

# Effectiveness of Productive Waqf Management in Improving the Welfare of the Poor: A Bibliometric Review

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## ABSTRACT

This bibliometric study examines the evolution and thematic concentration within the field of productive waqf management from 2000 to 2024, employing a comprehensive analysis of academic publications to understand the dynamic interplay between Islamic philanthropy and socio-economic development. Through the utilization of citation metrics and VOSviewer tools, the study reveals significant growth in research focusing on the integration of traditional Islamic charitable mechanisms with modern financial tools, notably micro waqf banks and zakat, aimed at enhancing community welfare and poverty alleviation. Collaborative networks among scholars indicate robust intellectual communities with concentrated expertise in specific thematic areas. The findings emphasize the potential of productive waqf in supporting broader economic and social objectives, including alignment with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and highlight the emerging trend of leveraging technology to increase the transparency and efficiency of waqf management. Challenges in governance and professional management are identified as critical areas needing attention to maximize the impact of waqf. The study proposes future research directions focused on empirical evaluations and the potential impacts of technological innovations in waqf management.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Waqf, an Islamic philanthropic tradition, involves donating assets for religious or charitable purposes with the intention of perpetuating benefits for the community. Historically, waqf assets have contributed significantly to social welfare, educational institutions, healthcare, and

infrastructure development within Muslim societies. In modern contexts, the focus has shifted towards 'productive waqf', which aims to leverage waqf assets for economic activities that generate sustainable income streams to support charitable causes [1]. This paradigm shift seeks not only to preserve the asset but to enhance its value and utility,

thereby magnifying its impact on community welfare.

The importance of productive waqf is increasingly recognized in academic and policy circles as a potential tool for poverty alleviation and economic development. In many Muslim-majority countries, however, the management and operationalization of waqf assets often face challenges such as mismanagement, lack of transparency, and inadequate legal frameworks [2]. These challenges hinder the effectiveness of waqf in achieving its socio-economic objectives, particularly in improving the welfare of the poor, which remains a critical concern in these regions.

Moreover, the literature on waqf management and its effectiveness in poverty alleviation is vast but fragmented. Different studies focus on various aspects, such as legal frameworks, management practices, and economic impact, leading to a scattered knowledge base [3]. There is a clear need to synthesize this body of research to understand better the current landscape of waqf management practices and their outcomes. A bibliometric review can provide a systematic overview of the existing research, highlighting predominant themes, gaps, and emerging trends in the field.

Bibliometric analyses have gained popularity as a methodological approach in Islamic economic studies, providing insights into the development of sub-disciplines and the evolution of scholarly discourse [2]. Applying this method to the study of productive waqf can elucidate how academic attention to this subject has shifted over time, the geographical and thematic concentrations of the research, and the interconnections between different strands of waqf-related studies.

Despite the recognized potential of productive waqf in poverty alleviation and economic development, there remains a significant gap in comprehensive analytical reviews of the literature that consolidate our understanding of effective waqf management practices. Many studies provide piecemeal insights, but a cohesive overview that

integrates these findings is lacking. This gap hampers the ability of policymakers, scholars, and waqf administrators to formulate evidence-based strategies that harness the full potential of waqf assets for community welfare. Furthermore, the scattered nature of research outputs suggests that important insights might remain isolated within certain scholarly communities or geographic regions, thus not reaching a broader audience that could benefit from such knowledge.

The purpose of this research is to perform a bibliometric review of the literature about productive waqf administration and its efficacy in enhancing the welfare of the impoverished. This review seeks to delineate the current academic landscape by identifying main topics, methodology, and findings that define this area of research. The research aims to elucidate academic trends, identify knowledge deficiencies, and provide viable avenues for further inquiry. The primary objective is to establish a comprehensive information base that can guide improved management practices and policy development regarding productive waqf, hence augmenting its contribution to poverty alleviation and economic advancement.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 *Theoretical Foundations and Definitions of Productive Waqf*

Waqf, fundamentally, is an Islamic endowment of property to be held in trust and used for charitable or religious purposes. This concept, deeply rooted in Islamic law, has historically played a vital role in the socio-economic development of Muslim communities. Productive waqf refers to a subset of waqf where the assets are actively invested or engaged in economic activities to generate a sustainable revenue stream, which is then utilized for philanthropic objectives [4]. Unlike traditional waqf, which

often focuses on the preservation of the endowed asset, productive waqf emphasizes asset growth and income generation [5].

Recent scholarly work, such as those by [6], highlights the dual role of productive waqf in providing immediate financial returns while ensuring long-term social benefits. These studies argue that effectively managed productive waqf can contribute significantly to poverty alleviation by creating employment opportunities, funding educational programs, and supporting healthcare services for the impoverished.

## 2.2 *Challenges in Waqf Management*

Despite its potential, the management of waqf assets often encounters several challenges. Key among these is the issue of governance. As identified by [7], many waqf institutions suffer from poor governance structures that lack transparency and accountability, leading to inefficiencies and mismanagement. Moreover, the legal and regulatory frameworks governing waqf in many countries are outdated or inadequate, failing to address contemporary economic realities or the complexities of modern financial markets [6].

The literature also points to a significant gap in professional management skills among waqf administrators. [2] emphasize that the success of productive waqf initiatives is heavily dependent on the expertise of those who manage these assets. Without adequate training and professional management, waqf institutions struggle to optimize

their assets and achieve their developmental goals.

## 2.3 *Economic Impacts of Productive Waqf*

On the economic front, the literature provides evidence of productive waqf's impact on community welfare. Several case studies, like those conducted by [8], demonstrate how effectively managed waqf properties have revitalized local economies through infrastructure development and by providing seed funding for small enterprises. Furthermore, research by [9] in Indonesia shows that waqf-funded education and healthcare projects have significantly improved the quality of life for beneficiaries, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and economic stability.

Economists like [10] have modeled the potential macroeconomic impacts of waqf funds, suggesting that when integrated into national development strategies, productive waqf can be a potent tool for achieving sustainable growth. Their findings advocate for policies that encourage the integration of waqf into larger economic frameworks, proposing that governments facilitate this by providing incentives and support structures for waqf management.

## 2.4 *Technological Innovations in Waqf Management*

An emerging theme in the literature is the role of technology in enhancing the efficiency and reach of waqf management. Studies by [11] discuss the implementation of

blockchain technology as a means to increase transparency and traceability in waqf transactions, which could address many governance-related challenges. Additionally, digital platforms for waqf management are being recognized for their potential to broaden the donor base and streamline operations, as explored by [12].

### 3. METHODS

This bibliometric review utilizes a systematic approach to analyze the existing

literature on productive waqf management and its impact on poverty alleviation. The primary data for this study is sourced from Google Scholar, ensuring comprehensive coverage of relevant academic publications. The time frame for the literature search spans from 2000 to 2024 to capture the evolution of the field over two decades. The search strategy involves using key terms such as "productive waqf," "waqf management," "Islamic philanthropy," and "poverty alleviation." After retrieving the articles, we employ VOSviewer for generating and analyzing co-citation and keyword co-occurrence networks, which helps in identifying the major themes, trends, and gaps in the literature.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Research Data Metrics

Table 1. Data Citation Metrics

Publication years	2000-2024
Citation years	24 (2000-2024)
Paper	997
Citations	18751
Cites/year	781.29
Cites/paper	18.81
Cites/author	11801.92
Papers/author	569.30
Author/paper	2.32
h-index	67
g-index	114
hI,norm	45
hI,annual	1.88
hA-index	23
Papers with ACC	: 1,2,5,10,20:558,383,195,92,31

Source: Publish or Perish Output, 2024

Table 1 presents bibliometric data on the productive waqf management literature spanning from 2000 to 2024, offering a comprehensive view of the field's academic influence and growth. Over the 24-year period, a total of 997 papers have been published, accruing 18,751 citations, which equates to an average of 781.29 citations per year and 18.81 citations per paper, indicating a robust impact within the academic

community. The productivity and collaboration metrics reveal an average of 2.32 authors per paper and 569.30 papers per author, suggesting a moderate level of co-authorship and significant individual author productivity. The h-index of 67 and a g-index of 114 further confirm the substantial depth and breadth of influence these publications have had, with an hI,norm of 45 and an hI,annual of 1.88 highlighting a consistent

output of highly influential works over time. The hA-index at 23 underscores a somewhat lower adjusted author impact. The distribution of papers with author citation counts (ACC) at various thresholds (1, 2, 5, 10, 20) shows a decreasing pattern as the citation

threshold increases, with 558 papers cited at least once and only 31 cited 20 times or more, illustrating the typical citation lifecycle where a smaller fraction of works achieves higher citation counts.

Table 2. Top Cited Research

Citations	Authors and year	Title
837	[13]	Wakaf uang dan pengaruhnya terhadap program pengentasan kemiskinan di Indonesia
690	[14]	The provision of public goods under Islamic law: Origins, impact, and limitations of the waqf system
579	[5]	Role of zakah and awqaf in poverty alleviation
480	[4]	Waqf, perpetual charity and poverty alleviation
399	[15]	An integrated poverty alleviation model combining zakat, awqaf and micro-finance
381	[16]	Waqf-based microfinance: realizing the social role of Islamic finance
364	[17]	Financing through cash-waqf: a revitalization to finance different needs
358	[3]	The role of waqf in improving the ummah welfare
315	[18]	Waqf in Central Asia: Four hundred years in the history of a Muslim shrine, 1480-1889
241	[19]	Application of waqf for social and development finance

Source: Publish or Perish Output, 2024

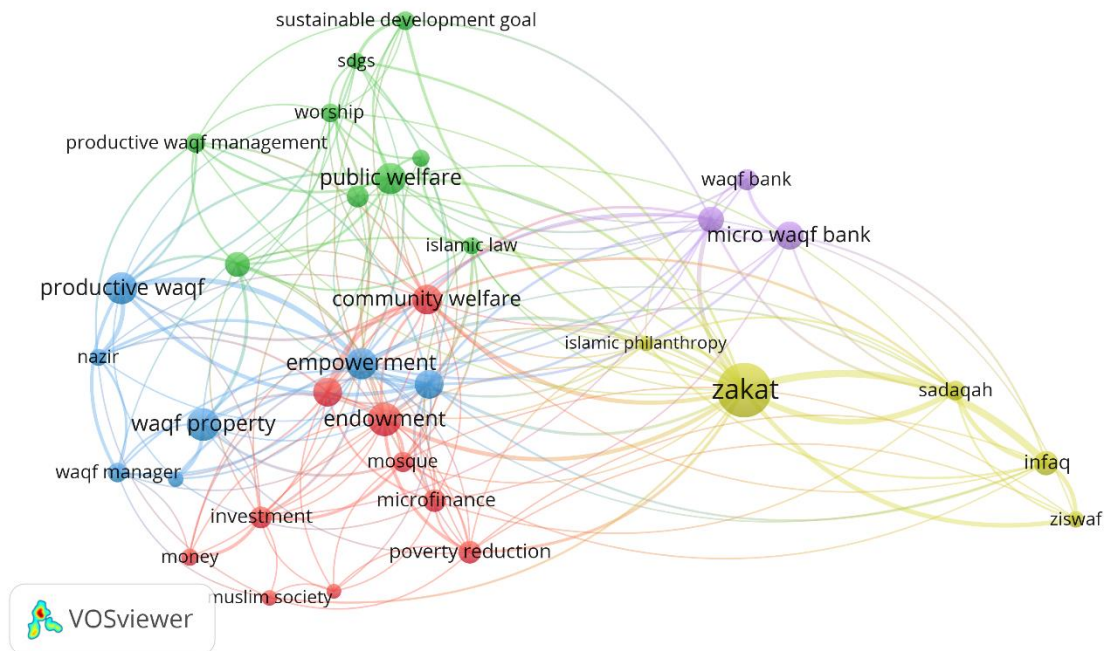


Figure 1. Network Visualization

Source: Data Analysis Result, 2024

This visualization illustrates the interconnectedness and topic clusters within

the field of productive waqf research by providing a thorough mapping of important

concepts. Each separate color-coded cluster in the graphic represents a topical focal area in the research on waqf and its socio-economic ramifications. "Productive waqf," "productive waqf management," "community welfare," and "public welfare" are the main concepts that are associated with the green cluster. This cluster draws attention to the central goal of waqf management studies, which is to comprehend how waqf assets might be administered to advance the welfare of the community. Within this cluster, words like "empowerment" and "investment" are included, which implies a strong focus on the strategic role that waqf can play in promoting economic development and community empowerment through wise investment decisions. As we move to the purple cluster, we observe that the institutional components of waqf are emphasized, as evidenced by the use of terminology such as "micro waqf bank" and "waqf bank." This suggests a curiosity for the administrative and financial procedures used to gather, oversee, and use waqf

contributions. The fact that "microfinance" and related financial terms are found in the same cluster indicates that academics are very interested in combining waqf administration with microfinancial practices to increase the latter's efficacy in reducing poverty and promoting economic empowerment. Last but not least, the yellow cluster includes phrases like "islamic philanthropy," "sadaqah," and "zakat," which relate the idea of waqf to more extensive Islamic altruism. The similarities and differences between waqf and other Islamic giving practices highlight the integrative approach found in Islamic finance and philanthropy literature, which evaluates the combined effects of various giving practices on social welfare and poverty alleviation. The religious and moral justifications for these behaviors are highlighted by this cluster, which also proposes investigating the theological and regulatory foundations of waqf and how it relates to other Islamic economic concepts.

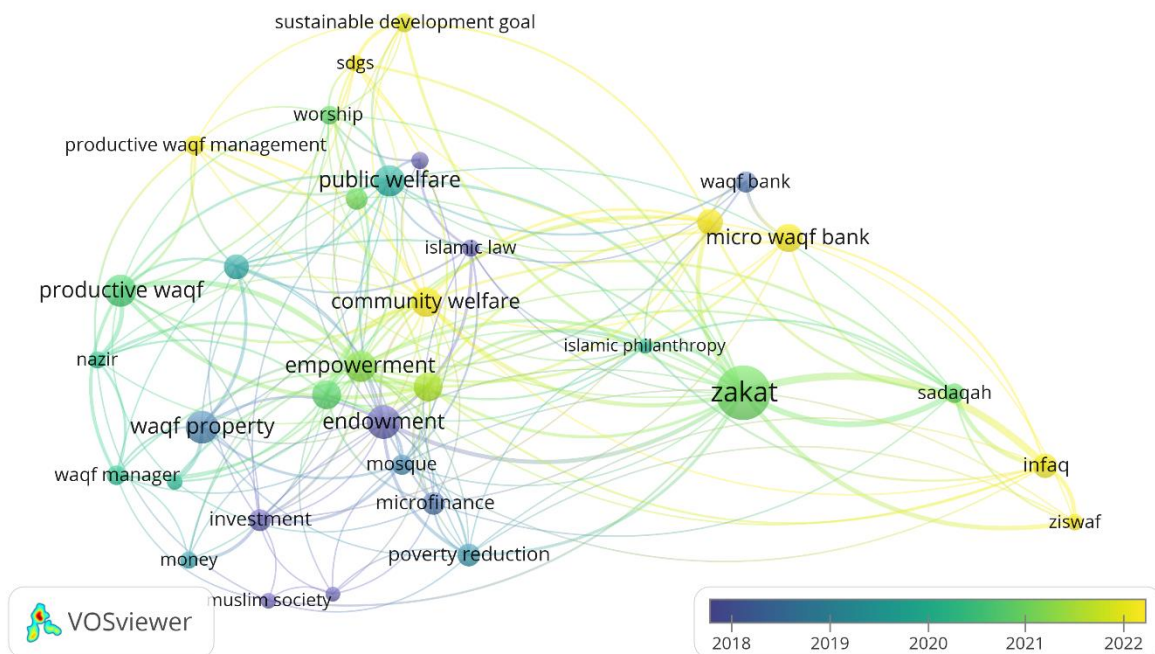


Figure 2. Overlay Visualization  
 Source: Data Analysis Result, 2024

The second visualization reflects the evolution of scholarly focus within the field of

productive waqf management from 2018 to 2022. Each term's position and its

corresponding color gradient from blue (2018) to yellow (2022) depict shifts in research emphasis and the development of new thematic areas over the five-year period. In the earlier phase marked by blue in 2018, foundational concepts such as "productive waqf," "waqf property," "investment," and "community welfare" dominate the discourse. These terms are centrally located, indicating their foundational role in waqf-related studies during this period. This suggests that the initial focus was more on establishing a theoretical and practical understanding of how waqf assets can be utilized effectively for community empowerment and poverty reduction. It also shows a significant emphasis on the managerial and operational aspects of waqf, such as the roles of the "waqf manager" and "nazir," which are crucial for the effective administration of waqf assets. As the gradient shifts towards yellow in 2022, there is a noticeable increase in the

connectivity and emphasis on terms like "micro waqf bank," "zakat," and "Islamic philanthropy." This shift indicates a growing scholarly interest in integrating traditional Islamic charitable practices with modern financial mechanisms like microfinance. The term "micro waqf bank" becoming more prominent suggests a focus on innovative financial models that can expand the reach and efficiency of waqf funds. Moreover, the integration of these terms with "poverty reduction" and "microfinance" highlights an increased focus on practical outcomes and the application of waqf in broader socio-economic contexts, possibly in response to ongoing global socio-economic challenges and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) discourse. This trend reflects a maturing field that is increasingly focused on actionable insights and outcomes that can directly contribute to poverty alleviation and community welfare.

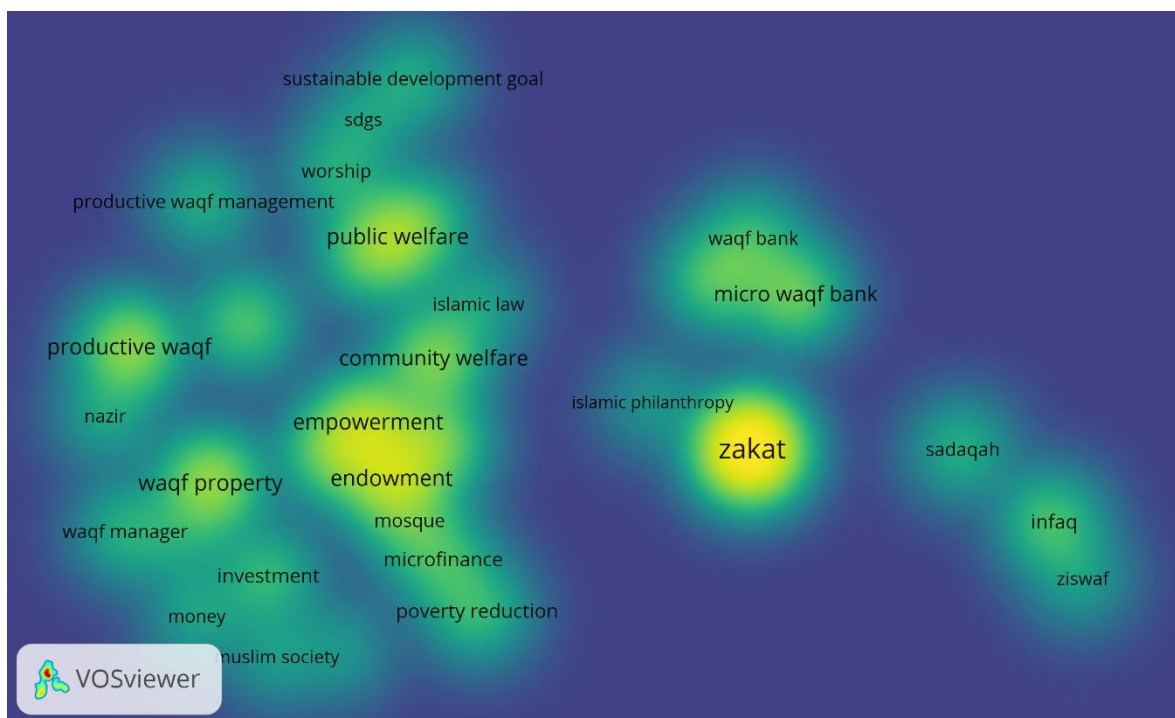


Figure 3. Density Visualization

Source: Data Analysis, 2024

The most prominent areas, highlighted in yellow, include terms like "zakat," "micro waqf bank," and "community welfare." This

indicates that recent scholarly efforts have been particularly concentrated on exploring the integration of zakat (a form of Islamic

almsgiving) and micro waqf banks with the broader goals of community welfare. This suggests a robust interest in how these financial practices can be tailored to support community development and poverty reduction effectively. The presence of "sadaqah" (voluntary charity) and "infrastructure" in close proximity to these terms suggests a growing discourse on

expanding the scope of waqf beyond traditional religious obligations to include broader socio-economic development goals, such as those articulated in the sustainable development goals (SDGs). This trend highlights a shift towards more innovative and practical applications of waqf in addressing contemporary global challenges.

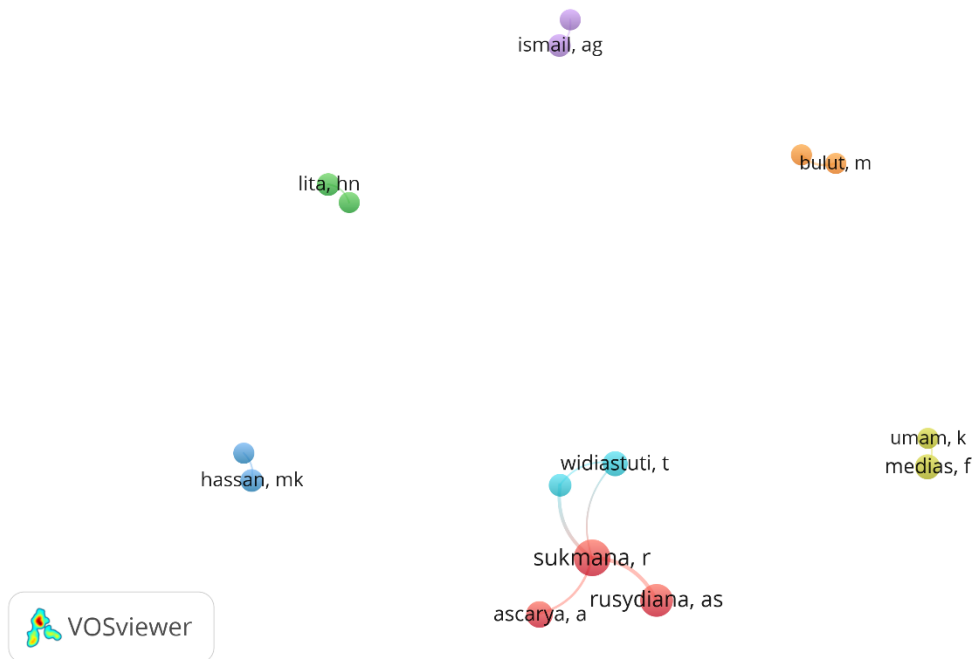


Figure 4. Author Collaboration Visualization

Source: Data Analysis, 2024

The VOSviewer visualization above showcases a network of authors who have contributed to the research field, presumably within a specified domain, indicated by the unique positioning and clustering of each author. Each node represents an author, with the node size possibly reflecting the volume of contributions or prominence in the field. The distinct clusters, indicated by different colors, suggest groupings of authors who likely collaborate or whose work is closely related. For example, the cluster involving "widiastuti, t," "sukmana, r," "rusydiana, as," and "ascarya, a" (connected by lines in blue) indicates a potential collaborative network or a shared thematic focus among these authors. The separation of other nodes, such as

"litajhn" and "ismail, ag," suggests these authors may be working independently or focusing on different sub-topics within the broader research field.

## Discussion

### Key Insights from Bibliometric Analysis

The citation metrics and the distribution of keywords over time illustrate the increasing academic and practical interest in productive waqf. The number of papers, citations, and the consistent h-index growth indicate an active and expanding field of study. The themes such as "micro waqf bank," "zakat," and "poverty reduction" have shown prominent growth, especially in more recent



years. This suggests a shift towards integrating traditional Islamic philanthropic mechanisms with modern financial tools to enhance community welfare and economic sustainability.

#### **Collaborative Networks and Intellectual Communities**

The VOSviewer author network analysis highlights significant collaboration among scholars, particularly noted in clusters focused around central figures like Widiyasatuti, T., and Rusydiana, A.S. These clusters not only emphasize the collaborative nature of the research but also suggest a concentration of expertise in certain geographic or thematic areas. The presence of isolated nodes might indicate emerging researchers or new perspectives entering the discourse, suggesting the field is both maturing and dynamic.

#### **Integration with Broader Economic and Social Objectives**

The frequent appearance of terms related to "community welfare," "empowerment," and "sustainable development goals" alongside waqf-related terminology indicates a robust link between Islamic philanthropy and broader socio-economic development objectives. The research aligns with global initiatives like the SDGs, reflecting a trend towards using waqf as a tool not only for poverty alleviation but also for comprehensive community development, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

#### **Technological Innovations in Waqf Management**

Emerging themes around "microfinance" and technological innovations such as "blockchain" suggest a growing interest in how new technologies can be leveraged to enhance the transparency, efficiency, and scope of waqf management. These findings underscore a potential area for further research and development, particularly in creating more accessible and

scalable waqf management models that harness digital platforms.

#### **Policy Implications**

The findings suggest significant implications for policymakers. The integration of waqf with microfinance institutions and the application of blockchain technology could be supported through regulatory reforms and policy initiatives that encourage innovation while ensuring transparency and accountability. Furthermore, policymakers could facilitate the development of inter-sectoral strategies that align waqf management practices with national and international development goals.

#### **Challenges in Waqf Management**

Despite the positive trends, challenges remain, particularly in governance and the professionalization of waqf administration. The need for skilled waqf managers and transparent management practices is evident from the literature, suggesting an urgent need for capacity building and professional development programs specifically tailored for waqf administrators.

#### **Future Research Directions**

Based on the gaps identified, future research should focus on empirical studies that measure the actual impact of innovative waqf management practices on community welfare. Comparative studies across different regulatory environments could also provide deeper insights into effective waqf management. Additionally, there is a noticeable gap in research on the impact of technological innovations in waqf management, which presents a fruitful area for future inquiry.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

This bibliometric review has provided a structured overview of the landscape of productive waqf management, revealing both its evolution over time and its current academic and practical implications. The analysis highlighted a significant shift

towards integrating Islamic philanthropic tools with contemporary financial mechanisms to enhance their impact on community welfare and poverty alleviation. Collaborative networks among researchers have fostered a robust exchange of ideas and innovations, particularly in the adoption of technology in waqf management. The study underscores the potential of waqf as a sustainable tool for socio-economic development aligned with global development goals such as the SDGs. However, challenges such as the need for

improved governance and professional management remain critical barriers to maximizing the potential of waqf institutions. Future research should focus on empirical evaluations of innovative waqf management practices and explore the impact of technological advancements on the efficiency and transparency of these institutions. By addressing these gaps, the field can contribute more effectively to the socio-economic upliftment of communities through enhanced and sustainable waqf practices.

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