

Women Empowerment and The Islamic Perspective: A Review

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SMART Indonesia

This study aimed to analyze the bibliometric characteristics and trends of papers on women empowerment indexed by Scopus from 1994 to 2021. The data were 323 research publications. Data were retrieved from the Scopus database. Bibliometric analysis was conducted using VOSviewer software. This study visualized patterns of the co-occurrence keyword by occurrence, authors with the highest publications, and institutions with the highest publication related to women empowerment. The results show that the number of studies in the field of women empowerment issue is increased in recent years. Certain keywords, such as women empowerment, Islam, Islamism, and women status, have become the most popular in research period. While the country which most published papers related to women empowerment is Indonesia. Furthermore, Department of Midwifery is the institution which have published most of women empowerment issue. The results showed that research on topic of Women Empowerment continued to increase every year with sub themes that also continued to grow. Further research related to women empowerment in other keywords that have appeared in this bibliometric result are needed to produce more publications in various keywords and discussion.

Keywords: Women empowerment; Islam; Bibliometric Analysis; Scopus; VOSviewer

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INTRODUCTION

Women Empowerment has emerged as an important issue in recent times, due to the fact that there are still many challenges for women to have a better position both individually and socially. In almost all the societies, women have less power than men, have less control over resources and receive lesser wages for their work. (Sharma & Varma, 2008) Another case of women issue is sexual violence. In international conflicts, sexual violence is recognized as an international security problem where the women and children accounted as the amount of victims (Figueroa-domecq & Laguna, 2017). According to this background, it is not surprisingly that there are many people, institution, organization even the government try to discuss and study about the way to tackle this issue.

Although women empowerment is not sufficient condition, it is still necessary condition for development process (Chaudhry, 2021). Empowerment in the context of women development is a way of defining, challenging and overcoming barriers in a woman's life through which she increases her ability to shape her life and environment (Sharma & Varma, 2008). There are two based arguments of the promotion of women empowerment as a development goal: that social justice is an important aspect of human welfare and is intrinsically worth pursuing; and that women empowerment is a means to other ends (Amatul & Irfan, 2012). Realizing that women empowerment is such a complicated thing to discuss, many scholars conducted research that related to this topic to find out the deeper and broader meaning in order to have a more comprehensive understanding.

Many studies show that when women are provided with the opportunities to grow and learn, they are able to optimize their potential. This is the chance for enriching their knowledge and their capability in getting a job and income. Many researchers recommend that country should support women to participate and involve in all spheres of life (Varghese, 2016). In another study argue that women empowerment implies increasing the control of women in many areas. This goal can be achieved by removing structural constraints and easing women's burdens through increasing women's education and income-earning opportunities (Amatul & Irfan, 2012).

For years many research have been conducted to analyze the importance of women's empowerment. Due to the fast growing number of publications on the women's empowerment, mapping the research area on women empowerment is needed to identify avenues for additional research. Most of the researches on the theme of women empowerment are using qualitative approaches. However, the qualitative reviews have not focused on the population of all women empowerment studies and all themes relating to the women empowerment issues. Then, this issue can be addressed

by quantitative bibliometric approaches, which statistically and objectively explore patterns in the literature with reference to a large number of publications. So far, there are a little publication using bibliometric analysis on women empowerment issue. Therefore, this study is important to fill the empty of research related to women empowerment topics.

Objectives

This study aims to determine the map of research developments related to the application of mathematical models in women empowerment research that are indexed by Scopus. This research is using VOSviewer software to analyze the data. This analysis is called bibliometric analysis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The term of women empowerment emerged conspicuously in mid 1980's. But in fact the concept of protecting of human rights had been advocated as early as the existence of mankind (Amatul & Irfan, 2012). Muslim women empowerment is also an issue that have been talked about around the world, both muslim majority or minority country. But in reality nowadays, muslim women are one of the least empowered segments of society (Sharif Chaudhry Professor et al., 2012).

According to the holy book Quran, there is the first declared that Islam is a religion of balance in all aspect of life. For example, the balance between work and worship, the balance between receiving and giving, the balance of thinking about yourself and others. In the case of women, there is no distinction between men and women that leads to the disadvantage of one another.

“And (as for) the believers, both men and women – they are friends and protectors of one another; they [all] enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong. And are constant in prayer, and render the purifying dues, and pay heed unto God and His Messenger.” (At-Taubah 9:71)

Islam as a religion which has a complete of guidance not only introducing about the balance but also guide us to maintain balance in society and the ecosystem which plays hist to the human society. In contrast, the disruption of this balance is called injustice. In the holy Quran Allah always addresses both men and women which is the proof of their quality and importance, (Sharif Chaudhry Professor et al., 2012) as is mentioned:

“For muslim men and women, for believing men and women, for devout men and women, for true men and women who are patient, for men and women who humble themselves, for men and women who give in charity, for men and women who fast, for men and women who guard their chastity, and for men and women who engage much in Allah praise – for them all has Allah prepared forgiveness and great reward” (Al-Ahzab 33:35)

In Islam, women is known as equal partner in the protection of human kind. So that woman has an equal share with men in every aspect; she is entitled to equal rights; she undertakes equal responsibilities, and as equally humanity as her partner. In order to discuss about women empowerment, there is much confusion about what is the area of action for women? But despite this all, in fact women are facing many challenges in many areas such a lot of border that keep women as known as a weak creature. According to this case, this is really important to have many discussion about women empowerment, because the beneficial is not only for muslim's women but for women in general.

There are several studies which discussed the issue of women empowerment. Each issue has their own focus study and the methodology they used. The former group of studies focused on the health, education, reproductive health and living conditions of women and the awareness of women about their rights, discrimination issues, and social justice (Amatul & Irfan, 2012).

To have a better understanding about women empowerment, the research conducted by Keshab Chandra Mandal try to identify the kinds of women empowerment which can be categorized into five main parts. *First*, social empowerment that refers to strengthens women's social relation and their position in social structures. Social empowerment addresses social discriminations existing in the society based on disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. *Second*, educational empowerment. Higher education is believed as an instrument of personal development that can helps in growing an individual's intellectual horizons, wellbeing and potential for empowerment. *Third*, economic empowerment. Economic empowerment is a powerful tool to against poverty. One thing that is impactful is by giving an opportunity in employment. From this, women can earn money and can contribute to fulfil their households with a strong economic independence. *Fourth*, political empowerment. The participation of women at all levels of governance structures is the highest need of women's actual empowerment. *Last but not least*, psychological empowerment. Through psychological empowerment women not only transgress the traditional and patriarchal taboos and social obligation, they also transform their selves and subjectivities (Mandal, 2013).

Md. Morshedul Haque, dkk initiated discussion on women empowerment or autonomy. The results show that the level of women autonomy decreases with the increase of education whereas education increases the level of women empowerment but nit smoothly. Then, women's current age, place of residence, education, religion, and media exposure are the important factors affecting women empowerment and their autonomy (Haque & Mahfuza, 2011).

An empirical analysis conducted by Imran Sharif shows the similar results. Women empowerment is

considerably influenced by education, access to media, social cultural norms of the community, job of women and household participation rates. According to that results, it is included that improving women empowerment can be accessed by concentrating on the significant factors in remote regions and consequently poverty levels will be reduced across the area (Sharif Chaudhry Professor et al., 2012).

According to several studies above, most of them are the concept of women's empowerment. Further studies related to the implementation of empowerment are also very important to see how far the pattern of empowerment is carried out and how the results are.

Ninik Sri Rahayu conducted a study that explore the origin, the initiators, and the visions of Baitul Maal Wat Tamwil (BMT), Indonesia's first Islamic Microfinance Institutions (IMFIs). The results show that the BMT's preference for women is not based on an understanding of gender inequality, but rather motivated by pragmatic business considerations. (Rahayu, 2020) In more general case, study by Md Saiful Islam on the impact of Islamic Microfinance services (IMFS) shows that IMFS have had a significant positive impact on household income, savings, and expenditure, have improved standard of living and have enhanced all three dimensions of empowerment, namely economic empowerment, socio cultural empowerment, and familial empowerment (Islam, 2021). In another study by Rozalinda and Nurhasanah on the role of microfinance institution have found that provide financing is must be equipped with serious assistance (Nuhasanah, 2020).

METHODOLOGY

This study uses international publication data on women's empowerment research sourced from the scopus database. There are 322 journals related to the topic is analyses using Microsoft Excel to determine the form of publication, years of publication, country case studies, number of article authors, research topics, citation, and methodological approaches. Whereas the development trends of research publication on women's empowerment analyzed by VOSviewer software. VOS Viewer is a free downloadable software tool for creating and visualizing bibliometric networks. It also can be compiled based on citation, bibliographic connection, co-citation, or co-author relations. Beside evaluate the information, it is devided into appropriate clusters (Vagner et al., 2021).

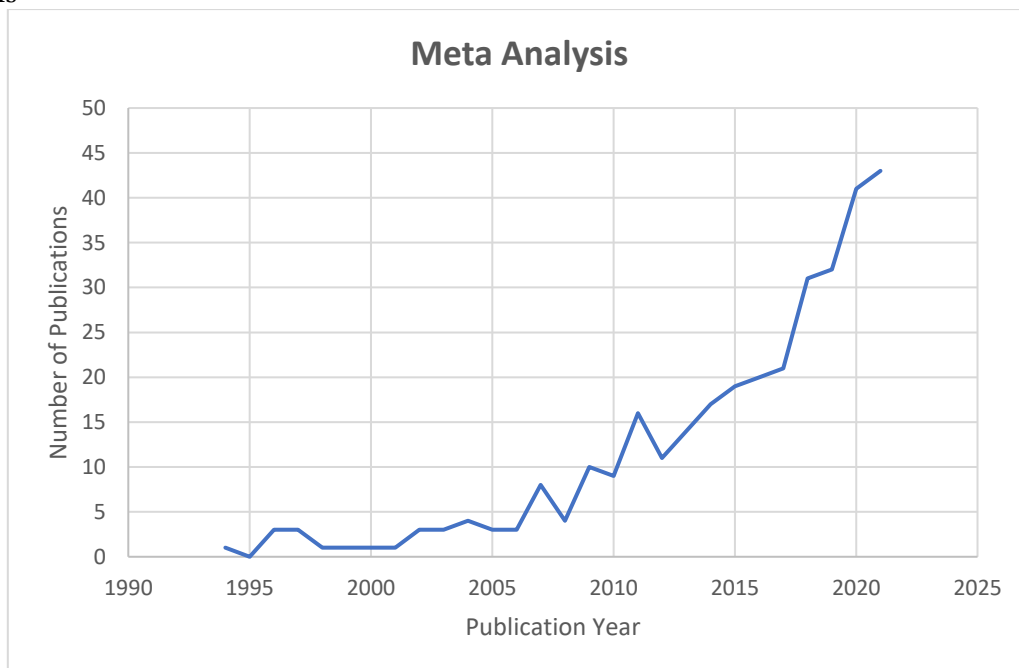
Journal citation analysis was conducted to monitor the research productivity of outlets. Journal co-citation analysis identifies research themes based on frequency journals are cited together in another publication. Author citation analysis was conducted to monitor the research productivity of authors. Author co-citation analysis was conducted to explore common threads in their works. If two or more authors are jointly

cited in another publication, the cited authors form a co-citation relationship. Thus, co-citation analysis enables the identification of the research themes that are attracting attention by citing authors. Further in enables the identification of networks between key scholars in the field. Institution citation analysis was conducted to monitor the research productivity of an institution, based on the number of citations generated by their

women's empowerment publications. Institution cooperation analysis was conducted to explore the links between research institutions. This analysis identifies the hidden faculties focusing upon the sharing economy. Keyword co-occurrence analysis is another approach to identify research clusters. The nation of this approach is to explore the frequencies of specific keywords being mentioned jointly.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Meta-Analysis



This section describes amount of publications of papers with the theme of Women Empowerment. There were 323 papers published from 1994 – 2021. The most published paper related to Women Empowerment were in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, with 31, 32, 41, 43 annually. While, the lowest number of publications were in 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001, where there is no more than one publication in a year that related to Women Empowerment issue.

According to the graph above, in general term, a number of papers published with the Scopus Indexed Women Empowerment theme are increasing. Start in 1994, there was only one paper, in the next year, in 1995, the publications was decline which there is no one publication at that year. Then in 1995 until 2010 the number of publication were volatile with at least one publication in a year and no more than 10 publications. In 2011, the publication is increasing to 16 papers and in 2012 it was reduced to only 11 papers. However, from

2013 to 2021 it was seen that the publications of papers with the theme of women empowerment experienced a constantly increasing. In 2021, it is indicated that the

number of publications reached the highest number of 43 papers.

Bibliometric Analysis

Bibliometric Graph Analysis

Related to bibliometrics, science mapping is a method of visualizing the field of science. This visualization is done by making a landscape map that can display topics from science (Rusydia et al., 2021). The result of network visualization from 322 journal published with the theme Women Empowerment can be seen:

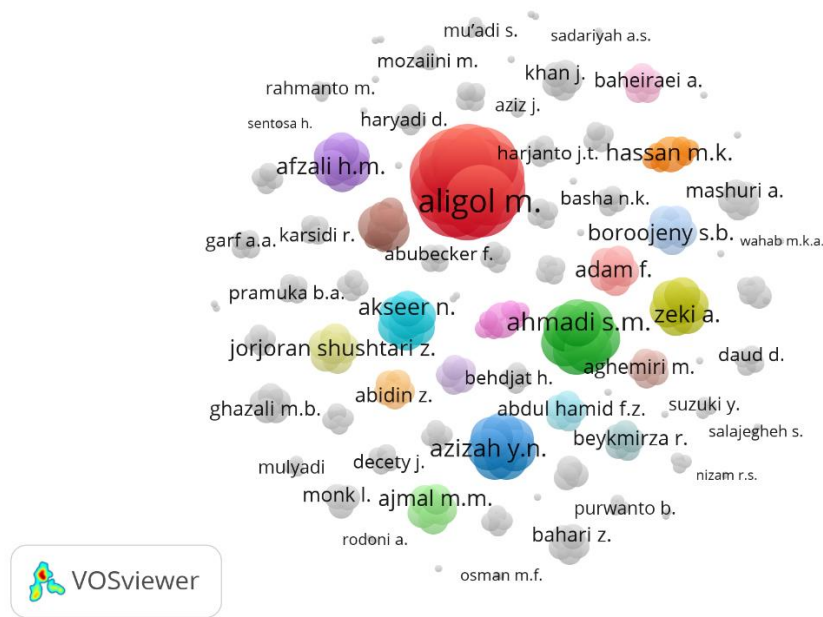
Co-Authorship Analysis

Furthermore, the bibliometric results will be displayed based on the sub-themes, namely authors, organizations, and country.

1. Co-authorship Authors

Using Co-authorship Authors tool in the VOSviewer software have shown the author who have most published his writings related to Women Empowerment. Co-authorship Authors analysis findings are reported in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Co-authorship Authors



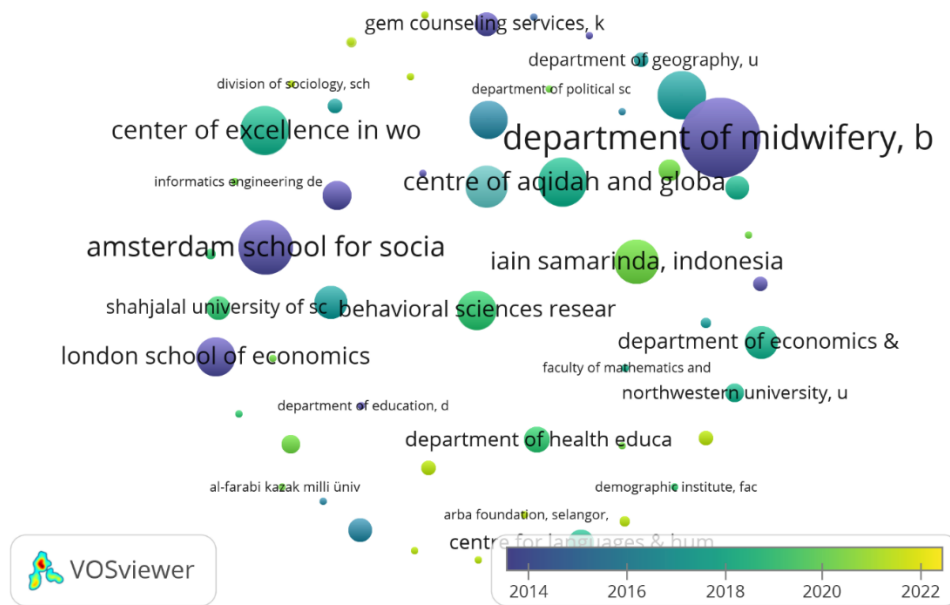
The density and the light brightness in the figure 1 means the appearance of cluster density. Each color on the map identifies the number of items that associated with other items. From the figure, the authors who have published the most is finally obtained. In general, each researcher has different tendencies. Some writer are indexed as a single author, others co-author with other researchers, so that multiple clusters appear which are indicated with different densities. Furthermore, the authors with larger density indicate they have published more research related to women

empowerment than with the lower density. So, this result will be useful for future researchers for their reference. According to the figure 1, the brighter and the bigger name of author, the more papers he has published. The author who has published the most publications related to the theme of Women Empowerment based on bibliometric mapping, namely Aligol M.

2. Co-authorship Institutions (Co-citation)

Through Bibliometric Analysis, the author’s institution can also be identified. The result will show which institution that most conduct research related to the theme of women’s empowerment.

Figure 2: Co-authorship Institution (Co-citation)



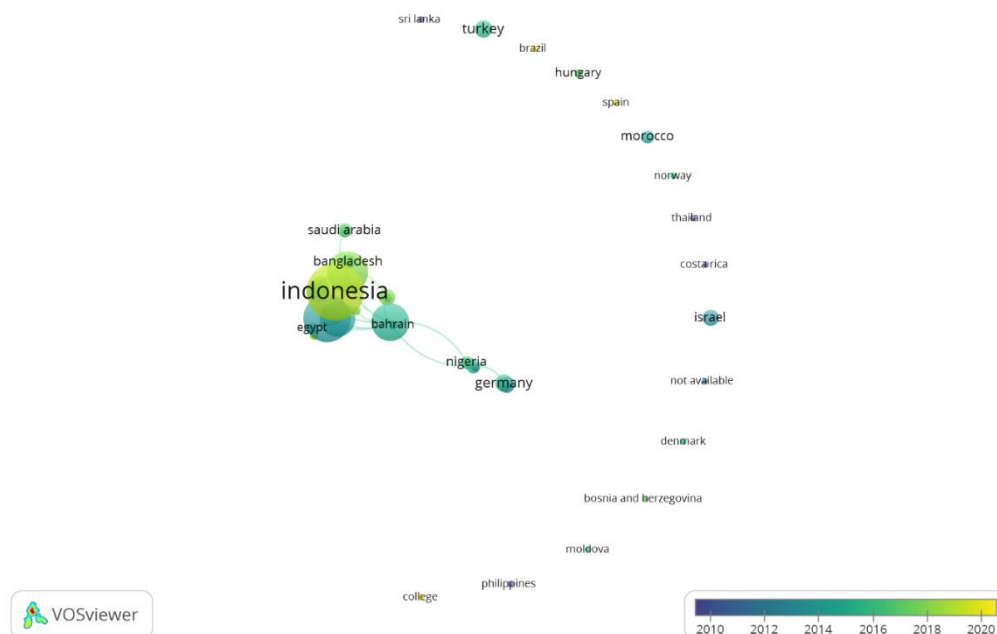
Based on figure 2, the cluster of institutions that are visible with glowing circles shows the institution productive in contributing to publishing papers related to theme women empowerment. The institution that conducts the most research has the circle that is the largest in size and the lightest in colour. The largest number of institutions is calculated from the number of publications and the number of links to other

institutions, where an author can write many papers in different journals. The ranking of the most famous institutions shown by the results of bibliometric mapping is *the Department of Midwifery, Babol, Iran*.

3. Co-authorship Country

Furthermore, the visualization of the mapping of journal publisher in the theme of Women’s Empowerment based on country of origin will be explained in the image below.

Figure 3: Co-authorship Country



Based on the picture above, the larger the circle of the publishing country, the more papers that country publishes. Seen that the country of *Indonesia* has the brightest light. This means that *Indonesia* publishes most papers in the theme women's empowerment compared to other countries.

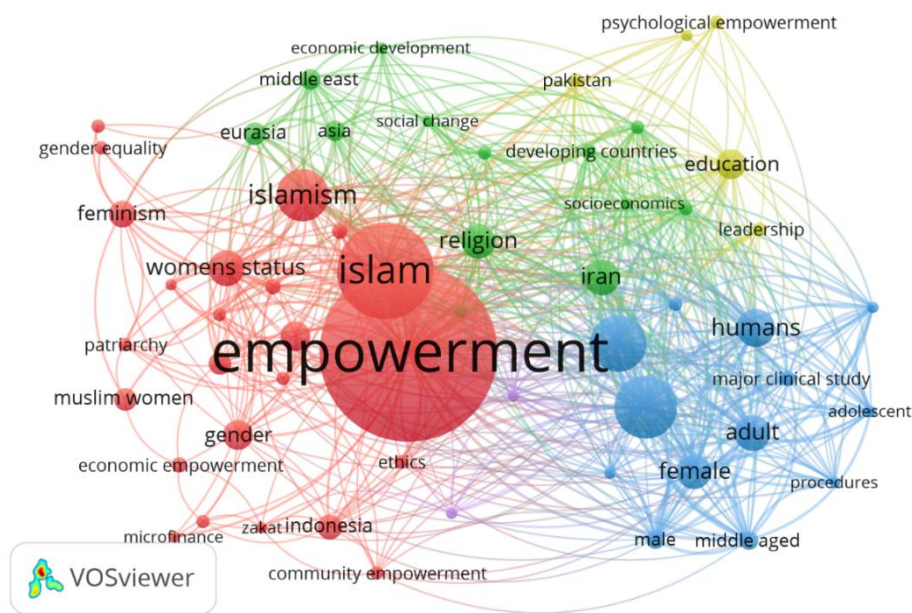
Co-occurrence Analysis

Furthermore, the bibliometric results will be displayed based on the sub-themes, namely all keywords, author keywords, and index keywords.

1. Co-occurrence All Key Word

VOSViewer can also find bibliometric mapping of the most used keywords in women's empowerment. The bibliometric mapping of the keywords used can be seen in the image below. Keywords that have a larger form indicate that the word is used more in journals related to Woman Empowerment.

Figure 4: Co-occurrence All Key Word



Through analysis based on research keywords, we can find out the most frequently used keywords in research with the theme of women empowerment. From those data we can find out the most keywords that are broadly used by the authors in the context of women empowerment issue. The more keywords that appear, the wider the circle indication will be. While the line relationship between keywords shows how much they are related to other keywords.

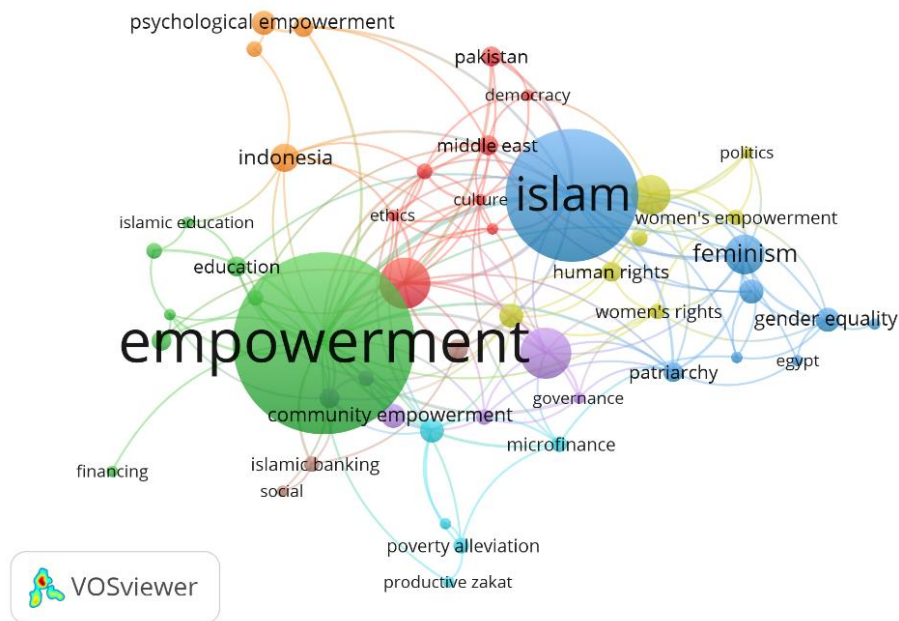
Based on the results of the analysis using VOSviewer on keywords with the theme of Woman Empowerment, there are many clusters and are

interrelated with other keywords. Keywords that have the same color indicate a very close relationship. The most widely used keyword in Woman Empowerment-themed journals is *Empowerment, Islam, Islamism, humans, and women status*.

Co-occurrence Authors Key Word

VOSViewer can also find bibliometric mapping of keywords most used by authors in Islamic Knowledge themes related to Islamic economics. The bibliometric mapping of the keywords used can be seen in the image below. Keywords that have a larger form indicate that the word is used more by authors in journals related to Islamic Knowledge.

Figure 5: Co-occurrence Authors Key Word

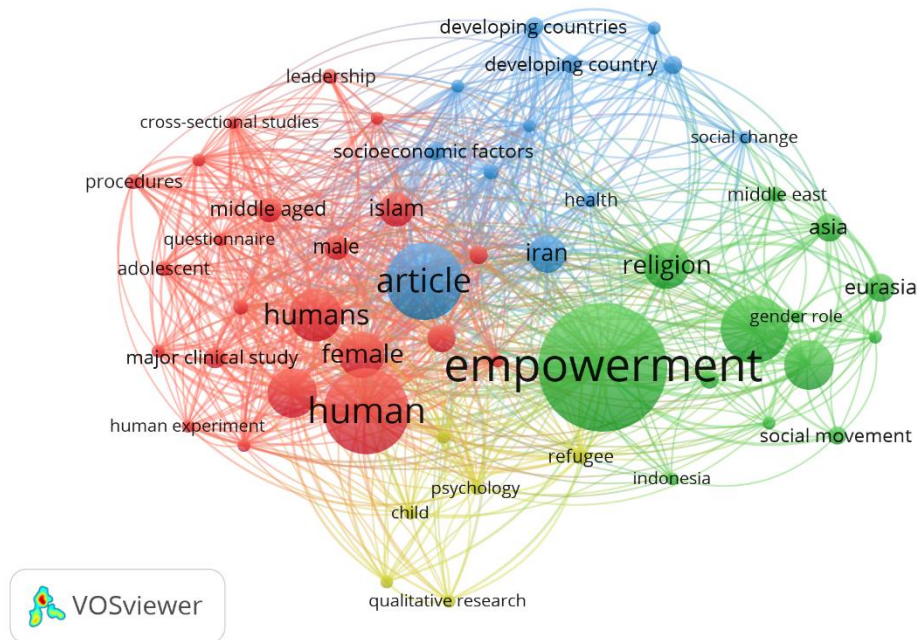


Based on the results of the analysis using VOSviewer on keywords that are broadly used by authors in journals with the theme of Woman Empowerment, there are many clusters and are interrelated with other keywords. Keywords that have the same color indicate a very close relationship. The most broadly used keyword by the author is *Empowerment*.

2. Co-occurrence Index

Then, this study also obtained results in the form of an index that is often used by authors and is interrelated in the theme of Woman Empowerment as shown in the image below. Index that has the same colour indicates a very close relationship.

Figure 6: Co-occurrence Index



Based on the results obtained, keywords that have a larger form indicate that the more often the words in the index are used. In the word index of the paper with

the theme of Woman Empowerment, there are some of the most widely used words, namely *Empowerment*.

FINDINGS

Rank	Keyword by Occurrence	Authors with The Highest Publication	An institution with The Highest Publication
1.	Empowerment	Aligol M.	Department of Midwifery
2.	Islam	Ahmadi s.m.	Amsterdam school for social
3.	Islamism	Azizah y.n.	Center of excellence in wo
4.	Humans	Akseer n.	Centre of aqidah & global
5.	Religion	Afzali h.m.	IAIN Samarinda Indonesia

The data above are the results of the research using a bibliometric analysis by VOSViewer application of article indexed by Scopus that related to women empowerment issues. There amount of research paper which discussing about women empowerment, one of interesting issues now days, and it is still growing until now or even in the future. Many researchers in this field are trying to arrange a new concept of women empowerment, discussing about the possible strategy to strengthening women empowerment implementation, or even evaluating the program which have been implemented.

According to the results of the research above, the various research of women empowerment have been conducted and have been published by various authors in different kind of journals. Many publications that have been conducted are resulting various topics, then it relates to the most widely used keywords in the most popular women empowerment themed articles, including 'Empowerment, Islam, Humans' and others. Those are the appearance of the keywords used by researchers in their study. Most of the research are focusing on the topic of women empowerment in general, then is associated with the topic of Islam, but just a few articles that discussed women empowerment through Islamic finance to encourage women to be independent women.

When dealing with the women empowerment issues, beside enhancing the discussion of women empowerment concept, we are also need more discussing about the strategy of strengthening the women empowerment implementation in the society. Finally providing secure for women have been believed as the importance thing to make women become more empowered in household and community affairs. Empowering women through financial support able to improve education and health outcomes of the whole family (Tariq, 2014). So in this context, women empowerment can be achieved by encouraging women

through financial independence in the first step because it can affect widely including capability to reach a higher education and contributing to household income.

There are several opinions that women in Islam are being underestimate, whereas Islam teach about women's right. In the economic context there is an instrument as a muslim compassion to someone needed such as give donations in the form of *zakat*, *infaq*, *shadaqa*, or even delivered through an economic program for instance by islamic microfinance. Microfinance plays a significant role in improving women empowerment (Tariq, 2014).

According to the result, there are lack of discussion of empowering people through economic empowerment especially through Islamic Financial Instrument. It is indicated by the size of microfinance, economic empowerment, *zakat*, as seem in the figure 4, which are smaller than the other topics. This means there are only a few papers which have discussion related to those topics. Whereas, the goals of empowerment consist of three things: economics, religious, and togetherness or social life (Rifqi, 2017).

In term of empowering women through Islamic financial instruments, there are a few papers which have been discussed the Islamic financial instruments. Whereas, Islam has a various kind of Islamic financial instruments which are enable to help women strengthening their economy. For instance, the Islamic Banking which support the developments of SMEs for women (Purnamasari & Darmawan, 2017) Another potential Islamic financial instrument is waqf (endowment), in a study, The asset of waqf in Daarut Tahuhid is empowered in two sectors, which are in the sector of education and economy (Alhifni et al., 2018). Another is Islamic microfinance services (IMFS) have been benefited rural women and empowered them (Islam, 2021).

In fact, there are still a number of Islamic financial instruments that can be explored. The successful economic program by giving them access to modal or build a new business it is depend on how the program is implemented. They are not only need the money but also the guidance. Realizing that Islamic financial instruments play an important role to empower women in their economy capability but not much researched and studied, it is a significant issue which need a further discussion and need to be researched more deeply.

CONCLUSION

This study tries to examine and map research related to the development of research trends themed women empowerment by leading journals. The data analyzed consisted of 323 Scopus-indexed research publications from 1994 to 2021. The results showed that research on topic of Women Empowerment continued to increase every year with sub themes that also continued to grow.

Furthermore, the visualization of bibliometric mapping found that the author publishes the most publications related to the theme of women empowerment, namely M. Aligol from Department of Health Education and Promotion, School of Health, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Then the most popular institutions are calculated based on the number of publications and the number of links to other institutions, as shown by the results of bibliometric mapping is The Department of Midwifery, Babol, Iran. In term of country, Bibliometric analysis results show that Indonesia publishes the most Women Empowerment themed papers compared to other countries. Furthermore, most widely used keywords in the Women Empowerment also known from bibliometric analysis. The result show that the most popular keywords are Empowerment, Islam, Islamism, women status, humans, religion

Thus, this research becomes a basic reference to obtain how the graphical visualization of the development of research publications trends on women empowerment issue. Based on the result, there is only a few papers which discuss about the role if Islamic financial instrument in developing women empowerment. Whereas, Islamic financial instrument has a huge potential in helping women to enhance their economic capability. This potential is need to be optimized, therefore further discussion and research related to the correlation between women empowerment and Islamic financial instrument is needed. Suggestions for further research is to carry out a new keyword with a new systematic review using more elements of study or software tools to produce more comprehensive results.

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