

# Salient Topics on Gender Equality Research Trends in Indonesia: A Bibliometric Study on Scopus Database

S. E. Z. Ernada<sup>1,a)</sup> H. D. Molasy<sup>1</sup>; L. D. Eriyanti<sup>1</sup>; I. Farida<sup>2</sup> and P. Akbar<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1)</sup> *International Relations Study Program, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences University of Jember, Indonesia*

<sup>2)</sup> *Centre of Gender Studies and Children, Islamic State University of Sultan Aji Muhammad Idris Samarinda, Indonesia*

<sup>3)</sup> *Doctoral Student of Jusuf Kalla School of Government, University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia*

<sup>a)</sup> corresponding author: eko.ernada@unej.ac.id

**Abstract:** This paper explores the most salient issues in the research trends on gender equality in Indonesia based on the bibliometric study by analysing document research evidence taken from the scientific journal indexed in Scopus. The research found around 171 research documents and journal articles in the last two decades. From a number of research documents, several issues stand out, including issues regarding violence against women, equality in the workplace and women's participation in the public arena. The data found is visualised using the VOSviewer app. Study on research trends using this app is a unique method. Moreover, the data finding shows that the intensity of the document in each issue is different, indicating the changing number every time. Therefore, the result of this research will benefit researchers as a guide toward further research on gender equality and other issues related to gender studies.

## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in trend research on gender equality as more people become aware of the importance of this issue. It refers to the fact that despite progress towards gender equality, women still face significant unequal treatment in many areas. Gender inequality can manifest in various forms, such as unequal pay, violence against women, limited participation of women in the public arena or underrepresentation in leadership positions. [1], [2]. [3]– [5]. According to the World Economy Forum in Gender Gap Report 2022, Indonesia ranked 92<sup>nd</sup> out of 146 countries with a gender gap point of 0,697 [6].

Concerning the paragraph above, this paper seeks to analyse research trends in gender equality in Indonesia. Research trend here is defined as a collective action of a group of researchers who begin to devote close attention to a given scientific topic by reading, referring to, and publishing the results of their research. [7] Thus, to understand research trends on gender equality, this group conducted a bibliometric study by analysing document research evidence from the scientific journal that indexes in Scopus. This is chosen due to the reliability and quality of the document or articles. Scopus provides the largest curated abstracts and citations database, which includes scientific journals, conference proceedings and books. [8]. In addition to the definition of bibliometric studies, bibliometric techniques are regarded as helpful decision-making tools for determining research priorities, following the evolution of science and technology, allocating funds, and rewarding scientific brilliance, among other things. [9] Therefore, this research aims to examine the trend of scientific publication in the study of gender equality in the last two decades (1998-2022).

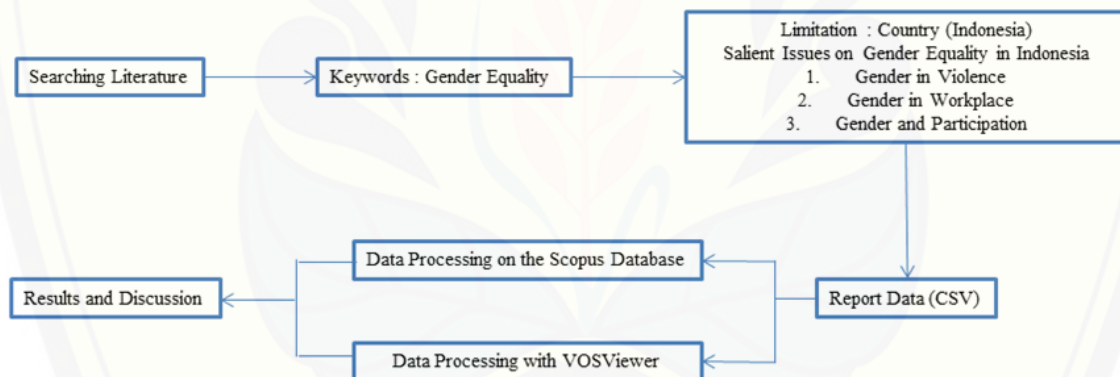
Previous studies have examined bibliometric analysis on gender equality but with different compositional limitations in the Scopus database and how to read its data findings. Research conducted by Abdul Rasyid (2022) focuses on global research on gender equality using the bibliometric technique. In his study, he explored the Scopus database to find journals and articles related to gender equality, which archived 11,914 documents from 1982 to 2022, consisting of 28 disciplines or subject areas [10]. Another study is “Twenty-five Years of Gender, Work and Organization: A Bibliometric Analysis” by Kataria et al. [11]. This study seeks to know documentation of evidence of research activities carried out by the Journal of Gender, Work, and Organization from 1994 to 2018 in the Scopus database using Gephi and VOSviewer software. [11]. Also, Peter Keenan and Ciara Heavin, entitled

“DSS Research: a bibliometric analysis by gender” This research used a bibliometric approach to explore the research landscape by the gender of publishing authors in the Decision Support System (DSS) field over ten years (2011 to 2020). This presents information on the gender breakdown of authors publishing on DSS globally [12]. Lastly is a study that examined gender inequality in research on biomedical by Sebo P., Maisonneuve H. and Fournier J. They assessed the prevalence of female first authorship in general biomedical journals and examined its variations across a number of authors, articles and journal characteristics.[13]

Therefore, this research attempts to answer the central research question of what is the most salient topic that emerges as a research trend on gender equality in Indonesia. In response to this question, the study finds that the three most salient topics on the issues of gender equality include violence against women, unequal treatment toward women in the workplace and limited participation in the public arena. These three issues will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

## METHOD

The method of this study is qualitative by conducting text analysis on publications, especially in the most salient of gender equality issues, which are published in Scopus-indexed journals. The research data was extracted from the Scopus database and analysed using bibliometric analysis (mapping method), which involves bibliographic data and is linked to a collection of papers taken from each field of study[14]. Moreover, bibliometric analysis could map many scientific literatures [15]. Furthermore, using bibliometric analysis could guarantee the quality of the information presented due to its strict techniques [16]. The researcher employs the bibliometric method because data-driven research investigations are deemed more significant than subjective evaluations, and traditional reviews can provide a synopsis of subjective and critical scientific publications. As a result, the bibliometric method aids in collecting scientific reviews.[17]. Therefore, using VOSviewer software as an analytical tool is to depict data networks (bibliometric maps) and links between study issues relevant to the research theme[10], [18]. The following figure describes the flow of this research:



**FIGURE 1.** Research design and method

Source: Processed by the Authors

Figure 1 depicts the data mining roadmap and the steps of data processing. The first stage of this research is to identify scientific articles on gender equality in Indonesia published in Scopus-indexed journals. Secondly, the keyword “gender equality” is filtered into relevant keywords. The researcher focused on three significant issues: gender and violence, gender inequality in the workplace, and gender and participation in the public sphere. Thirdly, the data will be extracted using CSV document types. Lastly, the data is processed using VOSviewer software to create a data map using keyword specification. [19]

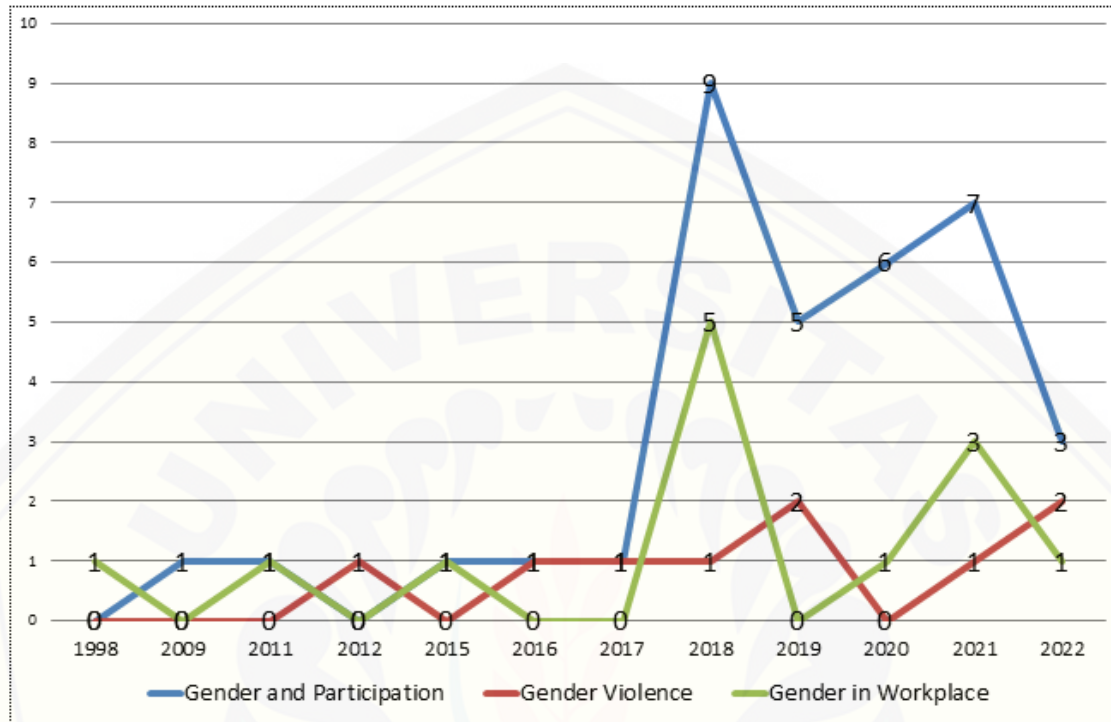
## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Trends of Publications

This study finds 171 articles related to the issues of Gender Equality in Indonesia captured in journals indexed-Scopus from 1998-2022. From 171 articles, we analysed the abstract and found that there are three main issues that appear most often, which are Gender equality in the workplace, gender violence, and gender and participation.

Furthermore, we are left with 57 of total articles with three most salient issues. From these findings, we argued that these salient issues are the most discussed gender equality issues in Indonesia.

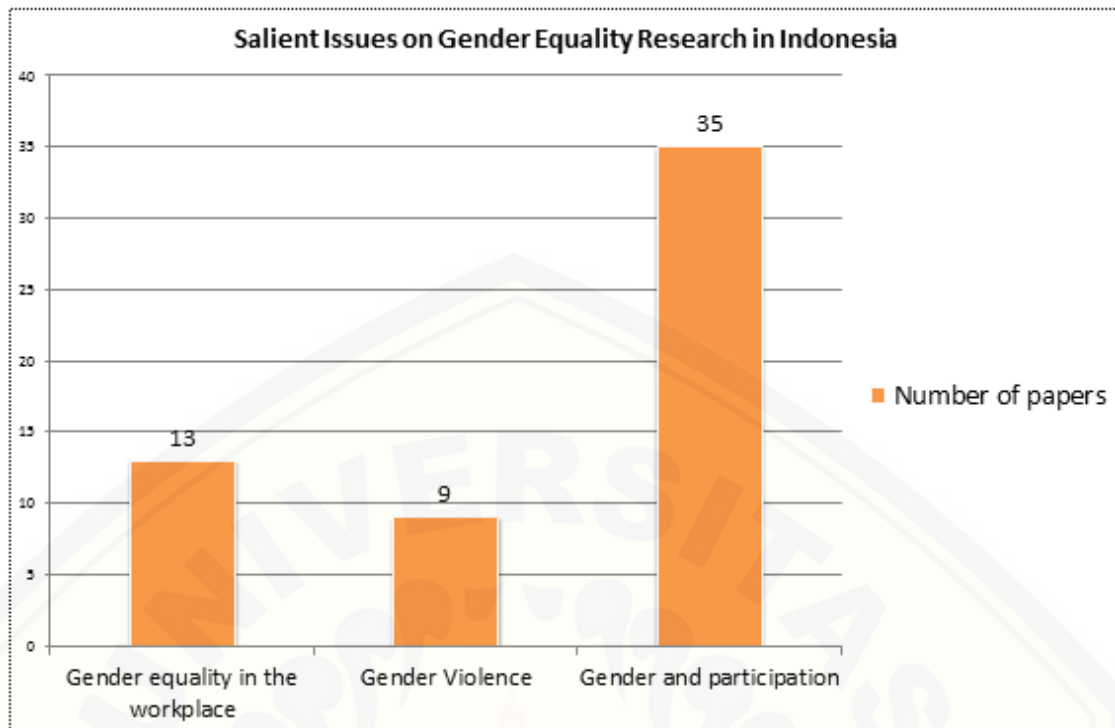
## Publication Trends by Document



**FIGURE 2.** Trend publication by document, classified based on year of publication  
Source: Processed by Authors (2023)

The data above shows trend publication by document. The blue line indicator represents gender and participation keywords, the red line represents gender violence keywords, and the green line represents gender equality in the Workplace. From 1998 to 2017, there was a stagnant number of publications within the three main keywords, between 0 and 1. However, since 2018, there has been a significant increase in publication.

In two of the keywords, namely gender and participation and gender in the workplace, there was a significant increase in publications between 2017 and 2018. There are eight additional publications on the topic of gender and participation and five additions on the issue of gender equality in the workplace. On the other hand, there is no significant increase in the number of publications on gender violence. This shows that gender violence is not much discussed, although there is an increasing concern about gender and sexual violence in Indonesia.



**FIGURE 3.** Salient issues on gender equality research in Indonesia  
Source: Processed by Authors (2023)

The data above shows the number of publications by keywords. This study classified the findings narrowly into three main keywords, namely (1) Gender Equality in the Workplace, (2) Violence against women, and (3) Women's participation in the public arena. We found that these three issues have a different number of publications. First, there are 13 publications on Gender Equality in the workplace; gender violence contains nine articles and 35 articles on Gender and Participation. From the data above, it can be concluded that the keyword gender and participation has the highest number of publications. Therefore, the research trend in Indonesia under gender equality is gender and participation.

The most discussed topic in the research trend in Indonesia is gender and participation. These keywords mainly contain publications that discuss women's underrepresentation in the political stage of Indonesia. However, in recent years, there has been a growing concern about gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment and domestic violence, which resulted in public pressure on the legislation of the Sexual Violence Criminal Act (UU TPKS) (Adiputra et al., 2022). The research trend in Indonesia continues to discuss gender and participation. The topic of gender and participation explicitly discusses a quota gap between male and female candidates in local and national parliament. Although the constitution states that women must account for at least 30% of total parliament seats, this number is still hard to reach, which is why so much research is trying to assess this problem.

### Publication Trends by Author and Affiliation

In this section, the aim to visualise the publication trends by author and affiliation is to determine which institution in Indonesia produced the most research under the topic about gender equality, specifically for the three main issues that the authors have classified. The result shows that the distribution of publication for gender equality research in Indonesia on Scopus Database is somewhat even, with the highest number of publications coming from Universitas Indonesia with 2 publications.

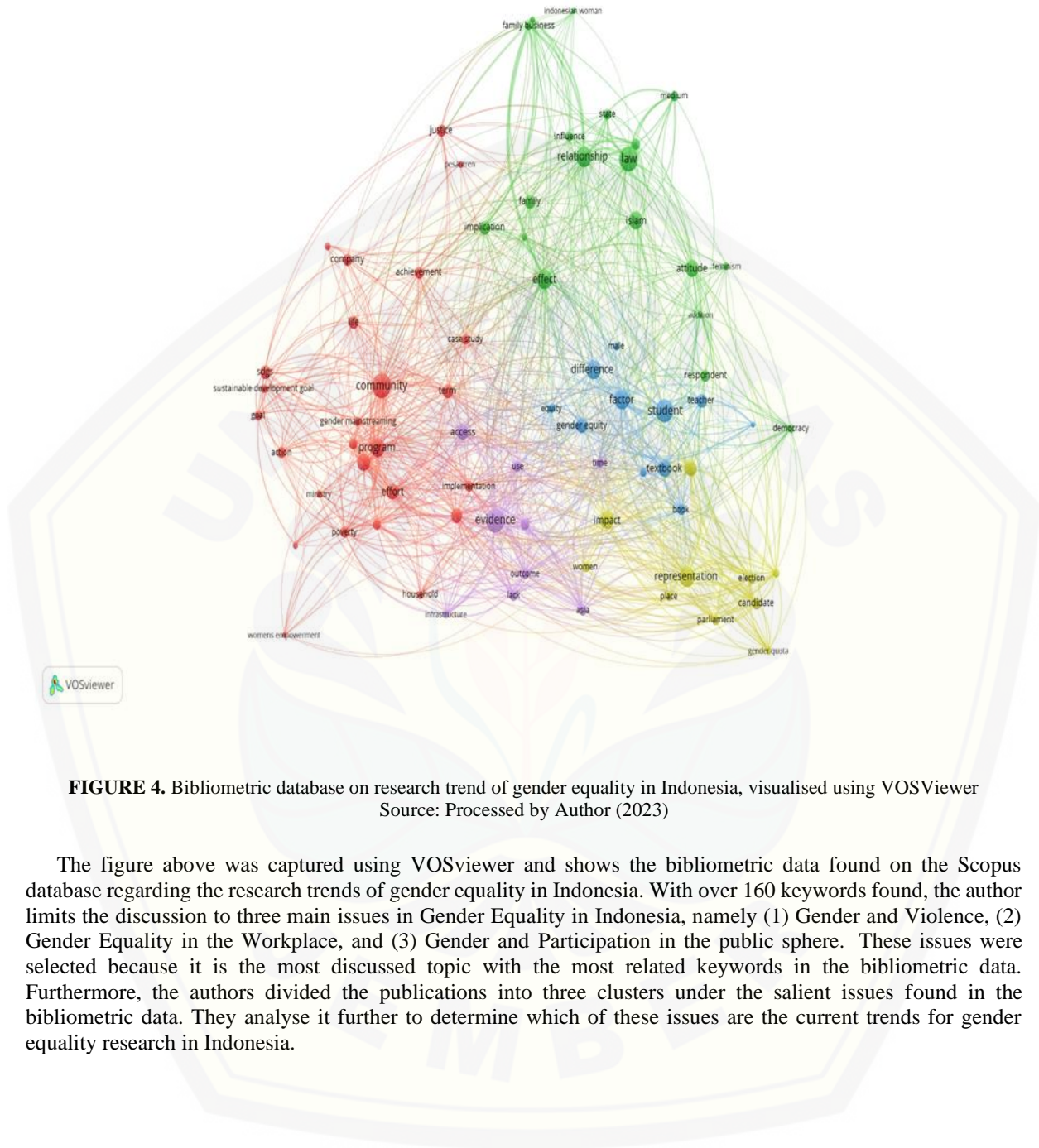
**TABLE 1.** Publication Trends by Author and Affiliation  
Source: Processed by Authors (2023)

Author	Affiliation	Document
Husein, S.	Universitas Indonesia	2
Arbarini, M.	Universitas Negeri Semarang,	1

Author	Affiliation	Document
Armiwulan, H.	Universitas Surabaya	1
Bangun, W.	Universitas Kristen Maranatha	1
Chojimah, N.	Universitas Islam Negeri Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung, Indonesia.	1
Daraba, D.	Institut Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri (IPDN)	1
Darmastuti, A.	Universitas Lampung	1
Dhaniarti, R.	Universitas Narotama	1
Dzuhayatin, S. R.	UIN Sunan Kalijaga	1
Eidhamar, L. G.	Institut for religion, filosofi og historie, University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway.	1
Fatorous, S.	Deakin University.	1
Fithriani, R.	Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara	1
Hayden, M. H.	National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado	1
Hilman, B.	Australian National University	1
Ilo, S.	Howard University	1
Jauhola, M.	University of Helsinki	1
Judiasih, S. D.	Universitas Padjadjaran	1

The table above shows seventeen lists of authors with author affiliation and also the highest number of documents in Indonesia. The author with the highest publications is Husein, S. from Universitas Indonesia, who has published two papers. Meanwhile, the rest of the authors only published one article. Based on the data above, it can be concluded that the number of publications about Gender Equality in Indonesia is still minimal. The writer argues that there are a few reasons, including (1) Gender equality issues are not the main concerns in Indonesia, (2) There are only a few policies in Indonesia that support gender equality, namely the 30% quota for women's political participation in political parties and parliament, and (3) the conservative views about gender equality in Indonesian society. These reasons support why the number of publication of research about gender equality in Indonesia are still low.

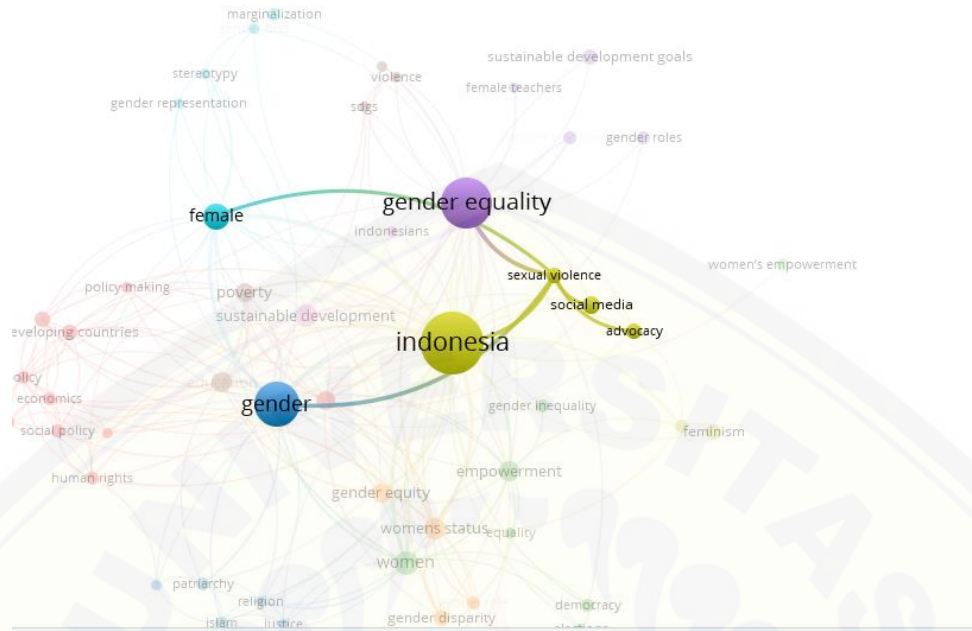
## Bibliometric Database on Research Trends of Gender Equality



**FIGURE 4.** Bibliometric database on research trend of gender equality in Indonesia, visualised using VOSViewer  
Source: Processed by Author (2023)

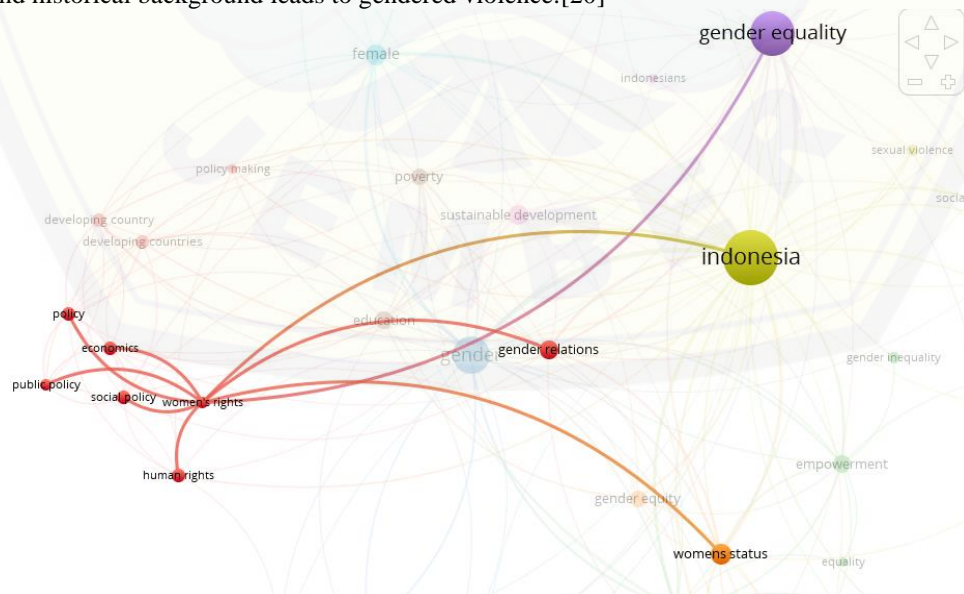
The figure above was captured using VOSviewer and shows the bibliometric data found on the Scopus database regarding the research trends of gender equality in Indonesia. With over 160 keywords found, the author limits the discussion to three main issues in Gender Equality in Indonesia, namely (1) Gender and Violence, (2) Gender Equality in the Workplace, and (3) Gender and Participation in the public sphere. These issues were selected because it is the most discussed topic with the most related keywords in the bibliometric data. Furthermore, the authors divided the publications into three clusters under the salient issues found in the bibliometric data. They analyse it further to determine which of these issues are the current trends for gender equality research in Indonesia.

## Keyword Relations in Three Clusters of Salient Issues in Gender Equality Research



**FIGURE 5.** Salient Issue 1: Gender, Violence and its related keywords  
(Source: Processed by Author, 2023)

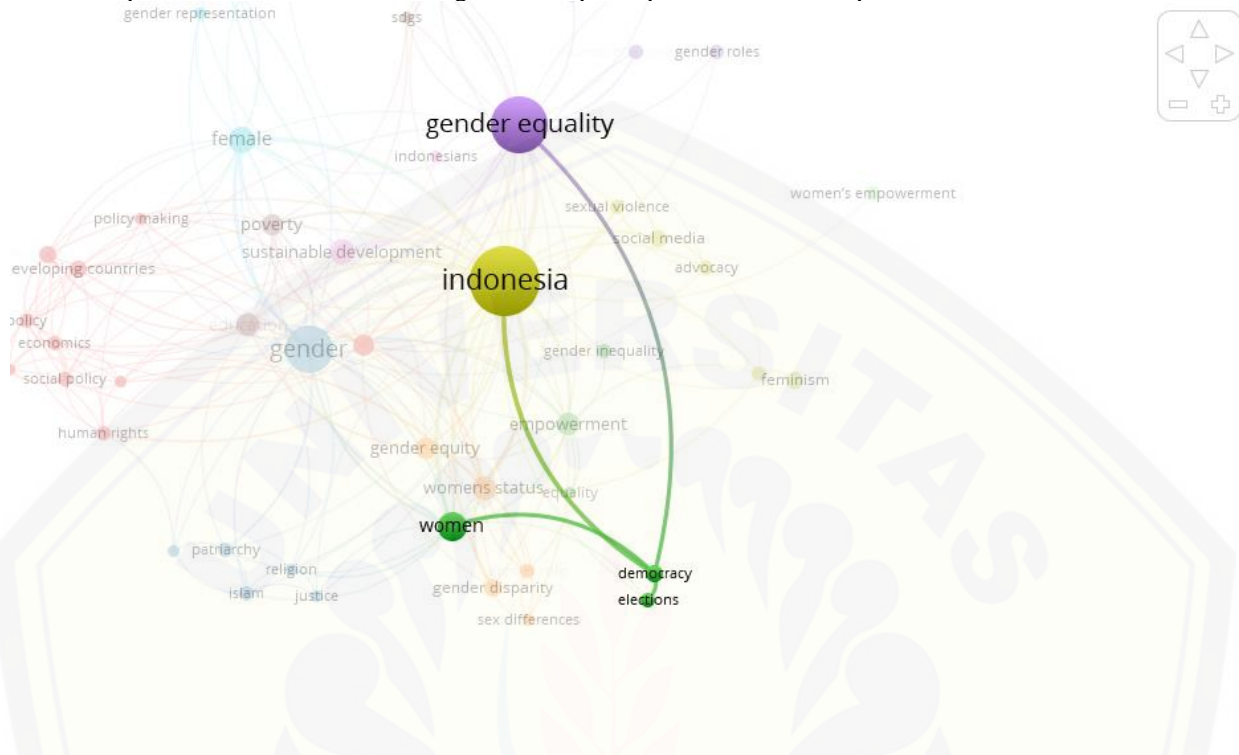
The figure above shows highlighted keywords relations of Gender and Violence. There are seven keywords related to gender and violence research, namely (1) Gender Equality, (2) Indonesia, (3) Gender, (4) Female, (5) Sexual Violence, (6) social media, and (7) Advocacy. Based on the keywords relations above, it can be concluded that most of the research on gender and violence highlighted the issue of sexual violence against women and the advocacy to prevent it from recurring. This suggests that gendered violence is significant to consider in this region. It is depicted nicely in the book “Gender and Violence and Power in Indonesia”, which argues that the complexity of social and historical background leads to gendered violence.[20]



**FIGURE 6.** Salient Issue 2: Gender Equality in the Workplace and its related keywords  
(Source: Processed by Author, 2023)

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The figure above shows keyword networks regarding Gender equality in the workplace. The issue of inequality in the workplace takes many forms, such as unequal pay, disparity in promotion, incidents of sexual harassment and racism [21], [22]. Inequality in the workplace based on gender stands out as a hot topic of discussion among researchers about gender equality. In analysing this issue, the study uses ten keywords that include: (1) Gender equality, (2) Indonesia, (3) Women's status, (4) Gender relations, (5) Human rights, (6) Women's rights, (7) Social policy, (8) Public policy, (9) Economics, and (10) Policy. Although this issue has a wide range of keywords, the number of publications is still lower than gender and participation, which is 13 publications.



**FIGURE 7.** Salient Issue 3: Gender and Participation in the Public Sphere and its related keywords  
(Source: Processed by Author, 2023)

The third most salient research topic is women's participation in the public sphere, which is usually associated with elections and democracy. Boosting democracy requires women's participation and encourages women to participate in the parliament to represent women's interests actively.[23] The picture above shows us that the keyword gender and participation is quite dominant in publications related to elections and democracy. Most publications on gender participation mainly discuss gender quotas and women's representation in leadership and politics. While this issue has been the most published, the scope of discussion is still relatively narrow compared to gender and violence and gender equality in the workplace.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, three salient issues are the research trends about gender equality in Indonesia, namely (1) Gender and Violence, (2) Gender equality in the workplace, and (3) Gender and participation. From those issues, the author found that the issue of gender and participation is the most discussed, with 35 publications found over the span from 1998 to 2022, followed by gender equality in the workplace with 13 journals and nine publications for gender and violence. Based on these findings, the authors argue that gender and participation is considered the most prominent gender equality issue in Indonesia.

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