

## **Gender Issues in Student Scientific Papers: Study of Student Thesis of Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences UIN Syahada Padangsidempuan, Indonesia**



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**ABSTRACT:** Da'wah and gender research has been carried out before, but focusing on gender research and da'wah higher education is still very limited. This study aims to analyze the theme of gender in the thesis work of students of the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences, Sheikh Ali Hasan Addary State Islamic University, Padangsidempuan. The method used is a documentation study with a systematic literature review to analyze gender themes contained in student thesis documents. Documents used as data sources are limited to the period of publication years, starting from 2018 to 2022. The results found that gender issues are still very limited to student theses in the last five years. Analysis of 592 FDIK theses found that none of the theses used the word gender, only 18 theses used the word gender in the text, one thesis used gender as the main theory, and one other thesis contained gender as a sub-section of discussion. Varied gender terms are only found in theses that use gender theory. The dominant keywords as representations of gender themes are roles, wives, women, women, and adolescents. This study recommends to the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences to provide knowledge and skills that can build gender awareness for students, and direct student thesis research for gender issues.

**KEYWORDS:** Gender, Gender Responsiveness, Gender Thesis, Faculty of Da'wah

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Students became pioneers of the gender movement at the beginning of its emergence in the UK (Connolly, 2006). The opportunity to explore education is not simply ignored, but used by female students to voice women's rights that have been oppressed by systemic and organized. Religion and patriarchal culture are two aspects that strengthen male power, which gender activists focus on fighting. At the end of that struggle, religion and culture opened up to dialogue with feminism to build balanced power relations between men and women. In this transitional period, it is possible to build gender-responsive power structures (Braunger & Walk, 2022).

It is realized that the emergence of antigender groups in every sector is still found in the contemporary era. This group seeks to perpetuate male power on religious and cultural grounds. The same can be found in Islam which holds fast to the proposition "men are female leaders". Meanwhile, groups that oppose gender equality emerged from indigenous people. They hold the view that customs inherited by ancestors with a patriarchal system place men as the dominant power. Opposing positions between men and women often lead to problems, but gender understanding does not clash with the sexes. Gender does not always have to be contradicted, Masuda et al's research found that mixed gender (combined men and women) is superior to making proportional decisions compared to single gender (Masuda et al., 2022).

Gender issues have extended into many aspects of human life. Several studies have sought to link gender to food availability (Wolfram & Kienesberger, 2023), gender and forest management (Ville et al., 2023), gender and social tensions (Weaver & Karasz, 2022), gender and public transport safety (Sundling & Ceccato, 2022), aviation industry gender and work pressures (Smith et al., 2023), gender and online learning readiness (Scherer et al., 2023), and women's involvement in vulnerable jobs (Lo Bue et al., 2022). Research using a gender approach has expanded into the fields of gender and education (Li, 2023), gender and poverty (Chant, 2011), gender and media culture (Tanaka, 2004), gender and religious conversion (Van Nieuwkerk, 2006).

Gender research and research focus are one of the relevant articles to review (Rotz et al., 2022). Sarah Rotz et al found that grant-winning health researchers highlighted more data and numbers, but little attention to intersectionality, positioning, and reflection was still confusing. Pennington et al (2023) researched gender, demography, and survival and found that women who survive in areas that perpetuate male discrimination will experience deep discrimination and reduce women's survival at every stage, this is what Amartya Sen calls missing women.

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Research linking students to gender has been conducted before. The researcher's search for the word "student and gender" on Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.co.id>) found several focuses including student perceptions of gender, gender factors on student achievement, and the influence of gender on entrepreneurship. Gender has no influence on students' entrepreneurial interest (Muliadi, 2020; Trihudyatmanto, 2019), investment (Tandio & Widanaputra, 2016), tax evasion (Basri, 2015), learning achievements and social media use (Fitri & Chairael, 2019). However, some studies reveal that women are superior to men. Barnas and Ridwan (2019) found that female students are better than male students in terms of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors to maintain environmental cleanliness. In line with that, Yunita found that the financial literacy ability of female students is better than that of men so that financial management behavior is better (Yunita, 2020). Women's superiority in terms of gender is strengthened by Puspitawati's (2010) research focusing on students' perceptions of gender relations with domestic and public activities. The results found that women have more gender perspectives, women have flexible thinking that gender can be interchangeable between men and women.

The study tried to compare the superiority of men with women. Very few researchers refer to gender in the sense of power relations between men and women. One of the studies that focused on power relations was conducted by Fibrianto. As a result, gender inequality occurs in student organizations (ormawa), where men are more dominant than women, even the position of student organization leader is mandated to women (Fibrianto, 2016). Fibrianto's research led to an understanding of Indonesia's condition. Data shows that Indonesia is still classified as a country that is still low gender responsive. Statistics show that gender responsiveness only occupies 40-60 percent. The involvement of rural women in North Sumatra Province only reached 56.97 percent, especially village regulations related to gender, women's guarantees, violence against women, women's involvement in village organizations and deliberations (Kemendesa & PDTT, t.t.).

Data from digital observations conducted show that historical gender shows an inverse comparison with the achievements of the gender movement at the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences UIN Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidimpuan. Of the 596 student thesis titles, none of them used the word gender (UPT Library, t.t.). This indicates that the gender movement still receives low attention from students. Whereas on the other hand, students are agents who bring change to their society. It is supported that the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences as the faculty is most strengthened by social theories. Thus, the question that arises how gender issues become ignored by students in the faculty. This problem has intrigued the academic realm so it is important to conduct research on student works. The question is formulated as follows, how are the gender issues in the student thesis of the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences UIN Syahada Padangsidimpuan? In order for this research to focus, the following three aspects become specifications to be revealed, namely what gender trends are dominant discussed by students? What is the relationship between the gender issues studied? What are the implications for future research?

### **LITERATURE REVIEW: HISTORY OF THE GENDER MOVEMENT**

The feminist study of religion has a long and interesting history, starting from women's criticism of church authority in terms of access to church power and interpreting scripture (Connolly, 2006). Protests from nuns gained support from female students so that the movement continued to expand not only to religious authorities but to penetrate social, cultural, economic, and political aspects. The gender movement that began in the 19th century or 1853 AD from America continued to expand to Africa and England through student agencies and working-class women. In fact, Peter Connolly notes that Jarena Lee and Amanda Berry Smith are two prominent African American female pastors who constantly travel around preaching and carrying out clerical duties.

At the beginning of this gender movement, two theorists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Matilda Joslyn Gage produced two criticisms of the gospel. Gage mentions that the church's system of organized robbery of women is accused of taking away not only a woman's honor but all her personal rights. E.C. Stanton considered the foundations of evangelism in institutional religion to be the main cause of women's inferiority. Therefore, social and political progress will not be realized without the liberation of women from the domination of oppressive scriptural images.

Limitations of Gender Studies. Gender is also called feminism. Gender is closely related to the power structure between female and male agencies. Gender is cultural perceptions and expectations about what men and women should be (Connolly, 2006). Gender is not a single phenomenon but rather a broad spectrum politically and ideologically. Gender has a multidimensional meaning and is not limited to the position of women and men but rather sex differences with all aspects including actions, attitudes, efforts, and activities (Yaqinah, 2016). Gender as a form of rejection of various forms of personal, social, economic discrimination, in which women as parties suffer because of their sex. Simply put, gender can be defined as an ideology that opposes all forms of oppression against women, driven by cultural systems and religious beliefs. Gender is a power relationship between men and women, where the gender movement seeks to reinterpret the relationship between men and women, both in religious and cultural perspectives (Dianto, 2021).

Gender and Islam. Religion and feminism have a significant relationship, both giving the most profound meaning of identity and totality (Connolly, 2006). This feminism study is a critical study that seeks to see how the views between feminism and religion

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are compatible with humans. Transformative feminists struggle to reposition religious texts, central symbols, and rituals of religious traditions more precisely, so that women's religious experiences can be accommodated.

This gender movement has widened beyond religious and cultural boundaries. The critical tradition has grown germinated among Muslim thinkers. This also colors the history of Islam, where Muslim gender groups are also active in voicing for reinterpretation of sacred texts. At this limit it can still be agreed, that the interpretation of classical scholars is not part of scripture, which of course as a product of human endeavor / thought can still be reviewed. Thus, classical interpretations that are gender-biased and ignore women's rights can be discussed in their present context.

Reflecting on Musda, Mulia argued that Islam cares about justice and gender equality. The relationship between husband and wife can be likened to a pilot and co-pilot who always build egalitarian and comfortable communication. Even the concept of tawhid is interpreted as anti-discrimination against women because the religion brought by the Prophet Muhammad is very glorifying for women (Mulia, 2014a, 2014b). Women have a talent for parenting and have a tendency to deny themselves for the benefit of others, this illustrates the moral qualities of a woman. On that basis, the exclusion of women in political, international relations, and economic affairs cannot be justified. This gender movement is a scriptural mandate to abolish slavery, especially the enslavement of women. The world needs to establish a balance by placing equal relationships and balanced participation between men and women. The concept of Islam, women are present as companions who strengthen men. Women are not subordinates and slaves of men. In fact, women have a noble and special place especially in the context of devotion. The story of Maryam bint Imran, Aishia the wife of Pharaoh, Queen Bilqis of the Kingdom of Saba and Khadija is a tangible form of women's contribution to the world.

### METHOD

The method used in this study is library research with the type of Systematic Literature Review (SLR), where researchers want to compile systematically and in-depth empirical evidence that has been found and published by previous researchers to be used to provide a complete interpretation of the research results (Evans, t.t.; Peričić & Tanveer, t.t.). The main data is sourced from student thesis documents taken from the <http://etd.uinsyahada.ac.id/> data base, because student theses are stored digitally and open access. Initially, we did a whole search on the etheses of Sheikh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidempuan State Islamic University can be found 11 student thesis works displayed (<http://etd.uinsyahada.ac.id/>). Only 4 works came from the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences, while the other 4 works belonged to the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, as many as 2 works belonged to the Faculty of Sharia and Legal Sciences, and 1 other work belonged to the Postgraduate.

The search was expanded with other keywords, we conducted digital observation (searching) by purposive sampling, which was limited only to student theses of the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences (FDIK) UIN Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidempuan on March 6, 2023, and found FDIK student theses totaling 592 titles, consisting of 169 titles in the Islamic Broadcasting Communication (KPI) study program, 355 titles in the Islamic Counseling Guidance study program, 34 titles in the Islamic Community Development study program, and 34 titles in the Da'wah Management study program.

**Table 1. Number of Samples (<http://etd.uinsyahada.ac.id/view/divisions/FD>)**

| Number | Study Program | Number of Works each Year |      |      |      |      | Total |
|--------|---------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
|        |               | 2018                      | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |       |
| 1.     | KPI           | 17                        | 21   | 9    | 17   | 13   | 77    |
| 2.     | BKI           | 53                        | 54   | 52   | 60   | 37   | 256   |
| 3.     | PMI           | 4                         | 1    | 5    | 17   | 7    | 34    |
| 4.     | MD            | 2                         | 1    | 8    | 14   | 8    | 33    |
| TOTAL  |               |                           |      |      | 400  |      |       |

The SLR method is carried out in several stages, first establishing the population. The population in this SLR is 592 thesis titles. The second stage limits the time in which researchers only take theses published in the last five years, namely 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 as presented in table 1.

The third stage, examination of 400 student thesis titles was carried out using keywords: gender, bki, da'wah, women, women, muslimah, and gender. The results found 28 titles related to the words gender and woman. Manual careful examination was carried out on thesis documents, and it was found that 6 theses did not enter the sample criteria, namely 3 published theses before 2018, and 3 more theses belonging to other faculties (not FDIK), so that only 22 relevant theses were obtained. The fourth stage is a careful examination of 22 thesis titles. The examination includes titles, abstracts, and keywords so that several terms related to gender issues are found in the student's thesis.

**Table 2. Keywords in Student Thesis Title**

| Keywords for Gender Issues                            |  |
|---|--|
| Women's dual roles                                    | Working wife   |
| Domestic Violence                                     | Early marriage   |
| Children as victims of sexual abuse                   | Inmate prayers   |
| Adolescent Psychology                                 | Polygamy and family harmonization  |
| Teenagers addicted to online games                    | Promiscuity and early marriage   |
| Psychological impact of Single parent                 | Family conflicts   |
| Authoritarian parenting                               | Psychological impact of female smokers                                       |
| Post-flood psychological impact                       | Behavioristic adolescent prayer  |
| Religious and psychological conversion of adolescents | Symptoms of bipolar disorder   |
| Lonely elderly  | The psychology of the wife being left behind by the husband to earn a living |
| Santri stress   |  |

## RESEARCH RESULTS:

### Gender words with sentence forms

The word gender is not found in the title of the thesis of students of the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences UIN Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary since 2018-2022. However, gender theory is only used in Misbah Hurrahmah's thesis while Meilisya Sari Siregar only takes gender as one of the external factors that cause teenagers not to continue college. The word gender contained in 18 of the 22 selected theses can be found 70 times, with various forms (see table 4), and exceptions on the front page, footnote, and bibliography.

The presentation of data in table 3 provides an analysis that gender themes are generally only part of the explanation of other themes and do not provide special space to examine gender, except for Misbah and Meilisya's theses. Thesis that uses gender as the basis of theory can be found a greater and wider diversity of gender terms (see table 3 number 13).

**Table 3. Variation of the word gender in student thesis**

| Number | Author Name & Year               | Sentences & Pages   | Totals |
|--------|----------------------------------|---|--------|
| 1.     | Meilisya Sari Siregar (2018)     | Gender factor (p. 23); Gender term (p. 23); Gender and sex (p. 23); Gender constitutes (p. 23); The concept of gender (p. 24)   | 6      |
| 2.     | Fitri Melia (2018)               | Gendered roles (p. 26)  | 1      |
| 3.     | Ninni Adelina Pulungan (2018)    | Gender mainstreaming (p. 6); Gender justice (p. 34); Gender justice and gender mainstreaming (p. 35); Gender equality and justice (p. 47); Gender information (p. 50)   | 6      |
| 4.     | Nita Yulinda Sari Siregar (2018) | ...ethnicity, culture, history, gender, socioeconomics (p. 1)   | 1      |
| 5.     | Yuni Asnita (2019)               | ...like gender, intercultural conflict (p. 20)  | 1      |
| 6.     | Eka Nurul Fadilah (2019)         | Gender roles (p. 17)  | 1      |
| 7.     | Wisdalia Fitri (2020)            | Gender factor (p. 38); Gender roles (p. 38)   | 3      |
| 8.     | Sri Gusnayanti (2020)            | Gender-biased patriarchal society (p. 30)   | 1      |
| 9.     | Nova Harnika Siregar (2021)      | Gender roles (p. 3)   | 1      |
| 10.    | Nadya Safitri (2021)             | Age, class, status, and gender limits (p. 53)   | 1      |
| 11.    | Ahmad Yani Siregar (2021)        | Gender, psychological state (p. 39); Gender or sex (p. 39)  | 2      |
| 12.    | Sri Junita (2021)                | Gender and patriarchal factors (p. 26); Gender and patriarchy (p. 26); Gender bias (p. 73)  | 3      |
| 13.    | Misbah Hurrahmah (2021)          | Gender inequality (p. 2); Gender equality (p. 2); Gender discrimination (p. 2); Mental or gender perspective (p. 8); Gender relations (p. 10); Nurture gender theory (p. 11); The concept of gender (p. 15); Gender awareness (p. 15); Gender prejudice (p. 16); Gender balance (p. 23) | 38     |
| 14.    | Dwi Efriyana (2022)              | Understanding gender (p. 84)  | 1      |
| 15.    | Henni Rahma (2022)               | Gender equality (p. 35)   | 1      |
| 16.    | Ilham Yunus Simbolon (2022)      | Gender and age (p. 2)   | 1      |
| 17.    | Rahmi Onasis (2022)              | Gender mainstreaming (p. 20)  | 1      |

|               |                 |          |                         |           |
|---------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 18.           | Robiatin (2023) | Adawiyah | Gender equality (p. 29) | 1         |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |                 |          |                         | <b>70</b> |

**The dominant keyword about the theme of gender in the student thesis**

The dominant theme describes the focus of the problem studied by students. In this study, the dominant theme was developed on two forms of search, namely titles and keywords. This study only took the dominant word that presented gender issues and often appeared in student theses. The dominant words used in the title of the thesis of students who have been selected through the SLR method are role, wife, woman, woman, and adolescent (see table 4). The issue of Domestic Violence (KDRT) appears 3 times but is not included in table 4. The discussion of domestic violence is related to the role of community leaders and women's empowerment.

**Table 4. Keywords in Titles with gender implications**

| Number | Dominant theme | Total | Theme form  |
|--------|----------------|-------|---|
| 1      | Role           | 5     | Multiple roles women (1)<br>The role of public figures (2)<br>The role of child assistance (1)<br>The role of KUA (1) |
| 2      | Wife           | 3     | Working wife (1)<br>Conjugal relationship (1)<br>Psychological wife (1)   |
| 3      | Woman          | 3     | Multiple roles women (1)<br>Women empowerment (2)   |
| 4      | Female         | 1     | Female psychology   |
| 5      | Adolescent     | 7     | Adolescent Psychology (3)<br>Addicted teenagers<br>Adolescent behavior<br>Adolescent bipolar disorder                 |

**a. Role**

Gender-related role words are found in the theses of Misbah Hurrahmah, Siti Rohaya Rangkuti, Yayanti Mala Hasibuan, Sri Junita, Rahmi Onasis. Misbah Hurrahmah (2021) highlights people's perceptions of women's dual roles. Hurrahmah found three perceptions of society, namely positive, conditional, and conventional. Positive perception refers to the perception of society that views it as reasonable and supports the dual role of women. Conditional positive perception refers to the perception of a society that accepts the dual role of women but does not neglect its obligation to serve their husbands and educate children. Finally, conventional perception refers to negative perceptions of women's multiple roles, especially roles that bring slander, and neglect the household. Hurrahmah's findings on factors that influence the variety of people's perceptions include cultural, educational, and economic factors.

Siti Rohaya Rangkuti's (2016) research found that violence received by women is often triggered by pathological husbands, such as gambling, and the influence of liquor and third party influences. The forms of violence received by women also vary from beatings, threats, neglect, and arrest. Handling domestic violence issues carried out by community leaders such as mediation, arbitration, and conciliation. Rangkuti highlighted the gender understanding of society that favors male groups. Even though men and women, according to Rangkuti, have their own advantages and weaknesses. Sri Junita (2021) highlights the same problem in a different place from Rangkuti. However, Junita added focus to the obstacles in solving domestic violence cases. The assumption that spousal problems are private problems is not a general problem so that society does not naturally interfere. In addition, the problem of domestic violence is considered a common thing and not a criminal problem. This conventional understanding is an inhibiting factor for gender justice to be enforced at the Sri Junita research site.

Children are vulnerable to discrimination and gender violence from adults. Yayanti Mala Hasibuan (2017) highlights this issue but does not focus on child victims. Hasibuan focuses on mentoring activities and obstacles. Researchers did not touch on the psychological aspects of children as victims of sexual violence who experienced deep trauma.

Finally, the role of KUA (Office of Religious Affairs) to provide premarital guidance was examined by Rahmi Onasis (2022). This research is not directly related to gender issues. However, this research can be interpreted as a first step to build husband-wife understanding of gender equality in the household environment.



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### **b. Wife**

The word wife has a close relationship with gender issues. The wife is considered the opposite of the husband. Themes about wives in student theses include working wives, husband and wife relationships, and the psychology of wives who are left behind for a long time by husbands who earn a living. Working wives are the focus of Henni Rahma's thesis research (2022). The study did not highlight gender specifically but rather referred to the impact of working wives. Rahma's conclusion on the position of ambiguity between working or taking care of the household. Working wives tend to be neglected in their role of taking care of the household, but the family's economic income increases.

In contrast to Robiatin Adawiyah's thesis research (2023) which found that the occurrence of psychological disorders and social disorders for wives who are left by their husbands for a long time due to work outside the region, while the condition of the wife does not work. Fitri Melia's research mediates the research of Henni Rahma and Robiatin Adawiyah. Fitri Melia (2018) reveals the strategy of married couples in solving family problems. Problems that are present in the middle of the household, such as violence, economic problems, and child problems, can be solved by both parties (husband and wife). If the couple is unable to do so, then the husband and wife turn for help from other parties, such as family and government.

### **c. Women**

The research theme that uses the word woman in the selected thesis can be found in 3 student theses. The theme of women's dual roles as discussed in the role theme in the discussion of Misbah Hurrahmah's thesis. Meanwhile, the word other woman only refers to part of the name of the institution and has been discussed in Yayanti Mala Hasibuan's thesis. Different from the two theses, Ninni Adelina Pulungan (2018) focuses on handling domestic violence cases by P2TP3A institutions (Pusat Integrated Services for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection). P2TP3A conducts counseling and counseling processes but P2TP3A does not have professional counselors, even though P2TP3A has budget availability from the government for counseling and counseling activities.

### **d. Female**

Eka Nurul Fadilah (2019) focuses on research on the psychological impact of female smokers. The results found that female smokers were disliked by society and received social exclusion from society. Smoking is culturally negative by contemporary society. Some countries have issued strict rules in the use of tobacco. Smoking culture is free from gender bias, meaning that both men and female who smoke, get equal acceptance by society and equal treatment by cigarette regulations.

### **e. Adolescent**

The theme of adolescents became the dominant one in student thesis studies. The researchers' focus is adolescent psychology and adolescent behavior. The psychological aspects of adolescents were studied by Meilisyah Sari Siregar, Yusnizar, and Nova Harnika Siregar. Meanwhile, the theme of adolescent behavior was examined by Ahmad Yani Siregar, Sri Gusnayanti, Nita Yulinda Sari Siregar, and Ilham Yunus Simbolon.

Meilisyah Sari Siregar (2018) highlighted the psychological problems of adolescents who did not continue their studies showing negative development and as a trigger for the birth of deviant behavior. Yusnizar explores authoritarian parenting from parents to adolescent psychology. The results of Yusnizar's research (2021) found that authoritarian parenting has a negative psychological impact on adolescents. Nova Harnika Siregar discussed converting and found that teenagers who converted experienced psychological symptoms such as embarrassment and boredom.

Ahmad Yani Siregar (2021) researched adolescents who are addicted to online games, by providing self-management counseling services showing a positive trend towards changes in adolescent behavior, from those who behave rudely to change to behave politely and nobly. In line with that, Ilham Yunus Simbolon's (2022) research using cognitive behavioral therapy can gradually change adolescent behavior. The same thing was found by Nita Yulinda Sari Siregar (2018) that behavioristic theory succeeded in achieving action to change adolescent behavior, from previously not performing prayers to praying diligently.

Based on gender themes related to adolescents, only one thesis is indirectly related to gender issues, namely Sri Gusnayanti's thesis. Gusnayanti focuses on the social patterns of adolescents who tend to be free and have a significant contribution to the case of early marriage. Gusnayanti's research found that cases of early marriage in Mandailing Natal were caused by factors of pregnancy out of wedlock, and economic factors.

## **DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH RESULTS**

### **Synthetic analysis of student research results**

Women in this case become a weak and vulnerable group (Ro'fah et al., 2022). Women are trapped in helplessness both in the power relations between women as victims and men as perpetrators. The relationship inequality highlighted by students occurs in families, between husbands and wives, parents and adolescent girls. The variety of acts received by women includes violence, neglect, threats, social exclusion, discrimination, and immorality. However, the problems experienced by women have not received serious attention by da'wah scholars, especially FDIK UIN student Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidimpuan.

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FDIK students as a driving force and have a great contribution to encourage social change. This is supported by FDIK's status as a social science faculty that has a scientific base on Islamic values. Concern for humans is part of the vision of da'wah and one of the indicators of Islamic values. The weak, in this case women, are vulnerable, disadvantaged, and tend to be victims of oppression. Here the role of students, through the transfer of culture and knowledge, students have the power to change patriarchal culture (Putri, 2021). The wrong interpretation of cultural and religious doctrine, placing men as superior parties in all aspects, needs to be reviewed (Fajarini, 2017). Doctrines that prioritize fair conduct and humane behavior towards women must be the main proposition for building gender justice. Including the position of women as wives, the division of roles in a fair and responsible manner is fostered with clear commitment (Nurrahman, 2022).

The low attention of students to gender indicates the lack of student contribution to gender mainstreaming. The assumption is that there is a significant relationship between student comfort factors and the low attention of students to gender issues at the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences UIN Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidempuan. Analysis of observational data shows that female students are far more than men in the Da'wah Faculty. Hegemony of women so that they do not experience acts of gender discrimination. In this condition, human geography (Fajarini & Handayani, 2021) is fostered so that gender justice can be realized and supported by government policies that prevent gender violence within Islamic Religious Universities, Indonesia.

### **Implications for Practical: Gender Responsive Da'wah**

Gender studies and da'wah are still very limited, the author found very few in the Google Scholar data center. Da'wah and gender thinking (Haramain, 2019), media and gender da'wah (Dianto, 2021), political and gender da'wah (Hasanah, 2018), da'wah and gender methods (Hidayatullah & Himawanti, 2021), leadership and gender da'wah (Sa'diyah, 2008). Existing da'wah and gender research refers more to gender studies on da'wah as religious thought and practice, while existing research on this reader focuses on aspects of gender and da'wah as educational institutions.

Gender awareness is important to be fostered in students of the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences UIN Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidempuan. This gender issue is a global issue that needs to be responded by academics (lecturers, students, scholars) of the Faculty of Da'wah. Several lecturers at the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences UIN Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidempuan have started introducing gender issues. Reality proves that gender issues are of global concern because they are supported by scientific studies from universities and academic participation in practice (Connolly, 2006). Despite gender inequality in producing knowledge, female students must continue to make breakthroughs to fight against patriarchal domination, such as the feminist anti-violence movement in Latin America (Fahlberg et al., 2023). Female students can multiply critical research with a critical humanism approach (Ciszek et al., 2022) to illuminate the conquest and resistance of historically marginalized individuals and groups.

In line with that, practical benefits are understood that gender issues are one of the global issues that are the focus of the Islamic Community Development Study Program, Islamic Counseling Guidance, and Social Welfare. I think the Islamic Broadcasting Communication Study Program has a big contribution to building a gender-responsive da'wah discourse. Similarly, Da'wah Management is very necessary for institutional / institutional managerial skills. On that basis, FDIK as an institution providing higher education in the field of Da'wah Science is advised to take a role. FDIK forms and fosters NGOs (Non-governmental Organizations) that support student practices in the humanitarian and gender fields. NGOs become a forum for collaborative practices between professions in the field of da'wah.

### **Gender Research Agenda for the Future**

This research has found gender problems in the thesis work of FDIK UIN student Syekh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary Padangsidempuan. Gender discrimination is dominant in the family environment, when women carry out their roles as wives, girlfriends, and children. Working wives, single parent mothers, school dropouts, smoking women, wives who experience violence, threats, confinement, and neglect, and promiscuous adolescents are gender issues that have been discussed by students but only a small number use a gender perspective.

The main causes of this gender inequality are culture, education, and religious understanding. Cases related to gender issues are handled on a limited basis because there is no institution that focuses on protecting the occurrence of gender violence. Institutions such as P2TP3A still have limitations to handle and provide gender-based services. Gender information is still limited in the community so that sensitivity to gender issues (gender-aware society) is ignored. Community understanding of gender, institutions that will pursue gender services, and handling gender cases are some important themes for research. These identified gender issues can be packaged into important themes for future research.

## **CONCLUSION**

Environmental comfort has an influence on student attention, where the higher the level of environmental comfort, the lower students' attention to gender issues. This conclusion is based on an analysis of student research interest in gender issues, especially in thesis research, which is still very low at the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences, Sheikh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary

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State Islamic University Padangsidimpuan. Data from the last five years, from 2018 to 2022, shows that 529 theses have been completed but none of the student theses contain the word gender in the title. Only 22 theses have relevance to gender issues, 18 theses contain the word gender in the manuscript or thesis text, one thesis uses gender theory, and another thesis contains gender as a sub-section of discussion. This research is limited to documentation studies, while the direct response of students to gender issues at the Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences, Sheikh Ali Hasan Ahmad Addary State Islamic University Padangsidimpuan becomes a space for future research. This study recommends for stakeholders to build student gender awareness by opening special institutions that focus on gender mainstreaming.

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