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## SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND MAPPING OF THESES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ISLAMIC EDUCATION PROGRAM BASED ON ONTOLOGICAL, EPISTEMOLOGICAL, AND AXIOLOGICAL STUDIES

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**Abstract.** This research aims to systematically review and map theses within the Islamic education management program at State Islamic University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang focusing on study of ontological, epistemological and axiological conducted from 2015 to 2018. The study utilized a combination of Systematic Mapping (SM) and Systematic Literature Review (SLR) methodologies. The research categorizes the structural elements of published theses based on various criteria, including the trends, methodologies, specific emphasis on the integration Islamic principles into education management practices. The analysis revealed the following findings: The results highlight significant trends, revealing the predominant themes in theses research, a total of 263 theses were analyzed, covering 14 themes. Ontologically, this review and capture the Islamic principle shape the understanding of thesis themes. These themes were examined through the lens of educational management theory and Islamic principles, resulting in a scientific integration between Islamic theory and management of education. Epistemologically, knowledge in management of Islamic education is derived more from religious texts and traditions and contemporary education and management theories. As for research significant majority (93.4%) utilized qualitative research methods, with only 6.6% utilizing quantitative approaches. The research sites included schools, madrasas, Islamic boarding schools, universities, and government institutions. Axiologically, this study would focus on the values that underpin the practice of theses that have direct implications for the development of graduate profiles, including; the enhancement of management skills, deeper insights into educational challenges, curriculum innovation and improvement, the formulation of education policies, and the development of leadership competencies.

**Keyword.** Theses Mapping; Islamic Education Management; Ontological, Epistemological, Axiological

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**Abstract.** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meninjau secara sistematis dan memetakan skripsi program studi manajemen pendidikan Islam di Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang dengan fokus pada kajian ontologis, epistemologis, dan aksiologis yang dilakukan dari tahun 2015 hingga 2018. Studi ini menggunakan kombinasi metodologi Systematic Mapping (SM) dan Systematic Literature Review (SLR). Penelitian ini mengkategorikan elemen struktural dari skripsi yang dipublikasikan berdasarkan berbagai kriteria, termasuk trend penelitian, metodologi, dan penekanan khusus pada integrasi Islam dalam praktik manajemen pendidikan. Hasil analisis mengungkapkan temuan berikut: Tren penelitian secara signifikan mengungkapkan tema-tema dominan dalam penelitian skripsi, dengan total 263 skripsi yang dianalisis, mencakup 14 tema. Secara ontologis, studi ini menemukan prinsip-

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prinsip Islam dalam manajemen praktis di lembaga Pendidikan dan organisasi. Skripsi tersebut menganalisis melalui lensa teori manajemen pendidikan dan prinsip-prinsip Islam, menghasilkan integrasi ilmiah antara teori Islam dan manajemen pendidikan. Secara epistemologis, pengetahuan dalam manajemen pendidikan Islam lebih banyak berasal dari teks-teks agama dan tradisi Islam serta teori pendidikan dan manajemen kontemporer. Adapun dari segi metode penelitian, mayoritas (93,4%) menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif, dan hanya 6,6% yang menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif. Lokasi penelitian mencakup sekolah, madrasah, pesantren, universitas, dan lembaga pemerintah. Secara aksiologis, studi ini fokus pada nilai-nilai yang mendasari praktik penyusunan skripsi yang memiliki implikasi langsung terhadap pengembangan profil lulusan, termasuk; peningkatan keterampilan manajemen, Integrasi keilmuan Islam dan manajemen Pendidikan, wawasan yang lebih mendalam mengenai tantangan pendidikan, inovasi dan perbaikan kurikulum, perumusan kebijakan pendidikan, dan pengembangan kompetensi kepemimpinan.

**Kata Kunci.** Pemetaan Skripsi, Manajemen Pendidikan Islam, Ontologi, Epistemologi, Aksiologi



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## A. INTRODUCTION

Mapping student theses is a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of study program management (Syamsudduha, Yunus, & Rahman, 2020). Mapping student theses aims to see to what extent graduates' goals and profiles are achieved by looking at trends in students' research interest (Riyadi, Maulidah, & Nur, 2019). Apart from that, thesis mapping also functions to identify students' challenges and obstacles in preparing their final assignment. So the mapping results can be used to help make decisions in designing improvement strategies (Riyadi, 2014). The results of student thesis mapping also serve to understand educational policies and evaluate the implementation of these policies. Apart from the policy aspect, this mapping will influence the curriculum structure of the Islamic education management study program, as well as in-depth insights regarding the planning and implementation of the marketed curriculum. This can improve the quality and relevance of the curriculum to the needs of students and graduates.

In previous research, it was discussed regarding thesis mapping that had been carried out, research by Tian and Huber who reviewed 2,347 articles from 15 educational management journals, with the research results that educational management research from 2007 to 2016 could be classified into 5 themes, namely school leadership to improve student and teacher academic achievement, leadership for change, change and accountability and increasing democratic values, just leadership, equal education and narrowing the achievement gap, the impact of leadership on school progress, school climate and teacher stress (Tian & Huber, 2020). Study (Gümüş, Bellibaş, Gümüş, & Hallinger, 2020) which stated that from data from 313 Turkish student research manuscripts, the themes raised in articles published in internationally reputable journals were related to organizational behavior and school leadership. Philip Hallinger mapped research results from 1965 to 2018 by reviewing 1,171 research articles from 3 developing

regions in Asia, Africa and Latin America (Hallinger, 2020). In subsequent research, Hallinger concluded that there had been many changes in the database cited in educational leadership and management research. There are 4 main themes in educational management and leadership research, namely learning leadership, change leaders, teacher leaders and increasing school effectiveness (Hallinger & Kovačević, 2021).

There are several studies related to educational research mapping, both in management and leadership aspects in journals of international reputation and indexed by Scopus (Gaviria-Marin, Merigó, & Baier-Fuentes, 2019; Hallinger, 2018; Hallinger & Kovačević, 2019; Podsakoff, MacKenzie, Podsakoff, & Bachrach, 2008; Silva, Rodrigues, & Leal, 2020) Which maps the results of research on educational management and leadership studies, as well as changes in citations in writing educational management themes. Apart from this research, there is also research related to students' final assignments in the field of education, namely the final assignments of Islamic education students (Riyadi, 2014), mapping the final assignment of Ibtidaiyah Madrasah teacher education students at IAIN Ponorogo (Meista elva Wahyudhasari, 2019), analysis of research trends in the final assignment of Islamic education management master's students at UIN Alauddin Makassar (Syamsudduha dkk., 2020), research related to research trends in learning management innovation in Islamic Religious Education (Al Musafiri, 2022), bibliometric analysis of Islamic education management (Iriyani, Patty, Rahim, Awaliyah, & Ria, 2023).

Based on the research that has been carried out above, research related to mapping Islamic education management theses in terms of ontological, epistemological and axiological aspects has never been carried out. The aim of this research is to examine the thesis study area of Islamic education management students from the 2015 to 2018 class, based on ontological, epistemological and axiological studies and their relevance to scientific developments, graduate profiles and management studies from an Islamic perspective. It is hoped that the results of this research will be able to provide a basis for implementing management evaluation and development of Islamic education management study programs.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study, systematic mapping (SM) and systematic literature review (SLR) methodologies were combined and utilized. SM studies categorize the structure of published research and results, often providing a summary or map of the findings (Petersen et al., 2015). These studies generally require less effort and offer an overview of the research area (Kofod-Petersen, n.d.). Conversely, SLR studies synthesize results from studies relevant to specific research questions (Budgen et al., 2018). SLR is considered a secondary research method that employs a well-defined methodology to describe, analyze, and interpret all available evidence on a particular research question in an unbiased and reproducible manner (Kitchenham et al., 2009).

The objective of this study was to analyze Islamic Education Management theses concerning the integration of Islamic principles into educational management, utilizing the SM approach. These theses were examined based on year, study group, research methods, data collection tools, and integration models. Experimental studies were identified after presenting an overall view of the Islamic Education Management theses.

Theses focusing on the integration of Islamic principles into educational management, particularly those designed with an experimental method, were further analyzed using the SLR steps.

The SLR steps in this research are: 1) Data collection; collect Islamic Education Management's student theses since 2015-2018. 2) Sample selection; select thesis samples based on specific criteria, year, topics and Islamic integration. 3) Data analysis; Analyze data using quantitative and qualitative methods to identify the ontological, epistemological and axiological approaches. 4) Data mapping; use data analyses to map data and identify. 5) Literature review: conduct a literature review to understand the context and background of existing research. 6) Theory/proposition development; develop new theories based on findings from the mapping and literature review.

This analysis included examining the topics, integration models, dependent and independent variables, and findings in theses employing experimental designs. The search strategy, study selection, coding, and analysis stages are detailed in subsequent sections.

The search strategy involved selecting relevant keywords and a suitable database. The Management of Islamic Education Thesis Center database at the State Islamic University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang was chosen. The review focused on theses from 2015 to 2018 to capture the most recent trends. The subject "Management of Islamic Education" was selected, ensuring a focus on theses from the department of Islamic education management. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were then established to assess the eligibility of the theses for the research.

### C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There were 263 theses analyzed in this research, coming from 263 Islamic education management students from the 2015 to 2018 class. There were 38 student theses for the 2015 class, 74 for the 2016 class, 78 theses for the 2017 class, as shown in the following table:

Table 1. Thesis data for Islamic education management students

Class Year	Percentage	Amount
2015	14.50 %	38
2016	28.00 %	74
2017	29.70%	78
2018	27.80%	73

Research themes in 263 student theses can be ontologically grouped into 14 categories. The most frequent theme is leadership, with 48 theses, accounting for 18.2% of the total. This high percentage aligns well with the graduate profile of the Islamic education management study program, which prepares students for leadership roles. The second most common theme is infrastructure management, covered in 36 theses or 13.69%. Public relations management and curriculum management are the third most popular topics, each discussed in 28 theses or 10.65% of the total. Many students focus on curriculum management in both formal and non-formal educational settings, such as Islamic boarding schools. The fifth most common theme, Management Information Systems (MIS), appears in 20 theses, representing 7.6% of the total. The sixth most

frequent theme is student management, covered in 18 theses. Marketing management ranks seventh, with 16 theses. In eighth place is school/ madrasah culture, with 15 theses, representing 5.7%. Human resources management ranks ninth, with 14 theses. Supervision is in tenth place, with 13 theses. Eleven theses, or 4.1%, discuss financial management, while 10 theses focus on quality management. Educational policy is addressed in four theses, placing it in the thirteenth spot, and the least common theme is classroom management, with just two theses.

Table 2. Islamic education management thesis themes

Variables	Percentage	Amount
Leadership	18.20%	48
Infrastructure Management	13.60%	36
Public Relations Management	10.65%	28
Curriculum Management	10.65%	28
Management information System	7.60%	20
Student Management	6.80%	18
Marketing Management	6.00%	16
School Culture	5.70%	15
Human Resource Management	5.30%	14
Supervision	4.90%	13
School Financing Management	4.10%	11
Quality management	3.80%	10
Education policy	1.50%	4
Classroom Management	0.70%	2

As for epistemological or research methods used, there are 2 methods, that's qualitative methods with 246 theses or reaching 93.40% and quantitative methods with 17 theses or 6.60%. For student research locations, there are 6 classifications, namely elementary school or MI, there are 17%, middle and high school levels, SMP and SMA or MTs and MA, there are 66.4%, research conducted in universities reaches 1.7%, research in Islamic boarding schools amounted to 12.4% and in government agencies as much as 2.5%.

Axiologically, the objectives of Islamic education management students' thesis include increasing students' managerial and leadership skills and competencies. These include developing managerial skills in managing business and educational organizations, in-depth understanding of educational challenges and the latest issues in educational management as well as finding effective and efficient solutions. By writing a thesis, students will also understand innovation and improvement of the school curriculum, apart from that, by writing a thesis Students also understand the process of formulating educational policies and evaluating work programs, thereby helping students understand the decision-making process and formulating policies that support the improvement of the education system. Students also develop competencies and leadership skills that are effective in changing educational development.

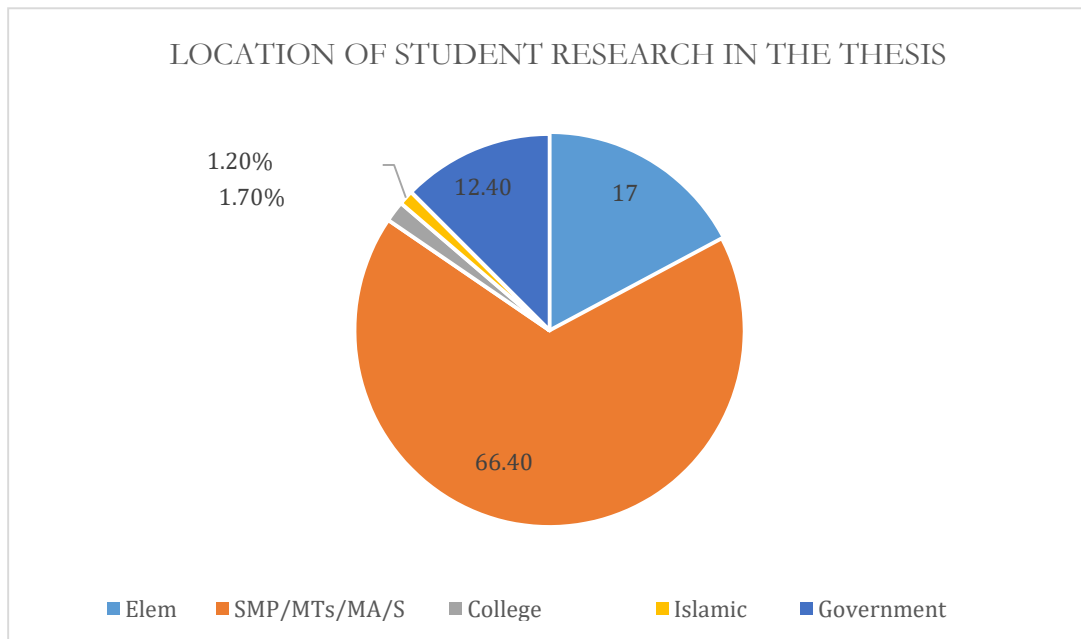


Figure 1. Diagram of research locations student theses

Thus, the task of writing a thesis is not just an ordinary academic task, but is also an opportunity to produce knowledge, competencies and skills which are relevant opportunities to contribute to the management of organizations and schools. By connecting the thesis study with the needs and expectations of the profile of Islamic education management graduates, the Islamic education management study program can ensure graduates are ready to face real world challenges in the field of Islamic education management. In general, student theses also have axiological value in contributing to academic knowledge, descriptions of the practical implementation of educational management, contributions to community empowerment, development of theories and methods, providing inspiration for future researchers, development of Islamic education management curricula, contributions to educational institutions and student career opportunities.

## Discussion

### Ontological Study of Islamic Education Management Students' Thesis

Based on research results from 263 theses, there are 14 research themes. Ontologically, the area of study of educational management is multidisciplinary, namely the relationship between educational management and Islam, or management and Islamic education. Ontology itself is the principle of determining objects and areas of study, including concrete, abstract and symbolic reality (Rahardjo, 2017). The 14 study themes in Islamic education management students' theses are an integration of educational management studies integrated with Islamic studies. And some of these theses examine management themes within the scope of Islamic education such as in Islamic boarding schools or madrasas.

Such as research on the theme of school leadership by Kamal (2020) Islamic education management students class of 2016 who studied the leadership of school principals in carrying out the role of supervision and assessing teachers in schools were integrated and analyzed using Islamic studies from Surah al Kahf regarding the concept

of assessment. Thesis written by Katon Dwi Kartika (2022) 2018 education management student who discussed public relations management in improving the image of schools, in discussion researcher integrated Islamic concepts using several verses of the Quran, such as the concept of communication in Ali Imron's verses 159 and patterns of building good relationships in Quran chapter Ali Imron 103. Another thesis was written by Ianatut Tazkiyah (2022) Islamic education management student class of 2017 who analyzed curriculum development in schools using the concepts in Quran Chapter Al Alaq.

The study concept in the student's thesis always uses the integration of Islamic scholars in the literature review and analysis. Of the 14 themes that are the subject of student discussion, there is always an integration of Islam, whether using the Quran, Hadith, the thoughts of Salaf scholars and contemporary scholars. The integration of Islam in student research includes the implementation of the policy of an integrated curriculum between Science and Religion (Ali, 2020). This policy has an impact on developing student competencies and skills related to Islamic education management, both in the context of educational management in Islamic concepts and management in Islamic education.

As for the study themes in 263 students' theses, the highest was the theme of leadership both in Islamic educational institutions and in government agencies. In educational leadership and management research between 2007 and 2016, the theme of leadership was also discussed the most (Tian & Huber, 2020). Research related to responsible management education (Responsible Management Education) or RME also maps that leadership is an important aspect in the study of educational management (Storey, Killian, & O'Regan, 2017). In educational institutions, leadership plays a crucial role. School principals have an important role in carrying out various innovations and creating a good learning ecosystem (Ma'rifatul Hasanah & Sani Supriyanto, 2023). Leaders of educational institutions also have an important role in realizing educational change for the better (Walid & Uyun, 2020). Leaders of educational institutions have an important role, including in building students' entrepreneurial spirit (Amin Nur & Yaqien, 2016). Leadership is able to increase school excellence and advance the school from various aspects.

The second theme most discussed by students in their theses is related to infrastructure management. From several theses that discuss the management of infrastructure, students discuss 3 things, planning, procurement of infrastructure and utilization of infrastructure. (Izzati, 2020). Other research related to infrastructure focuses on the condition of infrastructure in schools and their influence on learning (Rahmantio, 2020). In addition, in line with the thesis theme of leadership, the thesis with the theme of infrastructure integrates Islamic theory in the literature review and analysis of research results. (Izzati, 2020). This integration of Islamic theory with educational management theory is a characteristic feature in Islamic education management students' theses at UIN Malang.

Public relations management theme researched by 28 students. Public relations management is part of the theme of Islamic education management that discusses how to establish harmonious relationships with society because good relationships with society will give rise to strong trust in educational institutions and function in advancing educational institutions. (Hakim, 2019). Student theses related to public relations management generally examine the role of public relations management in improving

the image of institutions and in their studies include scientific integration. As in Katon Dwi Kartika's thesis which examines public relations strategies in improving the image of institutions with analysis using the concept of public relations in Islam (Kartika, 2022). As for theses on curriculum management were 28, or 10.5% of the 263 existing theses. In discussions related to the curriculum, students also use scientific integration, discussing the relationship between the curriculum and student learning outcomes. Apart from planning curriculum implementation and evaluating curriculum development, students also discuss extracurricular programs in developing students' talents, interests and positive behavior.

The next discussion is related to the theme of management information systems in both madrasa, Islamic boarding schools and universities. Research on information management systems is to understand the effectiveness and efficiency of office administration operations in educational institutions (Almaziyyah, 2019). With a good information system, schools and madrasas can improve services to stakeholders. Excellent service is an advantage for schools and is an indicator of school quality (Yaqien, 2017). The research theme in the next student thesis is student management, namely managing students from the moment they enter school until they graduate. Studies related to student management mostly discuss the development of students' talents and interests in both academic and non-academic aspects. Teachers are expected to be able to understand children's learning styles and learning modalities so that they can provide solutions to academic and non-academic problems.

The research themes in these are related to educational marketing, there are 16 theses that discuss educational marketing, both digital and conventional marketing. Marketing in the world of education functions to introduce schools to the community so that people know the advantages of schools in various ways, using marketing mixes and various types of promotions (A'yunina, 2023). Apart from using a marketing mix, there is also several research related to branding of educational institutions. Branding itself is part of marketing, namely an effort to build good positioning, the image of the institution and introduce the institution to stakeholders (Ma'rifatul Hasanah, 2017). The next theme is related to school culture, organizational culture is the core of the organization, interpreted as a system of meaning held by members, which is able to differentiate one organization from another organization (Robbins & Judge, 2013). In an educational context, this organization is a school. The thesis related to school culture discusses how to create a superior school culture, starting from planning, and implementation to evaluation.

The theme of human resource management in schools and Islamic boarding schools includes management of teaching and educational staff. Includes planning, selection, self-development, performance appraisal, conflict management and resolution. The theme of supervision examines the implementation of supervision activities in schools, the problems faced and the impact of supervision in improving the quality of education. For the theme of financing management, the scope of discussion includes planning, implementation and evaluation of financing and financing concepts in Islam as well as the use of ICT in financing management (Tarwiyatin, 2016). There are 10 theses on the theme of school quality management, quality management is a crucial part of efforts to improve school quality (Yaqien, 2021), the discussion related to quality management in the thesis includes the preparation of vision and mission, performance



assessment, evaluation, school accreditation, school certification and school quality assurance.

The theme of the 13th thesis is education policy; there are four theses, which contain education policy. Thesis related to education policy contains material analyzing education laws, regulations, decisions and steps taken by the government in guiding the education system in a country or region. Moreover, the final theme studied in the thesis is classroom management, containing planning, implementation and problems in classroom management.

### **Epistemological Study of Islamic Education Management Thesis**

Epistemology is a branch of philosophy that discusses sources of knowledge, tools for achieving knowledge, methods for achieving knowledge, limits of knowledge (Junaedi, H. M., & Wijaya, 2020). Epistemologically, Islamic education management students' theses involve exploration of basic knowledge, philosophy and methodology so that they become the basis for concepts and research frameworks. In terms of basic concepts of knowledge and philosophy, the student's thesis uses Islamic epistemology as one of the tools of analysis using the Quran, hadith and the thoughts of ulama. As in a student's thesis (Almaziyyah, 2019; A'yunina, 2023; Hakim, 2019; Izzati, 2020; Kamal, 2020; Kartika, 2022; Sabrifha, 2022; Tarwiyatin, 2016; Tazkiyah, 2022) and several other theses which also use Naqli's postulates apart from Aqli's postulates (educational management theory)

In terms of research methods, 93.4% of students tend to use qualitative research methods and 6.6% of theses use quantitative methods. The choice of method in research is based on the phenomenon to be studied (Strauss & Corbin, 1994). Relevance between research objectives and appropriate data collection methods and techniques. In general, the qualitative research method in a student's thesis is to research case studies related to either the leadership or managerial theme of educational institutions or government agencies. Meanwhile, quantitative research, by definition, is a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, used to examine populations or samples, collect data using research instruments, analyze quantitative statistical data with the aim of testing theory. (Sugiyono, 2013). Student theses examine the influence of the use of a particular theory or media on improving education, so students use a quantitative approach.

There are five locations for student research in the thesis, that schools, madrasas, Islamic boarding schools, universities and government agencies. In qualitative research, location is a part that must be mentioned in full. The research location is the place where the research is carried out. By determining the research location, it means that the object and objectives have been determined, making it easier for researchers to carry out research (Arikunto, 2014). As for quantitative research, the selection of research locations is based on the needs of the population and the appropriate sample or research object.

### **Axiological Study of Islamic Education Management Thesis**

The axiological study of Islamic education management students' thesis at UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang includes the benefits and objectives of writing the thesis and the important values resulting from writing it. The thesis is not only an academic assignment and a graduation requirement, but there are several benefits including: skills in aspects management, leadership, feedback for the institutions studied to develop

innovation, school management policies, curriculum innovation, solutions to problems and challenges faced. Apart from that, the results of this research also make students have superior skills and competencies according to the theme chosen.

The results of Didin Sirojudin's research stated that from Islamic education management research, there are several important values, that the values of *ihsan*, *rahmatan lil alamin*, leadership, and orientation for the afterlife (Sirojudin & Ashoumi, 2020). The values contained in the results of this research are that Islamic education management still has strong and inherent religious values. Axiological, the value contained in the student's thesis writing must also have relevance to the profile of graduates of the Islamic education management study program, relevance to the needs of society in aspects of Islamic education management, and in accordance with Islamic values.

There are 4 profiles of graduates of the Islamic education management study program at UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, education staff, teachers, managers and edupreneurs. Based on 14 themes from 263 student theses, the relevance between theses and graduate profiles is very strong. For example, for the profile of educational staff graduates, there are main themes such as management information systems, infrastructure management, financing management and other relevant themes. For the graduate educator profile, there are themes of curriculum management, classroom management, student management, quality management. For the profile of manager graduates, there are themes of leadership, public relations management, HR management, quality management, supervision, education policy, school culture. For the graduate profile as an edupreneur, there are themes of educational marketing, leadership, HR management, financing, and several other appropriate themes.

Another benefit of an Islamic education management student thesis is that it contributes to academic knowledge, especially regarding the management of Islamic education (Syamsudduha dkk., 2020), practical implementation in educational management (Hakim, 2019), empowerment, community development of curriculum and learning in schools, Islamic boarding schools and madrasas to make them more organized, interactive and enjoyable, development of Islamic education management theories and methods, student self-development, student career development. Choosing a thesis topic allows for increased career opportunities, with a quality thesis career opportunities open up because students have in-depth knowledge regarding various issues and challenges that must be addressed. Through research in the field of Islamic education management, students have great potential to make crucial contributions to society, especially managers of Islamic education institutions.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

Ontologically, the thesis mapping of Islamic education management at UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang is a multidisciplinary study, namely the integration of two main studies of educational management with Islamic theory. There are 14 research themes including leadership, infrastructure management, public relations management, curriculum management, management information systems, quality management, class management, student management, marketing management, school culture, Human Resources management, financing and supervision, education policy and class management. Each theme presents a recent issue accompanied by implementation at the

research site and analyzed using management theory and Islamic theory. Scientific integration is an inherent characteristic of student theses. Epistemologically, the method used is 93.40% of theses using qualitative methods and 6.60% using quantitative methods with research locations including schools and madrasas, Islamic boarding schools, universities and government agencies. The student's thesis uses Islamic epistemology, which originates from revelation and reason. As for axiological, an Islamic education management thesis is an academic task and strengthens students' managerial and leadership competencies and skills, understanding the latest issues, challenges and problems in managing Islamic education. This research still focuses on mapping Islamic education management students' theses, further studies are especially related to the implications for learning innovation, curriculum development in the Islamic education management study program and strategies for strengthening students based on the results of the thesis mapping which are important things to study in further research. It is recommended that future researchers expand the scope of study by involving more educational institutions to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the Islamic management education thesis.

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