations, literature classification, co-authorship, keyword co-occurrence, and phrase co-occurrence. A cluster and gap analysis were also performed as part of the content analysis. Figure 2 illustrates the research structure of this study.

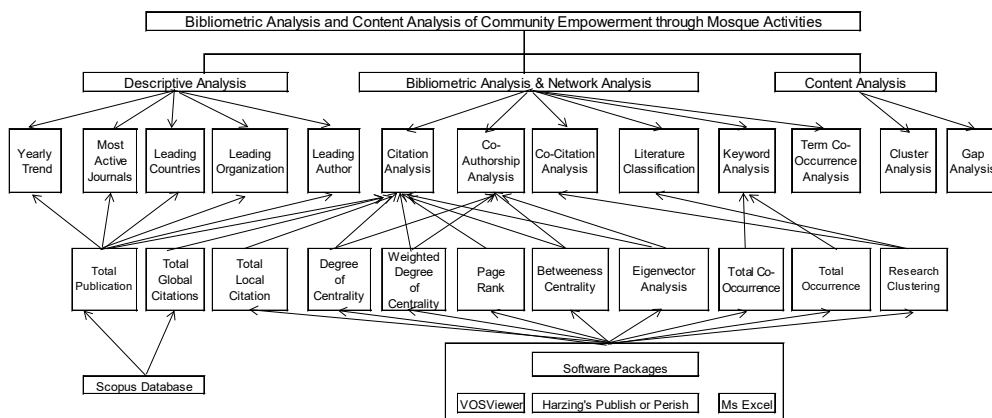


Figure 2: Structure of Research

3. Results

3.1. Publication by year

To address RQ1, the research trend based on the year of publication was monitored. Figure 3 shows the research publication trend by year regarding the topic.

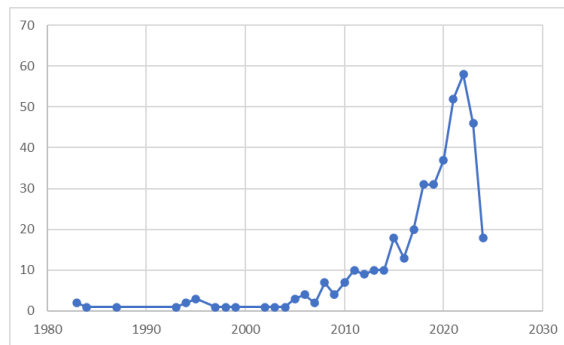


Figure 3 Total Yearly Publications

The graph (Figure 3) displays the quantity of scholarly works on mosque-based community empowerment from 1983 to 2024. During the initial years, which ran from 1983 to 2004, there were usually just one or three publications annually. With three publications, there is a small uptick in 2005. This rising tendency continues gradually until 2008, when there is a rise to seven publications. Following a period of minor fluctuation from 2009 to 2014, there is a large spike beginning in 2015 with 18 publications, and there is further significant growth in the following years. With 52 and 58 publications in 2021 and 2022, respectively, this spike peaks. The number of publications declines to 46 in 2023 and then to 18 in 2024 after achieving this peak.

3.2. Publishing Activity by Country

To answer second research question, this study also looked at countries that were actively involved in publications related to the research topic. More than sixty countries support the research on the application of statistical techniques in auditing. The frequency data on nations engaged in the publication were computed using MS Excel, then the findings are transferred into a world map and shown in Figure 4. 7 countries contribute 10 publications and above to the research topic. United States has the most publications (42) followed by Russia (23) and the United Kingdom (21). It appears that many other countries have a smaller number of publications (between 1 and 16).

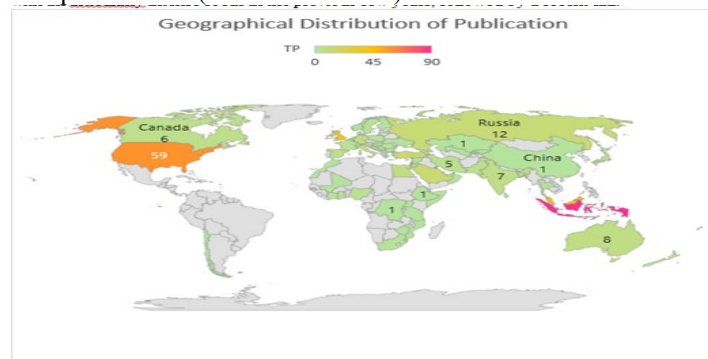


Figure 4: Geographical Distribution of Publication

The map (Figure 4) illustrates the geographical distribution of publications on mosques and community, highlighting significant research concentration in the United States (59 publications), moderate interest in Canada (6 publications), and substantial academic focus in countries like the United Kingdom (7), France (5), and Russia (12). In Asia, China shows minimal interest with 1 publication, while Indonesia stands out with 8 publications due to its large Muslim population. The Middle East and North Africa, despite their centrality to Islam, have surprisingly low publication numbers, possibly due to language barriers. Australia (4) and South Africa (1) also reflect growing scholarly interest in this area. These patterns indicate that countries with significant or diverse Muslim populations and strong academic infrastructures tend to produce more research on the role of mosques in community life.

3.3. Publish Activity by Malaysian University

This study is also aim to answer the RQ3; to identify the most well-known scholars and organizations in the world (RQ3) and most productive university in Malaysia (RQ4) who have publish about community empowerment through mosque activities. The name of ten most productive author by citations related to the research topic was determined and the

Table I: Five Most Productive Malaysian University which Publish on Community Empowerment through Mosque Activities

Institution	Total Publication	Percentage (%)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	8	1.97
International Islamic University Malaysia	7	1.72
Universiti Teknologi MARA	6	1.48
Universiti Putra Malaysia	6	1.48
Universiti Utara Malaysia	5	1.23

Table I highlights the significant contributions of Malaysian universities to research on community empowerment through mosque activities. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) leads with 8 publications (1.97% of the total), followed by the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) with 7 publications (1.72%).

Other key contributors include Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), each with 5 to 6 publications. This strong representation underscores Malaysia's robust academic engagement in this field, emphasizing the role of mosques in promoting community development, social cohesion, and empowerment within the Malaysian context and contributing significantly to global research output on this topic.

3.4 Citation Network Analysis

This study expected to identify the most significant publication based on RQ4 (Which are the most influential articles on Community Empowerment through Mosque Activities). Thus, in order to answer the RQ4, citation networks of 406 publications were examined and results are shown in Table II and Table III. To perform the centrality analysis of citations, the Harzing Publish or Perish tools was used. Table II shows the citation metrics data for the

publications. As for the 406 articles on Community Empowerment through Mosque Activities, there were 2172 citations. The typical number of citations per year is 53 with each document receiving an average of 6.

Table II Citations Metrics

Citation Metrics	Data
Papers	391
Citations	2172
Years	41
Annual Citations	52.98
Citation per Paper	5.55
Citation per Author	224.56
h-Index	22
g-Index	35

This study found papers that had received the most references by using information from the Scopus database. The list of highly referenced publications on the research topic is shown in Table III which provides an overview of notable publications on community empowerment through mosque activities, highlighting trends in authorship, citations, affiliations, and countries. The publication years range from 1998 to 2020, indicating sustained interest over more than two decades. The most cited paper, authored by Leonard K. I. in 2003, comes from the University of California, Irvine, USA, with 163 citations, demonstrating significant academic influence and impact in the field. Other highly cited works include Tamarozzi et al. (2018) from Italy with 105 citations and Baker M. (2019) from Norway with 96 citations, reflecting a diverse international scholarly engagement.

Table III Top Ten Highly Cited Publications

Author Name	Year	Title of Article Paper	Total Citations	Affiliation	Country
Leonard, K. I.	2003	Muslims in the United States...	163	University of California, Irvine	USA
Tamarozzi et al.	2018	Prevalence of abdominal cystic....	105	Ospedale Sacro Cuore Don Calabria, Verona	Italy
Baker, M.	2019	Narratives of terrorism:....	96	Universitetet i OsloUniversitetet i Oslo	Norway
Padela et al.	2014	Associations between religion...	63	Program on Medicine and Religion, Chicago	USA
Ewing, K. P	2008	Being and belonging: Muslims	59	Columbia University, New York	USA
Kagimu, M. et al.	1998	Evaluation of the effectiveness...	53	Makerere University College of Health Sciences, f	Uganda
García-Sánchez, I.	2010	The politics of Arabic...The politics of Arabic...	44	Temple University, Philadelphia	USA
Selamu, M	2015	Beyond the biomedical: community...	39	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi	Ghana
Mohammed, S	2020	Menstrual knowledge, sociocultural...	37	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi	Ghana
Mangunreja, F. M.	2011	Developing environmental awareness...	35	Universitas Nasional, Jakarta	Indonesia

visualization map highlights four themes relevant to community empowerment through mosque activities:

Red Cluster: This cluster includes terms like "data," "participant," "intervention," and "group," suggesting a focus on research methods and data collection related to community activities. In the context of mosque activities, this could relate to studies measuring the impact of mosque-led interventions on community empowerment.

Green Cluster: With terms like "city," "site," "village," and "chapter," this cluster may represent the geographical and locational aspects of mosque activities. It could reflect how mosque activities vary across different urban and rural settings and how they contribute to community empowerment in diverse locations.

Blue Cluster: Featuring terms like "islam," "religion," and "belief," this cluster clearly focuses on religious themes. It indicates the central role of religious practices and beliefs in mosque activities, highlighting how faith-based initiatives empower communities spiritually and socially.

Purple Cluster: Including terms like "woman," "school," and "youth," this cluster points to gender and education themes. It suggests the involvement of mosques in educational programs and activities aimed at women and youth, emphasizing their role in empowering these specific groups within the community.

Meanwhile to answer RQ6: How do different thematic areas relate to each other within the context of community empowerment through mosque activities?, the interconnected nodes and clusters in the map reveal how various thematic areas are related:

Interconnections Between Clusters: The edges between nodes from different clusters indicate interdisciplinary linkages. For instance, the link between the "data" and "education" nodes suggests that empirical studies on mosque activities often include educational programs, showing how data collection is used to assess the effectiveness of these programs.

Overlap Between Themes: The connections between terms like "religion" (from the blue cluster) and "woman" (from the purple cluster) demonstrate the overlap between religious themes and gender-focused initiatives. This suggests that mosque activities often integrate religious teachings with efforts to empower women and youth, providing a holistic approach to community development.

The visualization map can help identify and analyze the dominant themes and their interconnections in the context of community empowerment through mosque activities. The map reveals how mosque-led initiatives address various aspects such as data collection, geographical diversity, religious beliefs, and gender-specific education programs, contributing to the overall empowerment of the community.

4. Discussion

The study aimed to provide a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of research on community empowerment through mosque activities. The findings highlight the evolution and growing interest in this field over the last few decades. Initially, from 1983 to 2004, the number of publications was minimal, with a slow increase observed until 2008. The period from 2015 onwards marked a significant rise in scholarly attention, peaking in 2021 and 2022 with 52 and 58 publications, respectively. This surge in research interest underscores the increasing recognition of the pivotal role that mosques play in community development and empowerment.

Geographically, the United States emerged as the leading contributor with 42 publications, followed by Russia and the United Kingdom. This distribution suggests that while the concept of mosque-based community empowerment is globally acknowledged, it is particularly prominent in regions with significant or diverse Muslim populations and robust academic infrastructures. The unexpected low publication numbers from Middle Eastern and North African countries could be attributed to language barriers and differing academic dissemination practices.

In Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) were identified as the most prolific institutions. This highlights Malaysia's strong academic commitment to exploring the role of mosques in promoting community welfare. The citation network analysis further identified key influential publications, with notable contributions from institutions in the USA, Italy, Norway, Uganda, and Ghana. This diversity reflects a broad international engagement and underscores the multifaceted nature of research in this area, encompassing aspects of health, religion, and socio-cultural studies.

The thematic analysis using VOSViewer revealed interconnected dominant themes in the literature. These themes, visualized in the network map, highlight the complexity and breadth of research on mosque activities and their impact on community empowerment. The thematic clusters indicate areas such as social cohesion, economic development, educational programs, and health initiatives as focal points of academic inquiry. These interconnected themes suggest a holistic approach to understanding how mosque activities contribute to overall community development.

5. Conclusion

The bibliometric analysis underscores the growing scholarly interest in mosque-based community empowerment, with significant contributions from diverse geographical regions and academic institutions. The thematic analysis reveals a multifaceted research landscape, emphasizing the interconnectedness of various aspects of community empowerment. This study provides valuable insights into the evolution of research trends and highlights the significant role of mosques in fostering community development, offering a comprehensive foundation for future research in this field.

REFERENCES

- Al-Quran.
- Alauddin, M. B., Achour, M., Al-amudi, A., Sembara, P. A., Rosyadi, R. I., Abd, A., Elsakhawy, R. M., & Rhezaldi, A. Y. (2024). The Concept of Ta' awun and Sharia Mutual Cooperation in Prosperity and the Establishment of Darus Salam Mosque. *Demak Universal Journal of Islam and Sharia*, 1(3), 241–254.
<https://doi.org/10.61455/deujis.v1i03.75>
- Baker, M. (2019). Narratives of terrorism and security: “accurate” translations, suspicious frames. In *Researching Translation in the Age of Technology and Global Conflict* (pp. 151-173). Routledge.
- Chen, C., Ibekwe-SanJuan, F., & Hou, J. (2010). The structure and dynamics of cocitation clusters: A multiple-perspective cocitation analysis. *Journal of the American Society for information Science and Technology*, 61(7), 1386-1409.
- Donthu, N., Kumar, S., Mukherjee, D., Pandey, N., Lim, W.M. (2021), How to conduct a bibliometric analysis: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of Business Research*, 133, 285-296.
- Ellegaard, O., Wallin, J.A. (2015), The bibliometric analysis of scholarly production: How great is the impact? *Scientometrics*, 105(3), 1809-1831.
- Ewing, K. P. (Ed.). (2008). *Being and belonging: Muslims in the United States since 9/11*. Russell Sage Foundation.
- García-Sánchez, I. M. (2010). The politics of Arabic language education: Moroccan immigrant children's language socialization into ethnic and religious identities. *Linguistics and Education*, 21(3), 171-196.
- Kagimu, M., Marum, E., Wabwire-Mangen, F., Nakyanjo, N., Walakira, Y., & Hogle, J. (1998). Evaluation of the effectiveness of AIDS health education interventions in the Muslim community in Uganda. *AIDS education and prevention: official publication of the International Society for AIDS Education*, 10(3), 215-228.
- Leonard, K. I. (2003). *Muslims in the United States: The state of research*. Russell Sage Foundation.
- Linnenluecke, M.K., Marrone, M., Singh, A.K. (2020), Conducting systematic literature reviews and bibliometric analyses. *Australian Journal of Management*, 45(2), 175-194.
- Mangunjaya, F. M. (2011). Developing environmental awareness and conservation through Islamic teaching. *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 22(1), 36-49.
- Mohammed, S., & Larsen-Reindorf, R. E. (2020). Menstrual knowledge, sociocultural restrictions, and barriers to menstrual hygiene management in Ghana: Evidence from a multi-method survey among adolescent schoolgirls and schoolboys. *Plos one*, 15(10), e0241106.
- Muslimah, S., Al-amudi, M. A., & Sembara, P. A. (2023). Existence and Consistency of Theological Practice (Prayer) in the End Times. *Solo International Collaboration and Publication of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 1(2), 143–153.
<https://doi.org/10.61455/sicopus.v1i02.60>
- Muthoifin, M., & Rhezaldi, A. Y. (2024). Community economic empowerment through mosque management to improve people's welfare. *Multidisciplinary Reviews*, 7(8), 2024134-2024134.

- Padela, A. I., Peek, M., Johnson-Agbakwu, C. E., Hosseinian, Z., & Curlin, F. (2014). Associations between religion-related factors and cervical cancer screening among Muslims in greater Chicago. *Journal of lower genital tract disease*, 18(4), 326-332.
- Saumantri, T., Hafizd, J. Z., & Faturrahman, R. F. (2023). Penguatan moderasi beragama berbasis kebangsaan pada siswa remaja di Masjid Al-Ma'had Dukupuntang. *Mafaza: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 3(2), 112-128.
- Selamu, M., Asher, L., Hanlon, C., Medhin, G., Hailemariam, M., Patel, V., ... & Fekadu, A. (2015). Beyond the biomedical: community resources for mental health care in rural Ethiopia. *PloS one*, 10(5), e0126666.
- Setiawan, M. A., & Dahliana, Y. (2022). Regulations For Mosque And Mushala Voices In The Perspective Of Thematic Interpretation On Voice Rule In Worship. *QiST: Journal of Quran and Tafseer Studies*, 1(2), 223–237. <https://doi.org/10.23917/qist.v1i2.1074>
- Setyawan, F. N. (2023). Analysis of the Basics of Fatwa Gold Credit DSN-MUI Perspective of Qaidah Ushul Fiqh. *Demak Universal Journal of Islam and Sharia*, 1(3), 166–178.
- Srifyan, J. H., Aquil, A., & Zaim, M. A. (2023). Women ' s Career Islamic Family Law Perspectives. *Demak Universal Journal of Islam and Sharia*, 1(2), 154–165. <https://doi.org/10.61455/deujis.v1i02.59>
- Tamarozzi, F., Akhan, O., Cretu, C. M., Vutova, K., Akinci, D., Chipeva, R., ... & Casulli, A. (2018). Prevalence of abdominal cystic echinococcosis in rural Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey: a cross-sectional, ultrasound-based, population study from the HERACLES project. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, 18(7), 769-778.