

BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH ON CHARACTER EDUCATION IN INTEGRATED ISLAMIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS (SDIT) IN INDONESIA BASED ON GOOGLE SCHOLAR (2015–2024)

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Abstract

This study aims to analyse research trends concerning character education in Integrated Islamic Primary Schools (Sekolah Dasar Islam Terpadu or SDIT) in Indonesia using bibliometric methods. Research article data were retrieved from Google Scholar via the Publish or Perish application, comprising 500 publications within the 2015–2024 period. The analysis was conducted using VOSviewer software to observe research trends and to visualise research networks and density within this field. The results indicate that the number of publications related to character education in SDIT has significantly increased over the last decade, peaking in 2022 before experiencing a slight decline. Bibliometric visualisation identified three primary research clusters: primary school, moral character, and education in Indonesia. Furthermore, a shift in research trends was found, moving from the fundamental concepts of character education towards more specific themes, such as the role of teachers in Islamic education. Several terms with high density in the visualisation indicate that these aspects have been extensively studied, while low-density themes remain with the potential for further exploration. This study emphasises the importance of academic collaboration and innovation in research to enrich the study of character education in SDIT and to address the challenges of moral education in the modern era.

Keywords: *Bibliometric analysis, Character education, Primary school, VOSviewer, Islamic education.*

INTRODUCTION

Education is a human learning process aimed at continuous self-improvement (Saputro & Murdiono, 2020). It plays a vital role in life, particularly in developing an individual's potential to the fullest. Through education, individuals are able to acquire insights, skills, and attitudes that are beneficial for both personal life and society. Furthermore, education is capable of shaping character, enhancing emotional intelligence, and building social awareness, all of which are essential for personal development and future success.

At the 1977 World Conference of Islamic Education, one of the primary objectives identified for Islamic education was *ta'dib*. The concept of *ta'dib* refers to an educational process that emphasises the formation of morals and character (Zulaikhah, Sirojuddin, & Aprilianto, 2021). Character education is a planned effort to guide students in understanding, loving, and striving for the values of goodness and nobility. Additionally, this education equips them with intellectual intelligence, good conduct, and the ability to make wise decisions to contribute positively to the nation and state (Ali, 2018).

Character education aims to strengthen students' abilities and potential so they can think and behave appropriately (Rony & Jariyah, 2021). It represents a strategic step in the development of education in Indonesia (Amri, Djatmika, Wahyono, & Widjaja, 2020), especially when implemented from an early age. Character building during early childhood plays a crucial role in helping children internalise moral values in their lives. Education does not merely focus on mastering subject matter or exam techniques; it must also instil good habits that shape personality. The process of character building requires time and consistency in habituating oneself to doing good, being honest and polite, and possessing a sense of shame toward disgraceful acts (Julaiha, 2019).

Currently, Indonesia continues to face various cases reflecting a moral decline among students. One example is the incident of violence against a teacher at SMKN 1 Woha, Bima, in November 2024 (Awliya, 2024). In that event, a student struck a teacher after being reprimanded for smoking in class, reflecting a decrease in students' respect for educators. Furthermore, on Tuesday, 28 January 2025, a video circulated showing an assault on a high school teacher by three students inside a classroom. The 14-second recording was first posted on an X account (Siregar, 2025). Moreover, phenomena such as student brawls, bullying, drug abuse, and free-sex behaviours still frequently occur within school environments. This indicates a concerning moral decline amidst rapid digital developments (Al-Ikhsan, 2024). Therefore, the cultivation of character from an early age, particularly in primary school education, is of paramount importance.

The implementation of character education in Integrated Islamic Primary Schools (*Sekolah Dasar Islam Terpadu* or SDIT) serves as a strategy to produce a generation that is not only academically intelligent but also possesses noble character. SDIT is a primary education institution that integrates the national curriculum with Islamic education (Azhar & Mawardi, 2022). In SDIT, character education is developed through an approach based on Islamic values applied in both learning and daily school life (Harahap, 2018). The applied curriculum integrates religious education with general subjects, ensuring that students not only understand scientific knowledge but also internalise Islamic teachings in their behaviour (Maulidin, Munip, & Nawawi, 2024).

Research related to bibliometric analysis has been widely conducted by researchers using various applications. However, research specifically related to the bibliometric analysis of character education in Integrated Islamic Primary Schools (SDIT) remains scarce. Consequently, this bibliometric study focuses on a ten-year period, from 2015 to 2024, using the VOSviewer application and data retrieved from Google Scholar via Publish or Perish. In this study, VOSviewer functions to generate a visual representation of the relationships between key terms, specifically character education in integrated Islamic primary schools in Indonesia, based on several scientific publications from Google Scholar.

This research serves as a reference for researchers to analyse and identify themes related to Character Education in SDIT in Indonesia. Thus, this theme can be expanded for investigation from various other perspectives. Furthermore, this study aims to analyse other

emerging topics from the mapping results that have not been extensively researched, thereby increasing the body of research on character education in SDIT with diverse topics.

RESEARCH METHOD

Bibliometric analysis was applied to conduct this study. Bibliometrics is a statistical method used to analyse publications (Effendy, Hendrayati, & V, 2021). Scientific publication data were collected from Google Scholar as the primary source. Google Scholar was selected due to its open-access nature, which allows for extensive access to related publications. Data collection was performed using the Publish or Perish reference manager application, with an article search based on the keywords "*Pendidikan Karakter Sekolah Dasar Islam di Indonesia*" (Character Education in Islamic Primary Schools in Indonesia).

The analysed publications comprise research published within the last ten years, specifically from 2015 to 2024. The data collection and processing were conducted on 5 February 2025. Furthermore, this study utilised Microsoft Excel to process the retrieved publication data to observe trend developments regarding the keywords within the analysed theme (Rahmawati, Febriyana, Bhakti, Astuti, & Suendarti, 2022). To visualise and analyse research trends in "Character Education in Islamic Primary Schools in Indonesia", VOSviewer was employed as a software tool capable of constructing and visualising bibliometric networks, such as journals, titles, authors, and publications (Iriyani, Patty, Rahim, Awaliyah, & Ria, 2023). This application generates three types of bibliometric visualisations: network visualisation, overlay visualisation, and density visualisation. The bibliometric analysis steps are as follows:

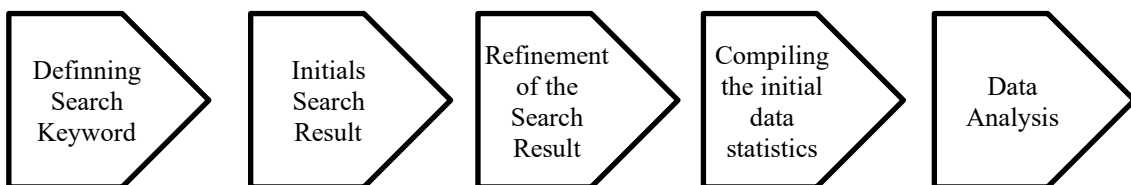


Figure 1. Steps in Conducting Bibliometric Analysis

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Through the Publish or Perish application, the author conducted a search and identified 500 articles using the keywords "*Pendidikan Karakter Sekolah Dasar Islam di Indonesia*". After sorting the data by year using Microsoft Excel, the trend graph analysis revealed an increase in the number of publications related to character education in Islamic Primary Schools in Indonesia over the last ten years, from 2015 to 2024. This indicates a growing academic interest in this theme.

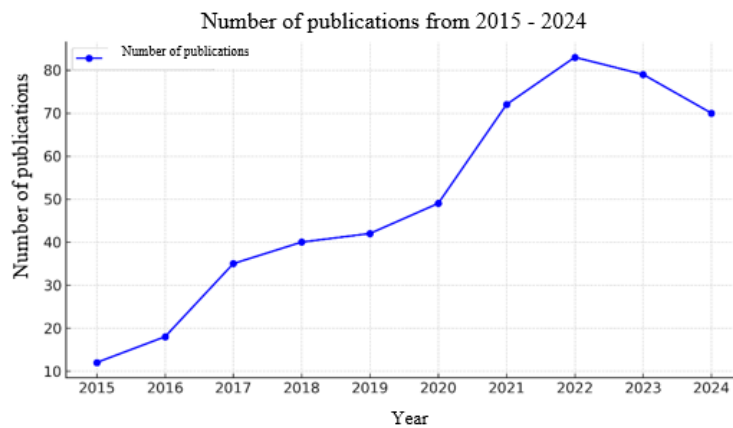


Figure 2. Publication trends of character education in SDIT in Indonesia

The publication trend graph shows a significant increase in the number of publications from 2015 to 2022, before experiencing a slight decline in the subsequent years. In 2015, the number of publications was relatively low, with only 12 publications. However, this figure rose gradually, with significant surges in 2017 (35 publications) and 2021 (72 publications). The peak occurred in 2022, with a total of 83 publications, reflecting the heightening academic engagement with this topic.

Following this peak, the number of publications decreased slightly to 79 in 2023 and further declined to 70 in 2024. This downturn may be attributed to various factors, such as shifts in research trends, funding constraints, or a redirection of academic focus toward other issues within Islamic education. Overall, this trend demonstrates that studies on character education in Islamic Primary Schools in Indonesia have received substantial attention over the past decade, despite the fluctuations observed in recent years.

Regarding the visualisation results using the VOSviewer application, the **network visualisation** identifies several primary clusters that represent the research focus of character education in Indonesian Islamic primary schools. These include Cluster 1 (primary school), Cluster 2 (moral character), and Cluster 3 (education in Indonesia).

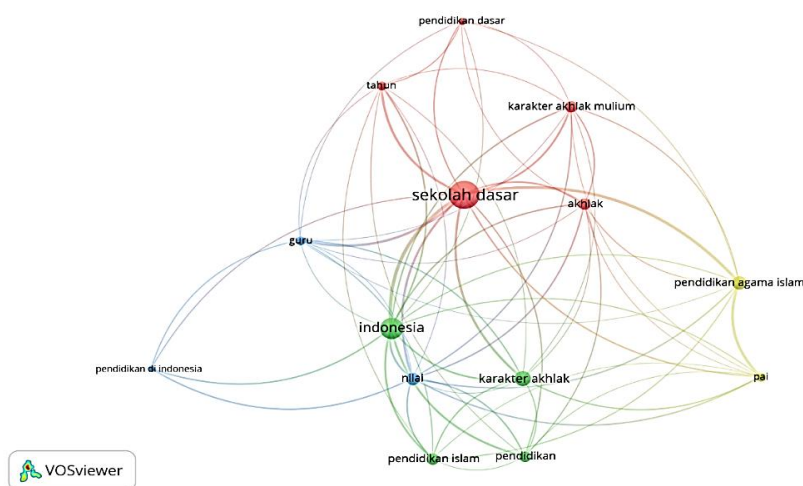


Figure 3. Network visualisation of character education research in SDIT in Indonesia

The network of relationships between keywords in this study also demonstrates that several concepts serve as the core of the research and possess numerous connections with other concepts. This indicates that these themes hold high relevance within character education research. The interconnectedness between terms can be observed through each formed cluster. Each term is marked by a coloured circle, and the size of these nodes varies according to the frequency of the term's occurrence. The size of the node label indicates a positive correlation with its frequency of appearance in titles and abstracts. In other words, the larger the label size of a term, the more frequently that term appears in the research (Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto, 2021).

In the **overlay visualisation**, which serves to provide an overview of how research trends in this field have evolved over time, it was found that there has been a shift in research focus in recent years (see Figure 4). Terms displayed in lighter colours indicate that they have gained popularity in recent years, whereas terms in darker colours suggest that their popularity has declined over that period (Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto, 2021).

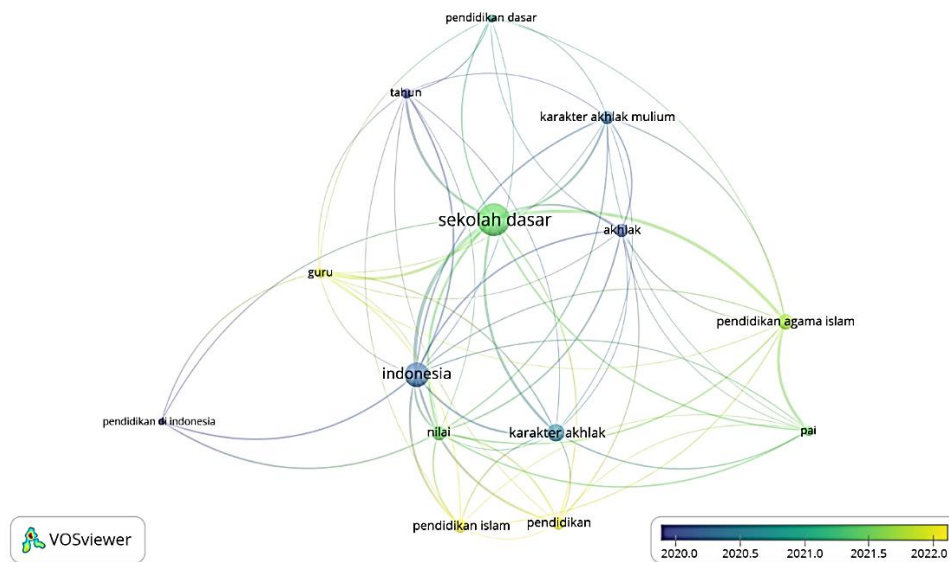


Figure 4. Overlay visualisation of character education research in SDIT in Indonesia

Based on the figure above, the early period of research focused more heavily on the fundamental concepts of moral character education in Indonesia. However, in recent years, new themes have begun to emerge, indicating innovations in the approach to moral education, such as the roles of teachers and Islamic education. This shift demonstrates that research in this field continues to undergo dynamic development.

Meanwhile, the **density visualisation**, which serves to provide information on how frequently a particular keyword or theme appears within the reviewed research, shows that there are several high-density areas. This indicates that these topics have been extensively researched and have become the primary focus within the field of moral education.

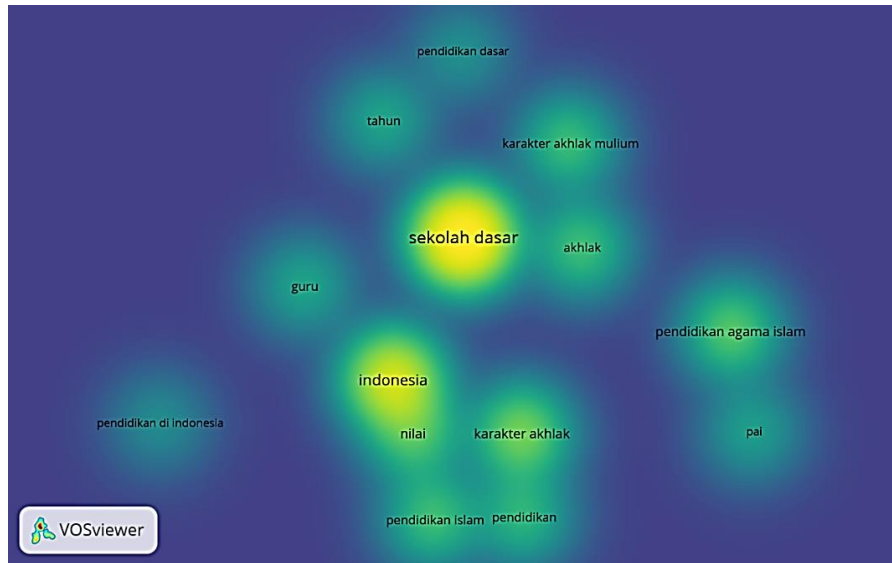


Figure 5. Density visualisation of character education research in SDIT in Indonesia

Several high-density concepts identified in this study include primary school, Indonesia, and moral character, indicating that these aspects serve as the main focus in the study of moral education within Islamic Primary Schools. Conversely, there are several low-density themes, such as teachers, years, and education in Indonesia.

The results of this bibliometric analysis demonstrate that research on moral education in Islamic Primary Schools continues to evolve with diverse themes. However, challenges remain that warrant attention, such as the limited collaboration between researchers and the lack of exploration into several topics that have the potential for deeper investigation. Therefore, it is essential to encourage academic cooperation and more innovative research to address the challenges of character and moral education in the modern era.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that research on character education in Integrated Islamic Primary Schools (SDIT) in Indonesia has undergone continuous development over the last ten years, from 2015 to 2024. From the 500 articles retrieved from Google Scholar via the Publish or Perish application and analysed using bibliometric methods, it is evident that the number of scientific publications related to this theme has increased annually, despite a slight decline in recent years.

The analysis using VOSviewer reveals several primary topics that are frequently studied, such as primary school, education in Indonesia, and moral character. Furthermore, research trends have shifted; in recent years, there has been significant discussion regarding the role of teachers and Islamic education approaches in building children's character. This research is expected to serve as a reference for academics and educational practitioners in developing improved methods for building children's character within Integrated Islamic Primary Schools.

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