








# The Evolution of Islamic Counseling: A Bibliometric Analysis of Trends in Publications from 1981-2023

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## Abstract

The objective of Islamic counseling is to focus on incorporating religious values into therapy, offering valuable guidance for individuals who are grappling with psychological and social problems. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the trends in Islamic counseling publications from 1981 to 2023. A qualitative bibliometric method was used to collect data from Scopus database on August 25, 2023. Approximately 244 relevant papers were identified as the sample used for the analysis. Data analysis was conducted using software such as Openrefine-3.6.0, VOSviewer 1.6.18, and Biblioshiny R. The results showed that the highest topic trend was recorded in 2020, with 26 citations. Beekun and Badawi held the highest position with a combined score of 281 in terms of publication. Additionally, Rothman, A. and Tahlil, T. were the authors who made significant contributions to the field, each with 4 documents. This study examined 6 clusters, discussing the keywords associated with Islamic counseling. The keywords consisted of the Development of Mental Well-being in Adults through Counseling, Ethics, Morality, and Human Rights in Education and Public Awareness. Furthermore, they included Controlled Human Studies with Gender Type Factors, Treatment of Depression with an Islamic Psychotherapy Approach, Health Services for the Elderly Muslim Community, and Islamism's Influence in Alleviating Poverty through Religious Aspects.

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## INTRODUCTION

Islamic therapy is an integration of Islamic religious concepts with contemporary psychological practices to assist individuals in resolving personal and emotional challenges. This counseling approach emphasizes a deep understanding of religious principles, ethics, and morals, providing a solid foundation for individuals to overcome life obstacles. Contemporary therapy practice is placing a significant emphasis on the incorporation of religious perspectives. Numerous studies consistently indicated the necessity of incorporating religious components into therapy, recognizing the profound role of religion in the lives of clients (Hanin & Akhir, 2014). The Ninth State Islamic Religious Assembly Counseling Center (PKMAINS) uses

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Islamic counseling approach. According to Malaysian Muslim counselors, Islamic counseling covers three different aspects, including traditional counseling, modified (Western) mainstream counseling, and integrated counselling (Zakaria & Akhir, 2016). Integrated counseling, which combines foundational principles with additional dimensions, is considered an important and effective therapy (Inayat, 2010).

In the German context, Islamic counseling is provided within the prison system for teenagers (Lutz et al., 2021). These programs use 2 key factors of the 'Fear Reduction Holistic Approach' (FERHA) to address negative imagination disorders, often referred to as *wahm*. The first crucial element of this approach is the establishment of trust which comprises creating an environment where individuals feel secure and confident in their interactions. The second aspect centers around gaining a comprehensive understanding of the problems faced by teenagers, an important prerequisite for effective intervention (Yucel, 2022). Achieving this is facilitated by the incorporation of Islamic faith into the counseling process. This integration relies on key sources such as the verses found in the Qur'an, the tradition of the Prophet (Hadith), and relevant scientific literature related to Islamic counselling (Zakaria & Akhir, 2017).

Islamic perspective regarding the human soul holds a central place as a foundational principle of human existence (Hasanovic et al., 2021). Ibn Sina conducted an extensive analysis of pertinent issues, addressing problems that contemporary psychiatry now recognizes as anxiety and fear-related disorders (Pajevic et al., 2021). Islamic perspective, apart from offering a distinct viewpoint, has the potential to facilitate a transformative process (Turnbull, 2021). Within the domain of bioethics, the Islamic Perspective on Food Ethics and Sustainable Discourse Related to Genetically Modified Food (GM) constitutes a significant component of food ethics and indicates advancements in Islamic bioethics (Al-Attar, 2017). Isa et al. (2018) conducted a study on water-borne infections, investigating the relevance of Islamic cleanliness principles in this context. The investigation draws insights from Hadiths associated with the Prophet Muhammad, which provide concrete guidelines on maintaining cleanliness and offer scientific knowledge-based insights for mitigating the spread of waterborne diseases.

In 2023, studies related to Islamic counseling produced a total of 12 documents, with several important trends in this field. Several investigations examined the perspective of Islam on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and proposed an international model for its application in Islamic banking (Hanic & Smolo, 2022) with 3 citations. Additionally, there was a focus on collaborative strategies to improve family care for Thai-Muslim elderly (Perngmark et al., 2023) with 1 citation.

This study addresses problems in Islamic counseling, specifically examining RQ1: What is the annual Publication Trend? RQ2: Which co-authors made significant contributions? RQ3: What are the relevant Keywords in Islamic Counseling?

This study aims to comprehensively elucidate the above problems, thereby bridging existing literature gaps. The methodology incorporates conducting a bibliometric analysis of literature related to Islamic counseling, analyzing and categorizing Scopus-indexed articles, and considering trends, author contributions, and keywords. The objective is to identify emerging trends in 'Islamic counseling' for future reviews, providing potential avenues for exploration. The analysis adopted a bibliometric approach, specifically utilizing methodological procedures related to Islamic counseling. Subsequently, the results were elucidated using VOSviewer and Biblioshiny, followed by a deliberation session and deductions drawn from the literature based on the conducted bibliometric analysis.

Inspired by the teachings of the Qur'an, Hadith, Sharia, and the Names of God, the theory of Islamic counseling facilitates personal, social, and spiritual growth. This approach places each client in a comprehensive evolutionary context (Abu-Ras et al., 2008; Inayat, 2010; Isgandarova, 2019; Zakaria & Akhir, 2019).

## Related Research

The analysis of Islamic counseling literature used various forms, including systematic reviews, bibliometric analysis, scientometric assessments, and even traditional literature reviews. However, bibliometric analysis remained a primary focus in the investigation regarding Islamic counseling. This section offered an opportunity to assess previous reviews that had used the analysis to examine the context of Islamic counseling. A bibliometric analysis of cross-cultural counseling was conducted by [Adrian \(2023\)](#). The data of this study were collected from Google Scholar between 2019 and 2023 using Publish or Perish. After the exclusion of approximately 237 documents, the sample consisted of 39 journals. The results showed significant variations, particularly in the literature that had annual fluctuations. Furthermore, the authors of the cross-cultural counseling journals were linked to 27 institutions. The second-place position was held by UIN Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi, with 4 journals, while UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta became the most prolific author with 5 journals. In Indonesia, visualization of trends in cross-cultural counseling literature resulted in the identification of 4 major clusters. These clusters included the relationship of cross-cultural counseling with religion and tolerance, early marriage prevention, culture and society, and the assessment and skills of BK students.

[Ramadhona & Kumara \(2023\)](#) used Publish or Perish (POP) to perform a literature evaluation on other reviews using a data sample comprising 400 documents from a Google search. This analysis identified 10 keywords and 6 clusters based on academic procrastination search terms, which were subsequently imported into VosViewer and saved in CSV format. Several investigations indicated that correlational analysis, care, training, and counseling represented distinct categories within academic procrastination. In Indonesia, there was a greater emphasis on literature related to academic delay intervention compared to the analysis on counseling, influence, and correlation. The results of this study served as a foundation for future reviews in Indonesia concerning academic procrastination counseling.

Considering the comprehensive nature of bibliometric analysis, this study incorporated a wide array of publications. Furthermore, it viewed Islamic counseling as a multidisciplinary field covering a wide range of media and explained that Islamic counseling literature was not extensively disseminated. This study aimed to provide updated assessments because there had been no bibliometric analysis of counseling literature within the past decade, covering the period from 1981 to 2023.

## METHODS

### Research Design

The bibliographic analysis followed the framework developed by ([Garza-Reyes, 2015](#)), utilizing systematic methodologies and well-defined procedures for reproducibility. Bibliometric methodologies aided in visualizing concepts with comparable interpretations. Data analysis was conducted using software such as Openrefine-3.6.0, VOSviewer 1.6.18, and Biblioshiny 127.0.0.1:4147. The Biblioshiny *R* platform was adopted for examining the current themes and publication patterns in the field of Islamic counseling, as shown in Figures 2 and 3. In contrast, Openrefine-3.6.0 was used for data cleansing, specifically refining Scopus-derived data. Figure 6 also showed the analysis of keywords related to Islamic counseling using VOSviewer 1.6.18.

Approaches indicating the boundaries of knowledge were discussed by [Tranfield et al. \(2003\)](#). Bibliometric analysis was commonly used across the scientific field, emphasizing the quantitative analysis of journal articles, books, and various written publications ([Heersmink et al., 2011](#)). This study performed five stages of structured bibliometric analysis, including defining search keywords, executing initial search results, collecting search results, generating initial data statistics, and conducting in-depth data analysis, as shown in Figure 1. These stages

collectively aimed to provide a comprehensive evaluation of various studies in the field of Islamic counseling.

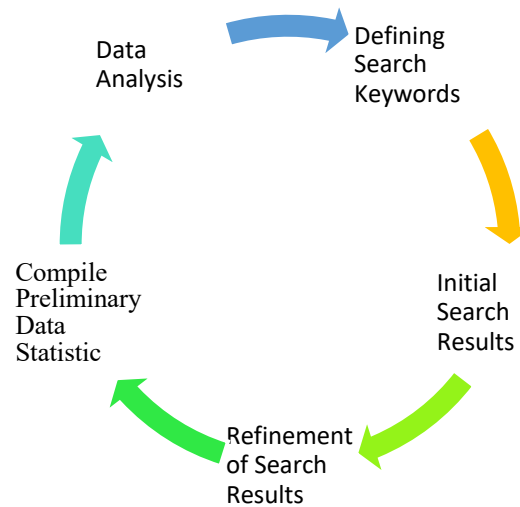


Figure 1. Five Stages of Bibliometric Analysis (Garza-Reyes, 2015)

### Search Keyword Definition

This study was conducted on August 25, 2023, using carefully selected keywords as search strings relevant to Islamic counseling. The specific search terms were used for searching articles based on their titles, keywords, and abstracts. The following was the list of keywords used in this search:

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Islamic therapy" OR "Islamic treatment" OR "Islamic counseling" OR "Islamic intervention" OR "Islamic psychotherapy" OR "Islamic Based Intervention" OR "Islamic counseling" OR "Islamic Approaches" OR "Islamic guidance and counseling" OR "Islamic counselor")

The keywords guided the article searches through the use of electronic databases, which became the primary source of information. Scopus was selected as the electronic database due to its well-established reputation that was one of the leading and most trusted scientific institutions. Currently, this database offered a wide array of peer-reviewed journal articles, ensuring the quality of the articles obtained. Peer review comprised rigorous evaluation by experts in the relevant field before publication, thereby ensuring the scientific standard and accuracy of the information contained in the articles.

### Early Search

The initial search using the designated keywords yielded a total of 254 documents within Scopus database. This study comprehensively explored the state-of-the-art analysis on the topic of Islamic counseling. Articles related to Islamic counseling first appeared in early 1981, as shown in Table 1. However, this analysis was unable to locate any articles from 1982.

Baasher (1981) composed an article titled “The Use of Drugs in the Islamic World” discussing the early developments within the Muslim community and the responses to the challenge of alcoholism within the broader context of social and cultural changes. The article extensively explored the Islamic approach and the gradual implementation to ensure adherence to alcohol prohibition. Additionally, it provided a thorough review of the origins and use of substances such as opium, marijuana, khat, and synthetic psychoactives within the Islamic world. The article comprehensively presented the central role played by Islam in the efforts to prevent and treat individuals from drug abuse.

El-Sendiony & Al-Hussain (1983) contributed an article that discussed the application of Shariah principles in therapy for the elderly. Within this context, therapy consisted of physical, mental, and spiritual treatment strategies designed to corroborate with Islamic values and teachings. The article explored how Islamic principles, including justice, empathy, and care for parents, informed the development of holistic therapeutic approaches for the elderly. Furthermore, it investigated how Shariah-based therapy could improve the quality of life and total well-being of older individuals based on Islamic perspectives. Siddiqi (1984) examined the fundamental Islamic approach to economic and cultural development and its intricate connections often leading to conflicts with Western economic and social values.

### Search Result Completion

After obtaining the initial results, the subsequent stage incorporated a screening process for the entire article based on the inclusion criteria established in this study. Two (2) inclusion criteria were applied to refine the search results: IC1: Original analysis in English: Articles included had to constitute original analysis written in English. IC2: Peer-reviewed journal: Articles to be included had to have been published in peer-reviewed journals as the primary source type. The screening process aimed to ensure that the selected articles met high standards of quality, accuracy, and relevance to this analysis.

In the effort to filter search results, certain types of sources were excluded to obtain the highest-quality scientific contributions. This exclusion included conference proceedings, book chapters, newspapers, letters, editorials, and duplicate articles found in several sources. After the refinement stage was completed, the resulting data were stored in CSV file format. The CSV file served as the foundation for subsequent data analysis in this study. This approach ensured that only high-quality and relevant sources were included in further analysis. Table 2 provided an overview of the total number of articles successfully selected after passing through the refinement process.

Table 2 presented the progression of the search process and there were initially 254 keywords included in the analysis. However, the study focused its attention only on English-language documents in a limited stage, facilitating the data collection process. This refinement led to a successful filtering of relevant articles, resulting in a total of 244.

### Statistical Compilation of Preliminary Data

Following the previous stages, the post-completion data was collected and stored in the CSV file format. The subsequent stage incorporated processing the file using reference management software, specifically Mendeley. In this stage, essential metadata from the collected articles, including the author names, titles, keywords, abstracts, and related journal information (journal name, year of publication, volume, edition, and pages), was added. The datasets were reviewed to ensure accuracy, with any missing or incomplete information rectified and supplemented as needed.

Table 1. The term Islamic Counseling first appeared in a Journal/Prosiding Article

Author	Title	Source	Year of Publication
Baasher, T.	“The Use of Drugs in the Islamic World “	British Journal of Addiction, 76(3), pp. 233–243	1981
El-Sendiony, M.F., Al-Hussain, Z.	“Sharia in Islamic therapies for the aged”	Current psychiatric therapies, 22, pp. 249–251	1983
Siddiqi, A. H.	The Muslim world: its dilemma of development.	Journal of South Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, 7(3), pp. 63–68	1984



Table 2. Completion of Search Results

Keyword	Document
TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Islamic therapy" OR "Islamic treatment" OR "Islamic counseling" OR "Islamic intervention" OR "Islamic psychotherapy" OR "Islamic Based Intervention" OR "Islamic counseling" OR "Islamic Approaches" OR "Islamic guidance and counseling" OR "Islamic counselor")	254
TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Islamic therapy" OR "Islamic treatment" OR "Islamic counseling" OR "Islamic intervention" OR "Islamic psychotherapy" OR "Islamic Based Intervention" OR "Islamic counseling" OR "Islamic Approaches" OR "Islamic guidance and counseling" OR "Islamic counselor") AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English"))	244

After the completion of the metadata processing stage, the search result data proceeded to the analysis stage. The analysis stage comprised the categorization of data based on various parameters. These parameters included the number of publications per year, the source of the publication (journal), author contributions, and the subject areas covered in the collected articles. Therefore, this stage provided deeper examinations of publication trends, author profiles, and the thematic focus of the collected articles.

### Publication Trends of the Year (RQ1)

Figure 2 visually represented the development of Islamic counseling literature based on the volume of articles published each year. For the first time since 1981 with only 1 publication, Islamic counseling literature experienced significant growth in 2011, with a total of 10 publications. This growth trend continued, with a substantial increase in publications, even though there was a decline in 2022, with a total of 17 publications).

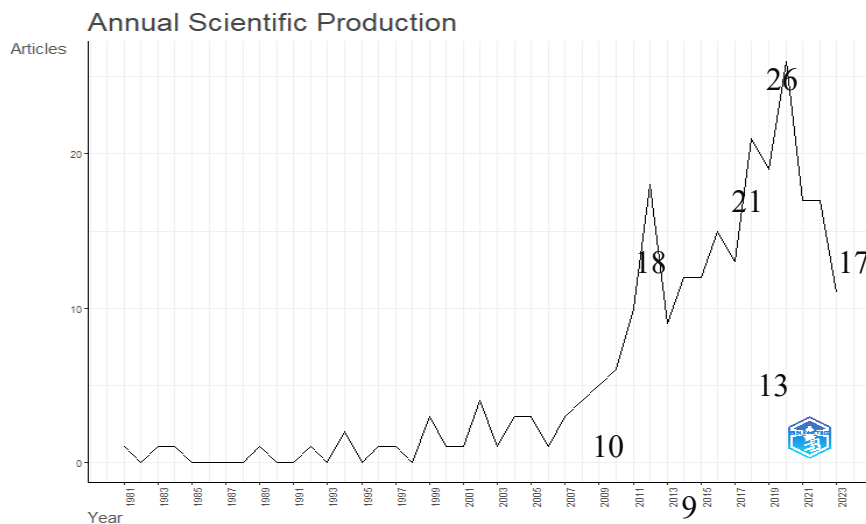


Figure 2. Trends in Islamic Counseling Publications Worldwide

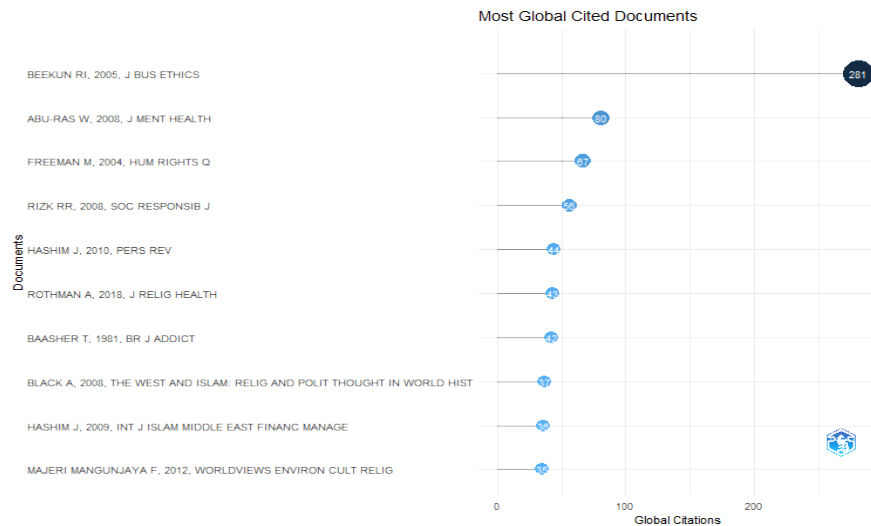


Figure 3. Trends in Publications with the Highest Quotation

Figure 3 showed Beekun & Badawi (2005) holding the top position with 281 citations in a publication in the Journal of Business Ethics, titled "Balancing Ethical Responsibility among Multiple Organizational Stakeholders: The Islamic Perspective." This underscored the increasing scientific interest in exploring the relationship between spirituality and management philosophy. The literature available on Islamic topics and management ethics remained relatively limited. The presence of cultural diversity within a large Muslim population contributed to this phenomenon. However, Muslims and their communities was united through normative Islam. This led to the establishment of a corporate ethical model deeply rooted in Islamic teachings, with a strong emphasis on principles such as justice, balance, faith, compassion, and the consideration of the interests of multiple stakeholders.

### The Most Contributing Co-Authorship (RQ2)

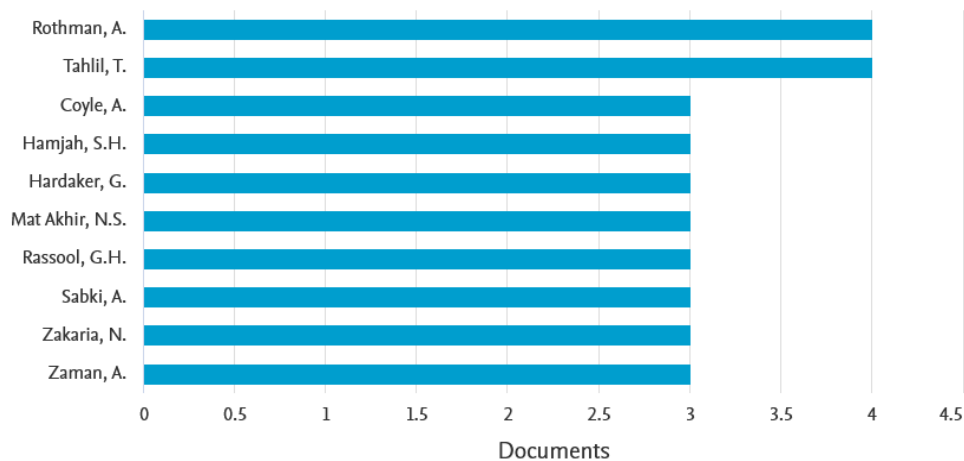


Figure 4. Ten Top Contributing Writers in the Studies of Islamic Councils

Figure 4 showed the 10 most prolific authors in the field of Islamic counseling literature. Among these authors, Rothman, A. and Tahlil, T. made significant contributions. Rothmann, A., composed 4 articles, including "Toward a Framework for Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy: An Islamic Model of the Soul," which garnered a total of 43 citations. This

work discussed the soul model arising from the Islamic paradigm, developed through grounded theory analysis based on interviews with 18 key informants possessing relevant academic or religious knowledge. This model elucidated the mechanisms of mental development, potentially serving as the foundation for an Islamic psychological theory and finding applications in Islamic approaches to psychotherapy (Rothman & Coyle, 2018).

The second article composed by Rothman titled "Conceptualizing an Islamic Psychotherapy: A Grounded Theory Study," received a total of 8 citations. The study aimed to explain the Islamic mental model by constructing a comprehensive framework for Islamic therapy that integrated empirical facts and experiential knowledge. The work used basic theoretical method to test interviews conducted with a sample of 18 psychotherapists identifying as Muslims. These participants, hailing from 6 different countries, consisted of 12 males and 6 females. The beliefs of the psychotherapists were expressed in the integration of Islamic principles into their clinical work (Rothman & Coyle, 2018).

The third article titled "Developing a Model of Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy: Islamic Theology and Contemporary Understandings of Psychology," received a total of 3 citations. The article introduced a new, evidence-based approach that applied Islamic perspectives to human psychology, contributing to the development of a clinical framework for Islamic psychotherapy. Similarly, the fourth article, themed "The Clinical Scope of Islamic Psychotherapy: A Grounded Theory Study," received 1 citation. It examined topics related to the clinical domain of Islamic psychotherapy, using basic theoretical method to analyze interviews conducted with 18 psychotherapists who incorporated Islamic psychological concepts into their professional practice. The study focused on several psychological stages relevant to Islamic psychotherapy, exploring potential transitions between these stages (Rothman & Coyle, 2023).

Tahlil et al. (2013) composed 4 articles, and the first titled "The Impact of Education Programs on Smoking Prevention: A Randomized Controlled Trial Among 11 to 14 Year Olds in Aceh, Indonesia" received a total of 28 citations. The study measured the reduction of both health-based and Islamic-based school-based smoking among adolescents in Indonesia, showing positive benefits to their health and knowledge of Islam. Integrating the religious background of the participants into a medical program yielded additional benefits beyond health outcomes alone. The second article titled "Six-Month Follow-up of a Cluster Randomized Trial of School-Based Smoking Prevention Education Programs in Aceh, Indonesia," garnered 16 citations. It focused on a health-based intervention program that showed significant long-term effects when compared to the control group. These effects included improved health ( $F(4,300,4)$ ,  $p = 0.0001$ ), enhanced Islamic knowledge ( $F(1,100,4)$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ), and reduced smoking attitudes ( $F(11,511,8)$ ,  $p = 0.0001$ ). Intervention programs grounded in Islamic principles showed significant improvements in health ( $F(3,700,4)$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ) and Islamic learning ( $F(22,200,5)$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ). Furthermore, the program effectively reduced smoking attitudes (attitudes =  $-6,011,9$ ,  $p = 0.0001$ ) and reported smoking behavior in the last month (OR = 0.1, 95% CI = 0.0-0.8,  $p = 0.03$ ). Combined groups had greater health effects when compared to additives but fewer than full additives ( $F(3,200,9)$ ,  $p = 0.05$ ).

The third article, titled "A Randomized Controlled Trial on the Islamic-Based Program Using Family Approaches in Preventing Adolescents' Smoking Behavior in Indonesia: A Study Protocol" has not been fully discussed in in this analysis, This study only investigated the effectiveness of Islam-based programs using a family approach to reduce smoking behavior among adolescents (Fithria et al., 2020). Lastly, the fourth article titled "An Intervention Program to Improve Nurses' Competencies in Disaster Response: A Mixed-Methods Study Protocol" received a total of 6 citations. The study was expected to lay the foundation for creating suitable instruments and enhanced interventions in nursing practice and education. It focused on evidence-based approaches and Islam-based disaster curricula (Husna et al., 2020).



## Data Analysis

The bibliometric data, stored in CSV format, was visualized using Vosviewer software. According to Nur et al. (2020), the software was a valuable tool for analyzing and creating graphical bibliometric maps. Vosviewer was widely used because of its ability to handle extensive datasets, facilitating the production of large and comprehensible bibliometrical maps. van Eck & Waltman (2010) reported the effectiveness of the software in managing and presenting extensive maps, including co-citation maps for substantial scientific journals. Moreover, Vosviewer, a freely available software, has been used in contemporary reviews related to data mining, as exemplified in Figure 5 for data searching and interpretation.

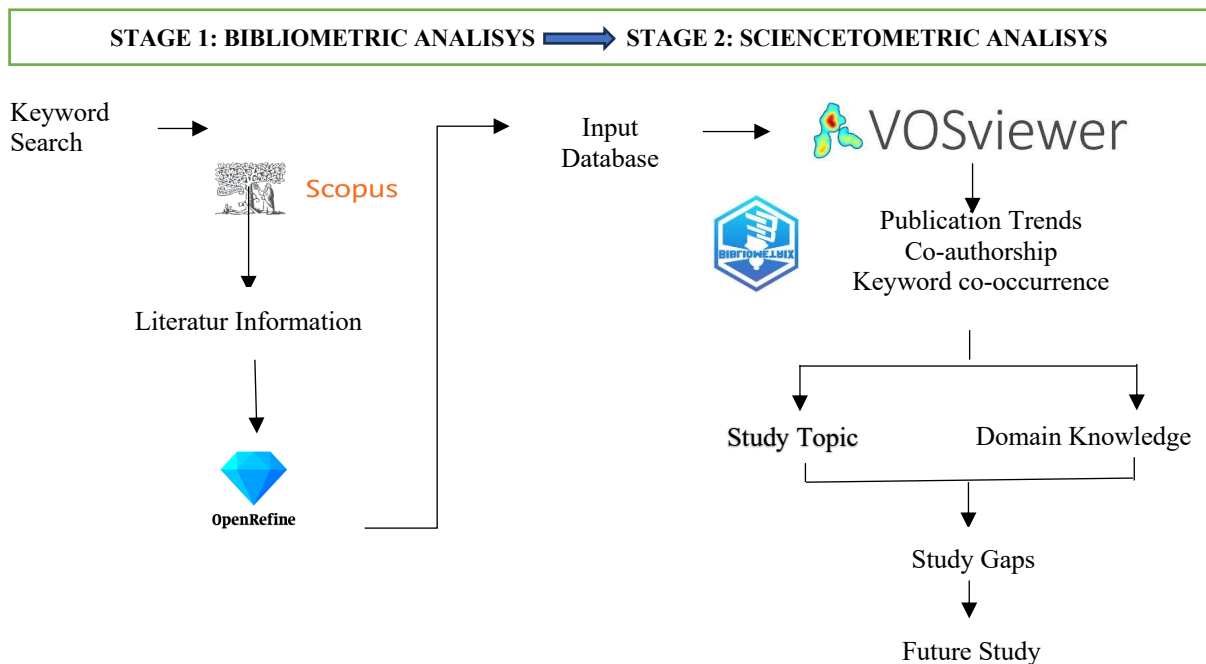


Figure 5. Outline of Study Design

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

This section used bibliometric analysis to visually present results based on overarching thematic terms. The resource was particularly valuable as it discussed a subject that had been subjected to extensive investigation for 42 years (1981-2023). Vosviewer facilitated cluster analysis, enabling the examination of relationships between various topics, particularly in the field of Islamic counseling literature (Nur et al., 2020). (1) The data grid was visually shown in Figure 6, while (2) Figure 7 provided an additional layer of visualization.

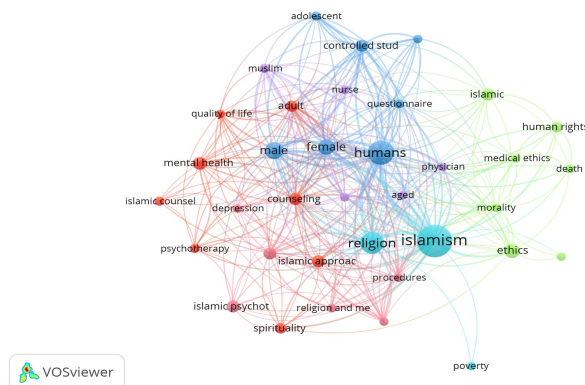


Figure 6. Scopus Database Keyword Network Visualization Using Vosviewer

The visual representation of keywords related to the theme of Islamic counseling was represented as the blue circle labeled "Islamism" in Vosviewer, as shown in Figure 6. Furthermore, the size of each circle was proportional to the frequency of appearance of the respective item or keyword, signifying its relative importance. The frequency of an item determined its size. According to (van Eck & Waltman, 2010), when items were color-coded, each circle within the cluster was assigned a different color.

Keywords "Islamic therapy" OR "Islamic treatment" OR "Islamic counseling" OR "Islamic intervention" OR "Islamic psychotherapy" OR "Islamic Based Intervention" OR "Islamic counseling" OR "Islamic Approaches" OR "Islamic guidance and counseling" OR "Islamic counselor." The combination of the keywords formed the most prominent and captivating network. These specific search terms were distributed across 6 different clusters.

## Discussion

Cluster 1: "Development of Mental Welfare in Adults through Counseling," indicated by the keywords "adult," "counseling," and "mental health" in red. In Malaysia, various Islamic counseling practices have been used, including iCBT (Islamic Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), al-Ghazali counseling theory, Cognitive ad-Deen, KBJ (Sun Thinking Jernih), Prophetic Counseling, and Asma Allah al-Husna Counseling (Zakaria & Akhir, 2017). Madadin et al. (2020) also emphasized that Islamic perspectives on Psychic-Assisted Suicide (PAS) and euthanasia prohibited these practices. In cases where a patient faced a terminal disease with imminent death, it was considered permissible to withhold or stop medical interventions that were ineffective due to mental deterioration. These concepts echoed the historical exploration of conceptualizing and treating mental illnesses in the Muslim community during the golden age of Islam, investigated within the fields of psychology and psychiatry (Mitha, 2020; Zakaria & Akhir, 2017).

Cluster 2: "Ethics, Morality, and Human Rights in Education and Public Awareness," marked with green for keywords such as ethics, morality, and human rights. (Freeman, 2004) examined secularism in human rights theory, particularly by comparing Western and Islamic viewpoints on religion, secularity, and human rights. This analysis showed 2 key results, including, first, from a philosophical perspective, there was a lack of definitive arguments favoring secularism or religious priorities. Second, in practical terms, the political aspects of this discourse may have held more significance than the investigation of religious philosophy. This showed global communities provided a framework in which cultures and systems could coexist harmoniously, including Western and Islamic economic systems, while maintaining their distinct attributes (Ahmad, 2004). Additionally, the interpretation of the rights of women in the Qur'an was discussed to be an interpretative approach. The primary aim of the Qur'an was to elevate the social status of women and establish their dignity, as widely believed and observed in most Muslim communities (Shah, 2017). Counseling in the Islamic approach indicated that the strategy used at the Counseling Center of the State Islamic Council of Religion (PKMAINS) included 3 main dimensions rooted in Islamic principles: Aqidah (belief), worship (devotion and love of Allah), and akhlaq (moral behavior) (Hanin & Akhir, 2014).

Cluster 3: "Controlled Human Study with Gender Type Factor," represented by the keywords "humans," "controlled study," "male," and "female," was shown in old blue. The immigrants in Canada encountered policy disparities, particularly among elderly Muslims, stemming from their social status as religious minorities, immigrants, and the elderly (Salma & Salami, 2020). Meanwhile, the effectiveness of positive psychological interventions, including Islamic approaches, in enhancing the quality of life in women diagnosed with multiple sclerosis was observed (Saeedi et al., 2015). Despite lacking professional training in Western psychotherapy interventions, most of the 22 clergy members continued their

engagement in improving mental well-being after the national disaster in New York. This showed the significant role of the Muslim community in promoting mental well-being, particularly in the context of severe illness (Abu-Ras et al., 2008).

Cluster 4: "Depression Treatment with Islamic Psychotherapy Approaches", represented by the keywords "depression" and "Islamic psychotherapy" marked in yellow. South African scientists had the potential to enhance the knowledge of health practitioners concerning confidence regulation, thereby promoting improved care practices and greater adherence to biomedical interventions (Moodley et al., 2018). The muraqaba method had a wide range of applications, including mindfulness-based stress reduction, mindfulness-based cognitive therapy, transcendental meditation, mind-body method (meditation and relaxation), as well as body-mind procedures. Although the effectiveness of muraqaba might have varied based on individual mental health conditions, its potential benefits in addressing symptoms of anxiety, despair, and pain need to be examined (Isgandarova, 2019). The advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution led significant transformations to various aspects of human life, particularly in addressing challenges such as psychological disorders, traumatic experiences, and phobia conditions. Contemporary psychology had not fully adapted to these developments. Therefore, this study created IP-Light Technologies through a research and development approach (Ifdil et al., 2023).

Cluster 5: "Health services for Elderly Muslim Communities", featuring the keywords "aged," "Muslim," and "physician," was indicated in purple. The experiences of intensive care nurses in treating patients from Islamic backgrounds in Saudi Arabia, discussed the challenges faced and lessons learned by nursing professionals in handling unique situations, offering insights and implications for bridging the gap between religion and mental health (El-Sendiony & Al-Hussain, 1983). Additionally, potential guidelines for addressing the fear of death were explored, recognizing that contemporary psychiatry, psychopathology, and psychotherapy were insufficient in tackling this issue (Pajevic et al., 2021). The exploration of Islamic concepts and ideas related to family collaboration has contributed to increased home care for elderly Muslims. Leveraging the fundamental principles of the Islamic moral belief system provided a culturally sensitive foundation for incorporating healthcare and family engagement into the holistic care of elderly Muslim (Perngmark et al., 2023).

Cluster 6: "Islamism's Influence in Combating Poverty through Religious Aspects", represented by the keywords "Islamism," "religion," and "poverty," was marked in blue. The Islamic perspective on poverty eradication was based on the understanding that poverty was a complex and multifaceted issue rooted in history and driven by various underlying causes. Furthermore, the Islamic social security system provided relatively secure and peaceful living conditions for the impoverished, along with adequate protection during emergencies (Akhtar & Arif, 2000). The Qur'an, the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, the virtuous conduct of the caliphs, and the work of early Muslim legalists collectively provided a deep understanding of the crucial considerations for individuals facing economic adversity, poverty, and resource scarcity. In contemporary times, the Islamic State has demonstrated a strong commitment to providing substantial relief and rehabilitation programs for those afflicted by poverty and deprivation. Zakat, in particular, played an important role as a means of relief and rehabilitation, with a clear and well-structured allocation of funds ensuring targeted assistance to both impoverished and non-impoverished individuals (Peerzade, 1997).

## Implications

The bibliometric analysis of Islamic counseling publications in the Scopus database highlights the dynamic and developing nature of the discipline. The thorough examination of several papers, which discuss a wide range of difficulties within the scope of "Islamic therapy," "Islamic treatment," and associated concepts, demonstrates a detailed investigation of Islamic

counseling throughout the years. The notable surge in scientific data from 1981 to 2023, reaching its highest point in 2020, indicates more scholarly involvement and highlights a crucial period of interest and advancement in the field. The subsequent decrease by 2023 necessitates contemplation of developing patterns and potential changes in research emphasis. The utilization of sophisticated software applications for trend analysis, author identification, and keyword determination demonstrates a methodically rigorous methodology, highlighting the significance of technology instruments in modern bibliometric investigations.

### **Limitations and Suggestions for Further Research**

The limitation of this research is that the article is only a search from the Scopus database; there is an opportunity for expansion for further research using databases from other sources such as the Web of Science or other databases. We founded and identified six discrete clusters, which can serve as benchmarks for future research.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the bibliometric analysis examined publications within the Scopus database, focusing on the field of Islamic counseling. This study provided a comprehensive review of articles related to challenges in "Islamic therapy," "Islamic treatment," "Islamic intervention," "Islamic psychotherapy," "Islamic-based intervention," "Islamic approaches," "Islamic guidance and counseling," and "Islamic counselor". The results showed a substantial increase in scientific information from 1981 to 2023, resulting in 254 publications. There was a significant upward trajectory in the interest surrounding the topic, particularly evident from 2011 onwards. The number of articles published on the subject experienced a substantial rise, starting at 10 in 2011 and reaching a peak of 26 in 2020. However, there was a subsequent decline to 11 articles by 2023. This study used three software applications, including Openrefine-3.6.0, VOSviewer 1.6.18, and Biblioshiny 127.0.0.1:4147. The software was exclusively adopted for analyzing topic trends, identifying productive authors, and determining significant keywords. The analysis recognized ten authorities, with Rothman, A., and Tahlil, T., being the most prolific contributors, each authorizing four documents. Furthermore, six distinct clusters were discovered, providing reference points for future reviews. The clusters included (1) addressing mental well-being through counseling, (2) exploring ethics, morality, and human rights in the context of education and public awareness, (3) considering gender characteristics in controlled experiments with human participants, (4) significance of utilizing Islamic psychotherapy for treating depression, (5) importance of healthcare services for the elder Muslim community, and (6) examined the impact of Islamism on poverty allocation through religious means.

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### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

II conceived the research idea, played a central role in designing the review protocol, and supervised the entire project, providing guidance at every stage. MFZ conducted the primary search and data extraction and analyzed the data, the interpretation of the results, and the discussion section. NZMA analyzed and synthesized the collected data. YMB contributed to the interpretation of the results and the discussion section. AYAB assisted in the manuscript's writing and editing processes and supervised. EN made critical revisions, and approved the final

manuscript, MFH contributed to the interpretation of the results and approved the final manuscript

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