

Research Article

Mapping Pesantren Economy Research in Islamic Economics: A Bibliometric Review of Trends, Themes, and Future Agenda

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Abstract

This study analyzes publication trends, intellectual structures, and research gaps in the field of pesantren economics using a bibliometric approach. The expanding role of Islamic boarding schools (pesantren) in community empowerment, entrepreneurship, Islamic social finance, and sustainable economic development has attracted increasing scholarly attention, highlighting the need for a systematic mapping of the literature. Data were collected from the Scopus database using the search string “Islamic boarding school economy,” covering publications from 2003 to 2024. After screening English-language documents indexed in Scopus and directly related to the economic roles, empowerment, entrepreneurship, and development functions of pesantren, 38 publications were selected for analysis. Bibliometric analysis was conducted using the Biblioshiny package in RStudio to examine publication productivity, influential authors, source journals, keyword dynamics, and thematic evolution. The results identify IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science as the most productive source and Kosim M. as the most productive author. Dominant research themes include pesantren, community empowerment, entrepreneurship, and Islamic education, while digital transformation, halal value chains, sustainability, and Islamic social finance remain underexplored. This study provides the first comprehensive bibliometric mapping of pesantren economics, offering directions for future research and policy development to strengthen pesantren's role in Indonesia's Islamic economic ecosystem.

Keywords: Islamic boarding school economy, pesantren, community empowerment, entrepreneurship, Islamic education, bibliometric analysis.

JEL Classification: Z12, I25, O35

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1. Introduction

Islamic boarding schools, commonly known as pesantren, are among the oldest Islamic educational institutions in Indonesia and play a significant role in shaping religious, social, and economic life within society. Pesantren are responsible not only for providing Islamic education but also for developing students' moral values, independence, and social responsibility, based on the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah (Tolchah & Mua'mmar, 2019).

In recent years, pesantren have increasingly expanded their functions beyond education into the economic sector through entrepreneurship programs, community empowerment initiatives, cooperatives, and Islamic social finance management (Nurhadi & Putra, 2020). This development indicates that pesantren have become strategic institutions capable of contributing to sustainable economic growth, particularly in rural areas of Indonesia (Budiwiranto, 2009).

The development of the pesantren economy in Indonesia has attracted increasing attention from academics, policymakers, and practitioners. The growing role of pesantren in empowering local communities has encouraged many Islamic boarding schools to establish productive economic activities such as halal businesses, agriculture, Islamic microfinance institutions, and waqf-based enterprises (Hudaefi & Heryani, 2019). Furthermore, pesantren are widely recognized as one of the largest forms of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia because they integrate religious values with socio-economic empowerment to promote societal welfare (Fazlurrahman et al., 2022). The rapid growth of Islamic economic practices within pesantren demonstrates that these institutions possess strong potential to support national economic resilience and the development of the halal industry.

Various strategies have been implemented to sustainably strengthen pesantrens' economic independence. One of the most prominent approaches is optimizing waqf funds and Islamic social finance through systematic fundraising strategies and professional financial management (Ardi et al., 2020). In addition, the establishment of pesantren-based Islamic microfinance institutions, such as Bank Wakaf Mikro, has significantly contributed to community empowerment by providing access to financial services for small-scale entrepreneurs and low-income communities (Anwar et al., 2023). The advancement of digital technology has also encouraged pesantren to utilize e-commerce platforms and online media to promote Islamic economic activities and increase public participation in Islamic social funds (Dellyana & Sudrajad, 2021). These developments indicate that pesantren are adapting to contemporary economic challenges while maintaining their Islamic values and social missions.

Several previous studies have discussed the contribution of pesantren to local economic development and community empowerment. Hudaefi and Heryani (2019) found that pesantren in West Java contribute significantly to local economic development through maqashid sharia-based economic activities. Similarly, Wibowo et al. (2021) explained that pesantren-based community empowerment programs support sustainable agricultural development and improve the welfare of surrounding communities. Other studies also emphasize the role of pesantren in strengthening entrepreneurship, promoting social harmony, and fostering economic participation through Islamic values and religious ethics (Sulaiman & Ahmadi, 2020). These findings suggest that pesantren have multidimensional roles that extend beyond education into economic and social transformation.

Despite the growing number of studies on the pesantren economy, most previous research has focused primarily on descriptive analysis, case studies, or conceptual discussions of community empowerment and Islamic entrepreneurship. Comprehensive studies that systematically map the development of research trends, publication patterns, and research gaps related to the pesantren economy remain limited (Putra, 2024). In fact, bibliometric analysis is essential for identifying dominant research themes, influential authors, collaborative networks, and future research opportunities within a specific field of study (Donthu et al., 2021). The lack of bibliometric studies on the pesantren economy creates a significant research gap, as researchers and policymakers still have a limited understanding of the overall development and direction of this field.

Moreover, several important issues related to the pesantren economy remain underexplored, particularly topics concerning sustainability, halal value chains, Islamic corporate social responsibility, digital transformation, and economic empowerment through technological innovation. According to previous thematic analyses, these topics remain categorized as emerging or underdeveloped in the literature on Islamic boarding school economics (Fadhilah & Syamsuri,

2023). Therefore, further investigation is required to identify potential research opportunities and provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of research regarding the pesantren economy.

Although studies on pesantren economics have increased significantly in recent years, the existing literature remains fragmented and largely concentrated on specific issues such as community empowerment, entrepreneurship, waqf management, and Islamic social finance. Moreover, bibliometric studies that systematically map the intellectual structure, thematic evolution, influential contributors, and emerging research directions in pesantren economics are still scarce. This limitation creates challenges for researchers and policymakers in understanding the field's overall development and identifying strategic areas for future investigation. Therefore, this study offers a novel contribution by providing a comprehensive bibliometric mapping of pesantren economics, thereby advancing Islamic economics scholarship and generating evidence-based insights to support policy formulation and sustainable economic development initiatives within pesantren ecosystems.

2. Literature Review and Hypothesis

Literature Review

Pesantren Economy

Pesantren economy refers to economic activities and empowerment programs developed within Islamic boarding schools to support institutional sustainability and community welfare. In Indonesia, pesantren have evolved beyond traditional religious education institutions and have become centers of social and economic empowerment through entrepreneurship, Islamic finance, cooperatives, and productive waqf management (Hudaefi & Heryani, 2019). The integration of Islamic values with economic activities enables pesantren to contribute significantly to local economic development and poverty alleviation.

The role of pesantren in economic empowerment has become increasingly important due to their close relationship with surrounding communities. Pesantren-based economic programs are commonly implemented through agricultural activities, small business development, Islamic microfinance institutions, and halal industry initiatives (Wibowo et al., 2021). In addition, pesantren are recognized as institutions capable of promoting social entrepreneurship by combining religious education with economic productivity and social welfare orientation (Fazlurrahman et al., 2022). This demonstrates that pesantren possess substantial potential to strengthen Indonesia's Islamic economic ecosystem.

Several studies also emphasize the importance of Islamic social finance in supporting pesantren economic independence. Waqf, zakat, and Islamic philanthropic funds have become strategic instruments for pesantrens to finance educational activities and community empowerment programs sustainably (Ardi et al., 2020). Furthermore, the development of Bank Wakaf Mikro has strengthened financial inclusion among low-income communities around pesantren through Islamic financing schemes (Anwar et al., 2023). These initiatives indicate that pesantren have increasingly adapted to contemporary economic challenges while maintaining Islamic principles.

Digital transformation has also influenced the development of pesantren economic activities. The utilization of e-commerce platforms, online fundraising systems, and digital financial technology has enabled pesantren to expand economic activities and improve operational efficiency (Dellyana & Sudrajad, 2021). In the modern era, pesantren are expected not only to preserve Islamic educational traditions but also to adapt as institutions capable of competing in the digital economy. Therefore, understanding the development of pesantren economic studies becomes increasingly relevant for future Islamic economic development.

Community Empowerment

Community empowerment refers to efforts to improve communities' social and economic capacity through participation, education, and sustainable development programs. In the context of pesantren, community empowerment is closely related to the role of Islamic boarding schools in

supporting local economic development and improving social welfare (Sulaiman & Ahmadi, 2020). Pesantren frequently conducts empowerment programs through entrepreneurship training, cooperative development, and social assistance activities for surrounding communities.

Previous studies indicate that community empowerment programs implemented by pesantrens significantly reduce poverty and strengthen local economies. Wibowo et al. (2021) explained that pesantren-based agricultural empowerment programs positively influence sustainable rural development. Similarly, Hudaefi and Heryani (2019) found that pesantren contribute to economic empowerment through maqashid sharia-based economic practices that prioritize social welfare and justice. These findings suggest that community empowerment has become a core function of pesantren in Indonesian society.

Entrepreneurship in Pesantren

Entrepreneurship has become an essential component of pesantren economic development. Islamic boarding schools increasingly encourage students and surrounding communities to develop entrepreneurial skills through business training, productive activities, and Islamic business education (Fazlurrahman et al., 2022). Entrepreneurship within pesantren is generally based on Islamic values such as honesty, responsibility, fairness, and social welfare orientation.

Research by Wardi et al. (2019) found that pesantren entrepreneurship programs positively contribute to students' economic independence and institutional sustainability. Furthermore, entrepreneurial education implemented in pesantren has been associated with increased entrepreneurial intentions and economic participation among santri and local communities (Fadhilah & Syamsuri, 2023). Consequently, entrepreneurship development in pesantren is considered an important strategy for strengthening the Islamic economy and reducing unemployment.

Hypothesis

The Influence of Community Empowerment on Pesantren Economic Development

Community empowerment is considered one of the primary factors influencing pesantren economic development because empowerment programs strengthen local participation, improve economic productivity, and enhance social welfare. According to Sulaiman and Ahmadi (2020), empowerment communication within Islamic boarding schools contributes significantly to harmonizing social relationships and strengthening community involvement in economic activities. Empowered communities tend to support pesantren programs more actively, thereby creating sustainable economic growth around pesantren institutions. Several previous studies support the relationship between community empowerment and economic development. Hudaefi and Heryani (2019) found that pesantren-based empowerment programs positively influence local economic development through maqashid sharia principles. Wibowo et al. (2021) also demonstrated that community empowerment initiatives implemented by pesantren improve agricultural productivity and community welfare. In addition, Samsu et al. (2021) explained that leadership and empowerment activities within pesantren strengthen social participation and economic resilience among local communities. Similar findings were reported by Sulaiman et al. (2019), who concluded that empowerment models implemented within religious communities contribute positively to sustainable socio-economic development.

H1: Community empowerment positively influences pesantren economic development.

The Influence of Entrepreneurship on Pesantren Economic Development

Entrepreneurship is widely recognized as an important factor in supporting the sustainability and economic independence of pesantren. Entrepreneurial activities enable pesantren to generate income, improve institutional productivity, and encourage economic participation among students and surrounding communities (Fazlurrahman et al., 2022). Entrepreneurship development within pesantren also supports the creation of innovative business models grounded in Islamic values and a social welfare orientation. Previous studies provide empirical evidence regarding the positive relationship between entrepreneurship and pesantren economic development. Wardi et al. (2019) revealed that entrepreneurship and Islamic financing programs significantly support institutional

economic sustainability in pesantren. Fadhillah and Syamsuri (2023) also explained that entrepreneurship optimization through halal value chains contributes to the economic empowerment of pesantrens. Furthermore, Dellyana and Sudrajad (2021) found that adopting e-commerce platforms enhances economic performance and expands market access for pesantren-based businesses. Additional research by Fazlurrahman et al. (2022) concluded that pesantren entrepreneurship strengthens social entrepreneurship practices and increases community economic participation.

H2: Entrepreneurship positively influences pesantren economic development.

3. Data and Method

Research Design

This study employs a qualitative research approach, using bibliometric analysis, to examine the development of research on the pesantren economy. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method used to analyze scientific publications systematically to identify publication trends, research productivity, collaboration networks, and research gaps within a specific field of study (Donthu et al., 2021). This approach is considered appropriate because it allows researchers to comprehensively and objectively map the evolution of the scientific literature. The research focuses on scientific publications discussing Islamic boarding school economics, community empowerment, entrepreneurship, and related Islamic economic topics. Through bibliometric analysis, this study aims to identify dominant research themes, influential authors, productive journals, and potential future research directions regarding the pesantren economy.

Population and Sample

The population of this study comprises all scientific publications on the topic of the pesantren economy indexed in the Scopus database. Scopus was selected because it is recognized as one of the largest international databases containing high-quality academic publications from various disciplines. The use of Scopus data also ensures the reliability and credibility of the publications analyzed in this study. The sample of this study includes scientific publications obtained through metadata extraction using the keyword "Islamic boarding school economy" in the Scopus database. The data collection process was conducted on 15 March 2024, yielding 38 relevant publications comprising journal articles, conference papers, book chapters, and review articles. These publications cover the period from 2003 to 2024 and serve as the primary data source for this research.

Data Collection Technique

The data used in this study are secondary, in the form of bibliographic metadata from the Scopus database. The metadata includes publication titles, author names, keywords, abstracts, publication years, journal sources, and citation data. The data collection process involved entering specific keywords related to the pesantren economy into the Scopus search engine.

After metadata collection, the data were exported to CSV and processed using the Biblioshiny package in RStudio. Biblioshiny is widely used in bibliometric research because it provides comprehensive visualization features and analytical tools for mapping scientific publications (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). The collected data were subsequently analyzed to identify publication trends, keyword dynamics, collaboration networks, and thematic developments related to the pesantren economy.

Data Analysis Method

This study applies bibliometric analysis techniques using the Biblioshiny package in RStudio. Bibliometric analysis is useful for evaluating scientific productivity, identifying collaboration patterns, and visualizing research trends within a particular academic field (Donthu et al., 2021). The analysis process in this study consists of several stages. First, descriptive bibliometric analysis is conducted to identify the number of publications, document types, publication years, authorship patterns, and publication sources. Second, keyword analysis is performed using word clouds, word trees, and trend topic visualizations to identify dominant and emerging research topics related to the pesantren economy. Third, co-occurrence network analysis is used to examine the relationships

among keywords and identify thematic clusters within the literature. The co-occurrence analysis enables researchers to understand the conceptual structure of research topics and determine how different themes are interconnected. Fourth, a thematic map analysis is conducted to classify themes into four categories: motor themes, niche themes, emerging or declining themes, and basic themes. The bibliometric mapping process in this study follows the analytical procedures proposed by Aria and Cuccurullo (2017), which emphasize scientific mapping through bibliometric visualization techniques. Furthermore, the interpretation of bibliometric indicators follows the guidelines suggested by Donthu et al. (2021) for comprehensive bibliometric analysis procedures.

Research Framework

This study analyzes the development of research on the pesantren economy using bibliometric mapping. The analysis includes publication productivity, keyword trends, collaboration networks, and thematic development patterns within scientific publications indexed in Scopus. The findings are expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the evolution of research on the pesantren economy and to identify potential research gaps for future studies.

4. Results

The analysis results from the RStudio application show that 38 documents from 33 sources were published during 2003–2024. The publications consist of 24 journal articles, 9 conference papers, 4 book chapters, and 1 review. Journal articles dominate the research data at 63.15%, followed by book chapters (23.69%), conference papers (10.53%), and reviews, which represent the smallest proportion.

Table 1. The specified keywords determine the Scopus document typology.

No	Document Type	Amount	Percentage (%)
1.	Journal Article	24	63,15%
2.	Book Chapter	4	10,53%
3.	Conference Paper	9	23,69 %
4.	Review	1	2,63 %
Total		38	100%

This section presents the results of the bibliometric analysis based on 38 selected documents. The analysis consists of two main visualizations: a three-field plot showing relationships among sources, keywords, and authors, and a keyword visualization that includes word clouds, word maps, trending topics, thematic maps, and occurrence analysis. These visualizations help identify potential research topics.

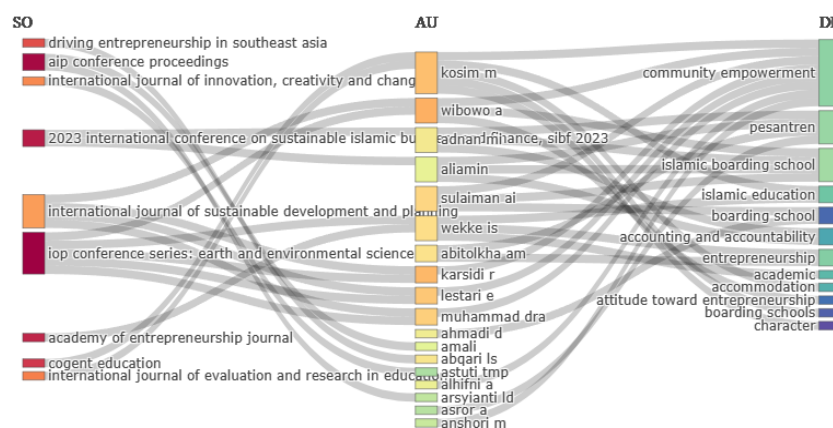


Figure 1. Three Fields Plot

The three-field plot visualization presents the relationship among sources, authors, and keywords related to the topic of the "Islamic boarding school economy." The results show that IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science is the most productive source, and Kosim M. is the most contributive author. In addition, the keyword "community empowerment" emerges as the most dominant topic, followed by pesantren, Islamic education, accounting and accountability, and entrepreneurship. These findings indicate that community empowerment and Islamic economic development are the primary focuses in recent studies on the Islamic boarding school economy.

Word Tree Map

Figure 2 shows 50 keywords with different sizes and colors based on their frequency of occurrence in the analyzed documents. The most frequently used keywords are "Islamic boarding school," followed by pesantren, community empowerment, entrepreneurship, Indonesia, Islamic education, and religious education. These findings indicate that Islamic boarding schools, community empowerment, and entrepreneurship are the dominant themes in research related to the Islamic boarding school economy.

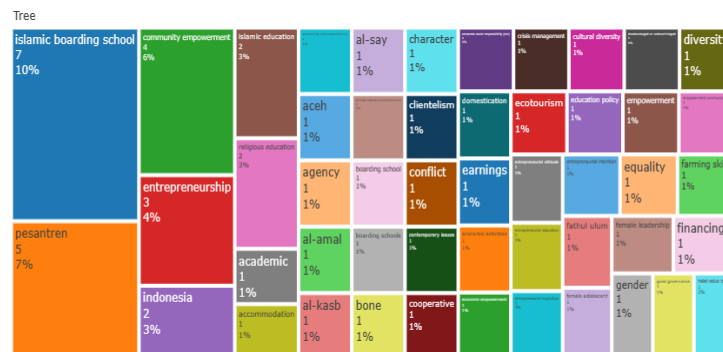


Figure 1. Word Tree Map

Keywords with high frequency indicate topics that are widely discussed by researchers in the analyzed documents. Meanwhile, keywords that appear only once reflect themes that are still rarely explored in the existing literature. Therefore, these low-frequency keywords offer potential opportunities for future research in the field of Islamic boarding school economics.

Word Cloud

The word cloud visualization in Figure 3 provides a clearer illustration of the distribution and frequency of keywords related to the "Islamic boarding school economy." The keyword "Islamic boarding school" appears as the most dominant topic, followed by "pesantren." These keywords are associated with studies on community empowerment, accountability, waqf, entrepreneurship, local economic development, and the use of digital platforms in Islamic boarding schools. The findings indicate that economic empowerment and Islamic entrepreneurship are the primary foci in recent research on the pesantren economy.



Figure 2. Word Cloud

The keyword "community empowerment" is the third-most dominant topic in the analyzed documents. Several studies discuss the role of pesantren in empowering surrounding communities through social, economic, and educational activities. Previous research highlights topics such as the role of Nyai in community empowerment, pesantren-based economic empowerment to reduce negative social stigma, and the development of sustainable economic collaboration among pesantren. These findings indicate that community empowerment has become a key focus in studies of the Islamic boarding school economy.

Trend Topics

Figure 4 presents 30 keywords related to the topic of the "Islamic boarding school economy" during the 2011–2023 period. The results show that "pesantren" and "community empowerment" were the most consistently discussed topics from 2018 to 2022, indicating strong research interest over several years. In addition, "Indonesia" emerged as a stable trending topic from 2013 to 2017, reflecting the country's significant contributions to studies on the Islamic boarding school economy. The topic of "Islamic boarding school" also showed an increasing trend from 2020 to 2023.

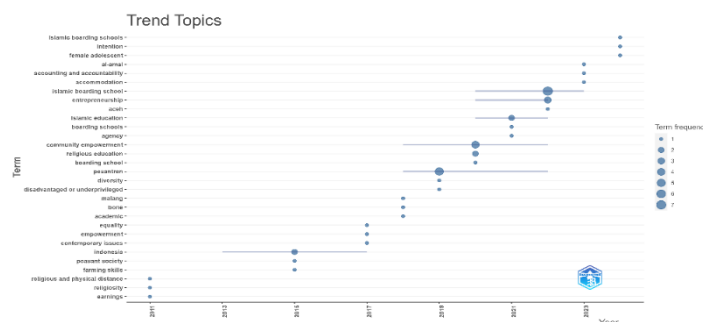


Figure 4. Trend Topics

Several keywords appeared only in specific years and showed little development over time, suggesting that these topics are rarely discussed and tend to stagnate in the literature. Topics such as religiosity, farming skills, equality, contemporary issues, accounting and accountability, and female adolescents emerged only briefly. This condition suggests that these themes still offer opportunities for further academic exploration and future research on the Islamic boarding school economy.

Word Dynamic

The dynamic model mapping illustrates the development of keywords related to the Islamic boarding school economy from 2011 to 2024. Figure 5 presents ten dominant keywords with fluctuating trends, including academic, accommodation, accounting and accountability, community empowerment, entrepreneurship, Indonesia, Islamic boarding school, Islamic education, pesantren, and religious education. The visualization indicates that these topics have experienced varying levels of research interest over time.

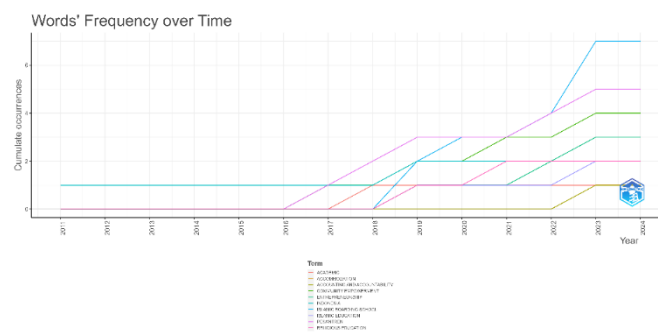


Figure 5. Trend Topics

Figure 5 shows that “Indonesia” was the first keyword to appear in 2011 and continued to emerge consistently until 2024, although with relatively low frequency. Meanwhile, “Islamic boarding school” became the most dominant keyword, showing a significant increase in frequency in 2024. Other trending topics include pesantren, community empowerment, and entrepreneurship, indicating growing research interest in these areas. In contrast, keywords such as religious education, Islamic education, accommodation, and accounting and accountability showed lower frequencies, suggesting that these topics remain underexplored and provide opportunities for future research.

Co-Occurrence Network

Figure 6 presents the co-occurrence network mapping results, which identify several interconnected thematic clusters related to the "Islamic boarding school economy." The dominant clusters include pesantren (Islamic boarding school), Islamic education, community empowerment, and entrepreneurship, indicating that these topics are closely connected in the existing literature. Other clusters discuss themes such as corporate social responsibility, halal value chains, gender, cultural diversity, cooperatives, and conflict. These findings show that research on the Islamic boarding school economy covers various socio-economic, educational, and entrepreneurial dimensions within the context of Islamic institutions.

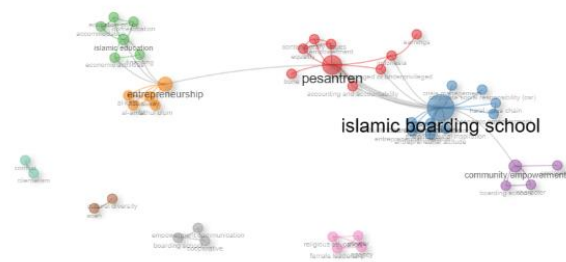


Figure 6. Co-Occurrence Network

Thematic Map

Figure 7 presents a thematic map based on density and centrality, divided into four quadrants: motor themes, basic themes, emerging or declining themes, and niche themes. The mapping results were generated automatically in RStudio by analyzing all keywords related to the Islamic boarding school economy. This visualization helps identify the most developed, important, and potential research themes within the existing literature.

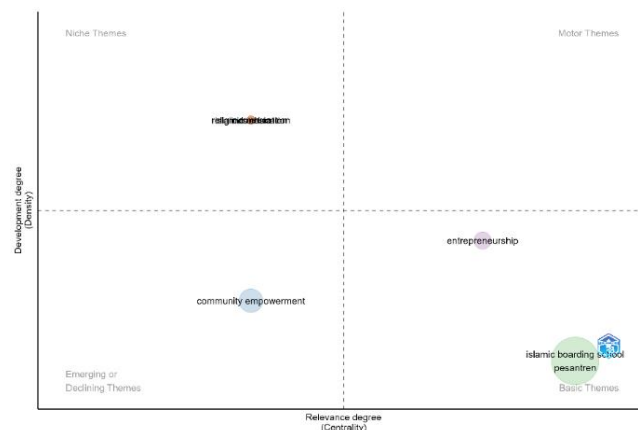


Figure 7. Density Line

Figure 7 presents the thematic map analysis divided into four quadrants: niche themes, motor themes, emerging or declining themes, and basic themes. The results show that the Islamic education cluster is categorized as a niche theme, indicating that it has been widely discussed but has limited influence on the overall development of the Islamic boarding school economy discourse. Meanwhile, the community empowerment cluster is classified as an emerging or declining theme, suggesting that the topic still requires further exploration. In the basic themes quadrant, entrepreneurship and Islamic boarding schools (pesantren) are important topics that strongly influence the field's development, although they remain relatively underexplored in the literature. Overall, the thematic map indicates that entrepreneurship, pesantren, and community empowerment offer significant opportunities for future research on the Islamic boarding school economy.

5. Discussion

The bibliometric findings reveal that research on pesantren economics has experienced gradual development, with increasing attention to the economic roles of Islamic boarding schools in community empowerment, entrepreneurship, and Islamic education. The dominance of keywords such as “Islamic boarding school,” “pesantren,” “community empowerment,” and “entrepreneurship” indicates that the intellectual structure of this field is primarily centered on socio-economic development and empowerment activities within religious institutions. These findings suggest that scholars increasingly recognize pesantren not only as educational institutions but also as strategic actors in local economic development.

The co-occurrence network analysis reveals several interconnected thematic clusters. The largest cluster links pesantren, community empowerment, entrepreneurship, and Islamic education, highlighting the multidimensional nature of pesantren economic studies. Additional clusters involving halal value chains, corporate social responsibility, cooperatives, gender issues, and cultural diversity indicate the emergence of interdisciplinary perspectives. However, these themes remain relatively less connected to the core research stream, suggesting opportunities for future theoretical integration and empirical investigation.

The thematic map further shows that entrepreneurship and pesantren are classified as basic themes, reflecting their central importance within literature. Meanwhile, community empowerment appears to be an emerging theme, indicating growing scholarly interest but relatively limited conceptual maturity. Topics such as digital transformation, Islamic financial technology, sustainability practices, halal ecosystems, and accounting accountability were found to have lower occurrence frequencies, suggesting that they remain underexplored despite their increasing relevance to contemporary Islamic economic development.

These findings are consistent with recent bibliometric studies that highlight the evolution of Islamic economics research toward sustainability, digitalization, and social impact. For example, Baker et al. (2020) emphasized the importance of identifying emerging themes through bibliometric mapping to guide future research agendas. Similarly, Donthu et al. (2021) argued that bibliometric analysis is particularly valuable for revealing intellectual structures and knowledge gaps within developing research fields. Ninkov et al. (2021) also noted that bibliometric approaches help identify thematic fragmentation and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. Furthermore, recent bibliometric studies in Islamic economics have increasingly highlighted the growing importance of digital finance, sustainability, and social entrepreneurship as emerging research domains. This trend is only partially reflected in the literature on pesantren economics.

Another important finding is the methodological concentration of existing studies. Most publications focus on case studies, descriptive analyses, and conceptual discussions regarding empowerment programs and entrepreneurship practices. Comparatively fewer studies employ quantitative methods, longitudinal approaches, mixed-method designs, or comparative cross-country analyses. This methodological imbalance suggests that future research could strengthen the field by incorporating more rigorous empirical designs and broader geographical perspectives.

Overall, the bibliometric evidence indicates that pesantren economics remains a growing yet fragmented research domain. While community empowerment and entrepreneurship have become dominant themes, important issues such as digital transformation, Islamic social finance innovation, sustainability, halal value chains, and technology-driven economic empowerment remain insufficiently explored. These areas represent promising directions for future research and offer significant potential to advance both Islamic economics scholarship and policy initiatives aimed at strengthening pesantren-based economic ecosystems.

6. Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive bibliometric overview of research on pesantren economics based on Scopus-indexed publications from 2003 to 2024. The findings reveal a gradual increase in scholarly interest in the economic roles of Islamic boarding schools, particularly in relation to community empowerment, entrepreneurship, and Islamic education. The bibliometric mapping identifies "Islamic boarding school," "pesantren," "community empowerment," and "entrepreneurship" as the dominant themes shaping the field's intellectual structure. In addition, co-occurrence and thematic analyses reveal several emerging but still underexplored topics, including digital transformation, Islamic social finance innovation, halal value chains, sustainability practices, and accounting accountability within pesantren-based economic ecosystems.

The study also highlights the fragmented nature of the existing literature, which remains concentrated on descriptive and case-based approaches. Significant opportunities exist for future research to expand theoretical perspectives, employ more rigorous methodologies, and explore interdisciplinary themes connecting pesantren economics with digitalization, sustainability, and Islamic financial innovation. Theoretically, this study contributes to Islamic economics scholarship by systematically mapping the knowledge structure, thematic evolution, and research gaps in pesantren economics, thereby providing a foundation for future academic development and agenda-setting.

The findings of this bibliometric study should be interpreted as agenda-setting insights rather than direct managerial prescriptions. Based on the identified research trends and emerging themes, pesantren administrators may consider prioritizing strategic areas that have attracted increasing academic attention, including digital transformation, entrepreneurship education, halal value chain development, and strengthening Islamic social finance instruments such as waqf. Furthermore, the growing relevance of sustainability and innovation themes suggests the importance of fostering collaborative initiatives among pesantren, universities, government agencies, and policymakers to support evidence-based economic development and knowledge exchange. Such collaborations may help expand the role of pesantren within Indonesia's broader Islamic economic ecosystem.

Recommendation

Future studies should expand data sources beyond Scopus by incorporating Web of Science, Dimensions, Garuda, and Google Scholar to improve coverage and reduce database bias. Researchers are also encouraged to apply PRISMA-style screening procedures to enhance transparency and replicability. Comparative analyses between Indonesian and international literature would provide broader insights into the development of pesantren economics. Based on the identified research gaps, future investigations should focus on emerging topics such as fintech, waqf governance, halal value chains, sustainability practices, and digital transformation. Strengthening collaboration among researchers, universities, policymakers, and pesantren institutions is also recommended to advance this growing field.

Limitations and avenues for future research

This study is limited to publications indexed in the Scopus database and focuses solely on bibliometric analysis of the pesantren economy. Therefore, the findings may not fully represent all studies published in other databases. Future research is recommended to use comparative

databases, apply quantitative methods, and explore additional variables, such as digital transformation, Islamic financial technology, and sustainability practices, in pesantren economic development.

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