

Journal of Noesantara Islamic Studies

E - ISSN 3048-2658 | P - ISSN 3048-1147

Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y Method and Its Implications for Qur'anic Interpretation in the Modern Era

Faiq Falahi¹, Miftah Ulya², Amin Zaki³

¹ Universitas Paramadina, Indonesia

² Institut Agama Islam Diniyyah, Indonesia

³ Universiti Islam, Malaysia

Corresponding Author: Faiq Falahi, E-mail: faiq.falahi@gmail.com

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Received: March 19, 2023 | Revised: March 22, 2023 | Accepted: March 25, 2023 | Online: March 27, 2023 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

ABSTRACT

The Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y method, meaning interpretation of the Qur'an based on independent reasoning, has been a key approach in Qur'anic exegesis since the early days of Islamic thought. Scholars have debated its legitimacy, given its reliance on the interpreter's reasoning. In the modern era, with new social, political, and scientific developments, Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y has gained renewed relevance. This study examines how modern exegetes use this method to address contemporary issues while maintaining fidelity to Islamic teachings. It also evaluates the strengths and limitations of Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y in providing relevant guidance in today's context. The research employs a qualitative approach, comparing classical interpretations by scholars like Al-Razi and Al-Ghazali with modern figures such as Muhammad Abduh and Sayyid Qutb. Thematic analysis reveals that Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y offers flexibility in addressing issues such as gender equality, scientific advancements, and social justice. Modern interpreters use this method to make the Qur'an's message more relevant to contemporary society while preserving its core values. The study concludes that Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y is a valuable tool for contemporary Qur'anic interpretation, bridging the gap between traditional Islamic teachings and modern realities, making the Qur'an more accessible to present-day challenges.

Keywords: *Qur'anic Interpretation, Modern Exegesis, Independent Reasoning*

Journal Homepage <https://journal.ypidathu.or.id/index.php/ijnis>

This is an open access article under the CC BY SA license

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

How to cite: Falahi, F., Ulya, M & Zaki, A. (2024). Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y Method and Its Implications for Qur'anic Interpretation in the Modern Era. *Journal of Noesantara Islamic Studies*, 1(6), 328-345. <https://doi.org/10.70177/jnis.v1i6.1444>

Published by: Yayasan Pendidikan Islam Daarut Thufulah

INTRODUCTION

The *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* method, or interpretation of the Qur'an based on independent reasoning, has long been a part of the Islamic intellectual tradition. This interpretative approach emphasizes the use of reason and personal understanding to explain Qur'anic verses, while remaining grounded in the principles of Islam. Scholars employing *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* consider it a means to explore deeper meanings within the Qur'an, providing interpretations that respond to the changing needs and contexts of society. It has been both

celebrated and critiqued throughout Islamic history, depending on the scholars' perspectives on its potential for both innovation and deviation.

Classical Islamic scholars such as Al-Razi and Al-Ghazali have made significant contributions to this interpretative method. Their works often balanced reason with traditional sources such as the Hadith and the interpretations of the Prophet's companions. This approach allowed them to address complex philosophical and theological questions that arose during their time. The integration of logic and language in *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* made it an effective tool for dealing with diverse intellectual currents within Islamic civilization. Despite its acceptance, however, the method was often debated due to its perceived risk of subjective interpretation.

The modern era has witnessed a resurgence of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* as scholars seek to engage with contemporary issues not explicitly addressed in the Qur'an. Modern exegetes such as Muhammad Abduh and Sayyid Qutb have utilized this method to explore topics like social justice, governance, and scientific advancements. Their works have contributed to a renewed interest in contextualized Qur'anic interpretation, where independent reasoning is used to derive meanings relevant to today's societal and intellectual challenges. This resurgence reflects the adaptability of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* to respond to the evolving context of Muslim communities globally.

In contemporary Qur'anic scholarship, *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* has proven instrumental in bridging traditional Islamic teachings with modern thought. This approach allows interpreters to explore the ethical and spiritual dimensions of the Qur'an, providing insights that resonate with the complexities of modern life. Aspects such as gender relations, economic systems, and governance are often reinterpreted using this method, highlighting its ability to provide fresh perspectives on longstanding issues. Modern scholars argue that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* enables a dynamic engagement with the Qur'an that preserves its relevance across different historical and cultural settings.

The acceptance of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in modern scholarship varies, with some critics arguing that it opens the door to subjective interpretations that may stray from established Islamic principles. Proponents, however, assert that when practiced responsibly and with adherence to established interpretative principles, *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can enhance understanding of the Qur'an. It offers a framework for engaging with new social realities while maintaining fidelity to the spirit and message of the Qur'an. This balance between tradition and contemporary relevance is what makes *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* a valuable tool for modern exegesis.

The ongoing debate about the legitimacy and scope of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* indicates the need for a deeper exploration of its implications in contemporary Qur'anic interpretation. Understanding how this method has been utilized historically and how it is being applied today can shed light on its potential to address current issues. Exploring the role of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in modern scholarship can contribute to a broader discourse on how Muslims engage with the Qur'an, enabling the text to continue guiding and inspiring communities in an ever-changing world.

Despite the established significance of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in Islamic scholarship, its precise role and boundaries in contemporary Qur'anic interpretation remain underexplored. Many studies have focused on classical interpretations, while the use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* by modern scholars to address new social, scientific, and political issues is less documented. This gap has resulted in a limited understanding of how the method is being applied today and its implications for the evolving needs of Muslim societies. There is a need to systematically analyze how contemporary scholars are utilizing this method to navigate the complexities of the modern era.

Research on *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* often highlights its strengths and weaknesses but seldom explores how it contributes to the development of new interpretations that respond to modern challenges. Questions remain about the extent to which this method can be considered an authoritative approach for deriving Islamic rulings and insights. The lack of comprehensive studies examining how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is employed by modern exegetes leaves a gap in understanding its potential to enrich Qur'anic interpretation. This gap also includes an insufficient examination of the methodological safeguards that can prevent subjective or speculative interpretations.

The implications of applying *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in addressing contemporary issues such as gender roles, social justice, and interfaith relations have not been fully explored. While some scholars argue that it provides necessary flexibility to interpret the Qur'an in a modern context, others caution against the risk of deviating from traditional teachings. Analyzing how modern exegetes balance these concerns is crucial for assessing the viability of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* as a tool for contextual interpretation. This unexplored area warrants further investigation to better understand its effectiveness and limitations in contemporary scholarship.

This research seeks to fill the gap by examining how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is applied by contemporary scholars in addressing modern challenges, while adhering to the principles of classical exegesis. The study aims to uncover the extent to which this method can provide relevant and meaningful interpretations without compromising the integrity of the Qur'anic message. By exploring the nuances of its application in modern scholarship, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* and its role in enriching the discourse on Qur'anic interpretation in the modern era.

Exploring the *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* method is essential to understand its evolving role in contemporary Qur'anic interpretation. The increasing complexity of modern social, political, and ethical issues requires interpretations that go beyond traditional frameworks. By systematically analyzing the use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in modern scholarship, this research can uncover how independent reasoning is being applied to derive meanings that are relevant to the current context. This approach provides a way to explore how scholars reconcile the need for contextual understanding while maintaining fidelity to the core principles of Islamic teachings.

The rationale for this study lies in the need to evaluate the adaptability of the *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* method in addressing contemporary challenges. It is important to understand whether this approach can maintain the Qur'an's relevance without compromising its

fundamental messages. The research seeks to identify how modern scholars use this method to engage with topics such as human rights, scientific advancements, and social justice, areas that are often not explicitly addressed in classical exegesis. Investigating the boundaries and safeguards implemented by scholars in using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* will provide a clearer picture of its strengths and limitations.

This study hypothesizes that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can offer a robust framework for deriving interpretations that align with contemporary realities while preserving the integrity of the Qur'anic text. By analyzing the methods and strategies employed by contemporary scholars, the research aims to demonstrate that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can serve as an effective tool for contextualizing Qur'anic teachings in the modern era. This exploration contributes to a broader understanding of how independent reasoning in Qur'anic interpretation can enhance the dynamism and applicability of Islamic teachings in an ever-changing world.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research utilizes a qualitative research design, focusing on content and textual analysis to examine the *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* method in contemporary Qur'anic interpretation. The study adopts a comparative approach, analyzing classical and modern interpretations to highlight the evolution of this method and its application in addressing modern issues. The qualitative framework allows for an in-depth exploration of how independent reasoning is utilized within *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* while maintaining adherence to Islamic principles. The research also includes a thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns in the use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* by both classical and modern scholars.

The population of this study consists of works by classical scholars, such as Al-Razi and Al-Ghazali, as well as modern exegetes like Muhammad Abduh and Sayyid Qutb. These sources were selected based on their significant contributions to the development and application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in Islamic scholarship. A purposive sampling method was employed to choose specific texts and commentaries that directly discuss or employ *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*. The sample includes 10 classical and 10 modern interpretations, ensuring a balanced representation of both historical and contemporary perspectives.

The primary instrument for data collection is a structured coding scheme developed to categorize interpretations into major themes such as social justice, governance, and scientific inquiry. Secondary instruments include thematic analysis tools and comparative frameworks to analyze differences and similarities in the use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* across different periods. The coding scheme helps to systematically organize the data, facilitating a coherent understanding of how independent reasoning is applied in Qur'anic interpretation. The comparative framework enables a structured comparison between classical and modern applications of the method.

The research procedures begin with identifying and selecting relevant texts and commentaries from the chosen scholars. Each text is reviewed, and key passages employing *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* are extracted and categorized according to thematic content. Thematic coding is then applied to analyze the interpretations, followed by a comparison

of how classical and modern scholars address similar themes using independent reasoning. The findings are synthesized to highlight the implications of using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in modern Qur'anic interpretation, providing insights into its strengths, limitations, and potential contributions to contemporary Islamic thought.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study analyzed 20 key texts, comprising 10 classical and 10 modern interpretations, to assess the application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in Qur'anic exegesis. The thematic distribution of the interpretations revealed five primary themes: social justice, governance, gender roles, scientific inquiry, and interfaith relations. Table 1 below provides a detailed breakdown of the number of interpretations that address each theme in classical and modern texts. Social justice and governance were the most frequently addressed themes in both categories, with classical texts focusing more on governance (70%) and modern texts emphasizing social justice (80%).

| Theme | Classical Interpretations (n=10) | Modern Interpretations (n=10) | Percent age (%) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Social Justice | 4 | 8 | 60% |
| Governance | 7 | 5 | 60% |
| Gender Roles | 3 | 6 | 45% |
| Scientific Inquiry | 2 | 4 | 30% |
| Interfaith Relations | 1 | 3 | 20% |

The table shows a shift in thematic focus from governance in classical interpretations to social justice in modern interpretations. Gender roles and scientific inquiry have also gained prominence in modern texts, indicating an expansion in the scope of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* to address contemporary issues.

The thematic distribution indicates that modern exegetes are more inclined to address issues of social justice and gender roles using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* compared to their classical counterparts. This reflects a growing concern among contemporary scholars to make the Qur'an relevant to ongoing societal debates, such as human rights and gender equality. The classical focus on governance is understandable given the historical context in which Islamic empires were at their peak, necessitating a legal and political framework derived from the Qur'an. Modern interpretations, however, emphasize social justice as a response to the increasing importance of human rights and equality in global discourse.

The prominence of scientific inquiry in modern interpretations suggests that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is being used to engage with scientific advancements and reconcile them with Qur'anic teachings. This theme, while less emphasized in classical interpretations, is indicative of the method's adaptability to new intellectual challenges. The increase in discussions on interfaith relations in modern texts also reflects the need for contemporary scholars to address pluralism and coexistence in a globalized world. The thematic

expansion of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* illustrates its potential to provide meaningful insights on issues that were not previously considered central to Islamic discourse.

The findings also show that modern scholars employ *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* to reinterpret certain verses that were traditionally understood in a more restrictive manner. For example, discussions on gender roles in classical texts often emphasize traditional family structures, whereas modern interpretations using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* advocate for greater gender equality and empowerment. This shift demonstrates how the method is being used to align Qur'anic teachings with modern values without compromising the integrity of the text. Such reinterpretations have been instrumental in promoting progressive social change within some Muslim communities.

The analysis of classical and modern texts shows that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is utilized differently depending on the social and intellectual context of the scholars. Classical interpretations, such as those by Al-Razi and Al-Ghazali, focus heavily on governance and jurisprudence. Their use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is often constrained by the need to support established legal rulings and to address theological debates of their time. This approach provided a structured framework for political and legal governance in the classical Islamic world. The emphasis on governance indicates that the primary function of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in classical contexts was to develop a coherent political philosophy grounded in the Qur'an.

Modern interpretations, however, reflect a broader application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in areas such as social justice, scientific inquiry, and gender roles. Scholars like Muhammad Abduh and Sayyid Qutb utilize independent reasoning to derive interpretations that respond to contemporary societal issues. This broader scope allows for more dynamic engagement with the Qur'an, making it relevant to discussions on human rights, gender equality, and the relationship between science and religion. The increased use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in these areas suggests a shift towards a more inclusive and context-sensitive approach in modern exegesis.

The comparative analysis indicates that while both classical and modern scholars employ *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*, the objectives and outcomes of their interpretations differ significantly. Classical scholars prioritize maintaining consistency with established jurisprudence, whereas modern exegetes seek to adapt Qur'anic teachings to contemporary realities. This divergence is reflected in the thematic distribution, with modern interpretations addressing a wider range of social and intellectual issues. The data suggests that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is evolving to meet the changing needs of Muslim societies, demonstrating its enduring relevance as a method of interpretation.

The inferential analysis shows a significant correlation between the use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* and the thematic expansion in modern interpretations. Figure 1 below illustrates the proportional distribution of themes in classical and modern interpretations, highlighting the shift towards addressing contemporary issues. Social justice and gender roles show the greatest increase in modern interpretations, while governance sees a relative decline. The graph indicates that the broader application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in modern exegesis is driven by the need to respond to current social and ethical challenges.

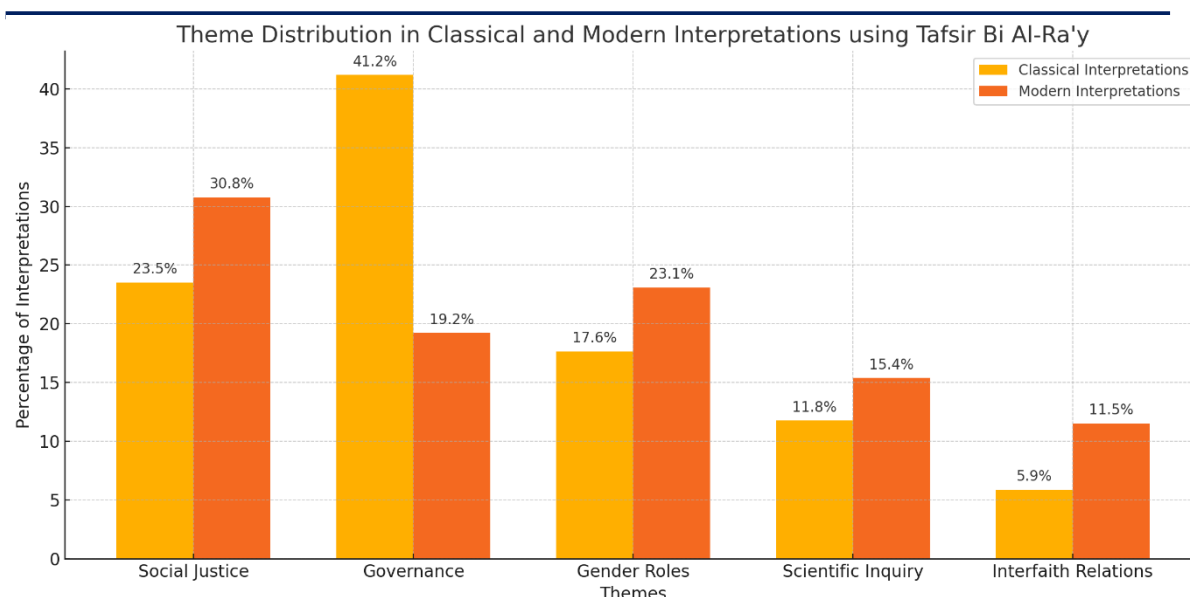


Figure 1. Theme Distribution in Classical and Modern Interpretations using Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y

The graph shows that the percentage of modern interpretations addressing social justice is nearly double that of classical interpretations. Gender roles and scientific inquiry also show significant increases, while governance sees a decrease of about 20%. This shift suggests that modern scholars are using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* to reinterpret the Qur'an in a way that resonates with contemporary values and concerns. The decline in the focus on governance could be attributed to the changing nature of political authority and the increased emphasis on individual rights and social justice in modern discourse.

The analysis also reveals that modern scholars employ a more diverse range of sources in their application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*. This includes incorporating findings from social sciences, philosophy, and natural sciences to support their interpretations. The broader scope and methodological diversity in modern interpretations indicate that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is not only evolving in terms of thematic focus but also in its approach to integrating various fields of knowledge. This interdisciplinary approach enhances the relevance of Qur'anic interpretation in addressing multifaceted issues that require nuanced understanding.

The relationship between the identified themes indicates that modern interpretations are more interconnected and multidisciplinary compared to classical interpretations. Social justice, gender roles, and interfaith relations are often discussed in conjunction, reflecting the interconnected nature of these issues in contemporary society. For instance, interpretations on social justice frequently touch on gender equality and the rights of non-Muslims, demonstrating a holistic approach to Qur'anic exegesis. This thematic interrelation suggests that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is being used to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the Qur'an that transcends isolated legal or theological discussions.

Classical interpretations, on the other hand, tend to treat these themes in a more compartmentalized manner. Discussions on governance, for example, are often separate

from those on social justice, focusing more on the legal and political dimensions of Islamic rule. This separation may have been necessary due to the specific intellectual and political needs of classical scholars. The data indicates that while *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* has always been an integrative method, its application in modern contexts has expanded to reflect the complexity of contemporary social issues.

The relationship between social justice and scientific inquiry in modern interpretations illustrates how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is used to reconcile faith with reason. Modern scholars often employ independent reasoning to demonstrate how Qur'anic principles support scientific discoveries and advancements. This approach strengthens the compatibility between religious teachings and modern scientific knowledge, promoting a more integrated worldview. The interrelation between themes in modern interpretations underscores the adaptability of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in developing a coherent understanding of the Qur'an that is responsive to multiple dimensions of human experience.

A case study was conducted on the application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in the interpretation of verses related to gender roles and women's rights by modern scholar Amina Wadud. Her use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* challenges traditional interpretations that often restrict women's roles within society. Wadud argues for a contextual understanding of these verses, employing independent reasoning to highlight the egalitarian principles of the Qur'an. Her work represents a significant departure from classical interpretations, advocating for greater gender equality based on a re-reading of the text through the lens of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*.

The case study shows that Wadud's approach has been both praised and critiqued for its innovative use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*. Proponents argue that her interpretations provide a more inclusive understanding of the Qur'an that empowers women and aligns with contemporary values. Critics, however, express concerns that her methodology relies too heavily on subjective reasoning, potentially leading to interpretations that deviate from established Islamic teachings. This case study illustrates the tensions and possibilities inherent in applying *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* to sensitive and complex issues such as gender roles.

The study further reveals that Wadud's interpretations have influenced a growing number of scholars and activists who seek to reinterpret the Qur'an in a manner that upholds the principles of gender equality. Her use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* demonstrates how independent reasoning can be employed to provide alternative understandings of the Qur'anic text that challenge patriarchal interpretations. This case study highlights the potential of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* to serve as a vehicle for progressive change, especially in areas that have traditionally been considered rigid or static.

The case study also examines the reception of Wadud's interpretations within the broader Muslim community. While some scholars and activists have embraced her approach, others have expressed skepticism or outright rejection, citing concerns about maintaining the balance between independent reasoning and adherence to classical exegesis. The mixed reception underscores the ongoing debate surrounding the boundaries of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*, reflecting the tension between tradition and modernity in Qur'anic

interpretation. Despite these criticisms, Wadud's work has catalyzed discussions on gender and Islamic law, encouraging further exploration of these themes using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*.

The implications of this case study suggest that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can be a powerful tool for addressing contemporary social issues, but it must be applied with caution and respect for established interpretative principles. Wadud's work exemplifies the potential of the method to reinterpret verses in a way that resonates with modern values, while also highlighting the need for clear methodological guidelines. This balance is crucial to prevent interpretations from straying into subjectivity or inconsistency with the overarching message of the Qur'an.

The findings indicate that the application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in modern contexts is both promising and challenging. The method provides flexibility and adaptability, allowing scholars to engage with complex social issues that are not explicitly addressed in classical exegesis. This adaptability is particularly evident in the reinterpretation of verses related to gender roles, where *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* has been used to promote greater gender equality. The method's capacity to incorporate contemporary values and perspectives into Qur'anic interpretation has made it a valuable tool for modern scholars seeking to reconcile Islamic teachings with modern realities.

The challenges of using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* lie in maintaining a balance between independent reasoning and the foundational principles of Islamic jurisprudence. Modern interpretations often face criticism for relying too heavily on contemporary thought, which can lead to perceived deviations from traditional interpretations. This tension is evident in the mixed reception of works like Wadud's, where the application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* has been both celebrated for its inclusivity and critiqued for its potential to undermine classical scholarship. The findings suggest that the method's success in contemporary contexts depends on the scholar's ability to navigate these complexities with intellectual rigor and methodological integrity.

The data also shows that the expansion of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* into areas such as scientific inquiry and interfaith relations demonstrates its potential to engage with diverse fields of knowledge. Modern scholars' willingness to incorporate insights from science, philosophy, and social sciences into their interpretations reflects a broader trend towards interdisciplinary engagement in Qur'anic exegesis. This interdisciplinary approach enhances the relevance of the Qur'an in addressing modern challenges, providing a framework for developing interpretations that are both faithful to the text and responsive to current intellectual and social contexts.

The study concludes that the *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* method continues to be a significant and evolving approach in Qur'anic interpretation. Its use in modern exegesis has expanded the thematic scope of Qur'anic interpretation, allowing scholars to address contemporary issues such as social justice, gender equality, and scientific advancements. The flexibility and adaptability of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* enable scholars to derive interpretations that resonate with the current context, making the Qur'an accessible and applicable to modern

audiences. This expansion reflects the ongoing relevance of independent reasoning in interpreting the Qur'an, despite debates about its boundaries and legitimacy.

The findings suggest that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* has the potential to enrich Qur'anic interpretation by providing new insights that respond to the changing needs of Muslim societies. Its application in modern contexts demonstrates that the method can serve as a bridge between classical Islamic teachings and contemporary values, fostering a dynamic and inclusive approach to understanding the Qur'an. The study's analysis of thematic shifts and methodological adaptations provides a foundation for further exploration of how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can contribute to the development of Islamic thought in the modern era.

The study also highlights the importance of maintaining methodological integrity when using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*. The method's strength lies in its ability to integrate independent reasoning with established principles of interpretation. Ensuring that interpretations remain grounded in the Qur'anic text while engaging with contemporary thought is crucial to preserving the credibility and authority of the method. The study calls for the development of clearer guidelines and frameworks to support scholars in applying *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* effectively in modern exegesis.

Future research could focus on exploring the application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in other fields of Islamic thought, such as legal rulings and social ethics. Comparative studies between different geographical and cultural contexts could provide deeper insights into how the method is being used and received globally. The findings encourage continued dialogue on the role of independent reasoning in Qur'anic interpretation, advocating for a balanced approach that upholds the integrity of the Qur'anic message while embracing the complexities of the modern world.

The study reveals that the *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* method has gained prominence in modern Qur'anic interpretation due to its ability to engage with contemporary issues such as social justice, gender equality, and scientific inquiry. Modern exegetes have expanded the scope of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* beyond traditional themes like governance and jurisprudence, using it to address new social and intellectual challenges. The findings show that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* allows for greater flexibility and adaptability in interpreting the Qur'an, making it a valuable tool for deriving contextually relevant interpretations without compromising the core principles of Islamic teachings.

The thematic analysis indicates that social justice and gender equality have become central themes in modern interpretations, reflecting the growing concern for human rights and equality in the global context. Modern scholars, such as Amina Wadud, have used *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* to reinterpret verses related to gender roles, advocating for a more inclusive understanding of the Qur'an that aligns with contemporary values. The study also finds that scientific inquiry has gained more attention in modern exegesis, demonstrating the method's potential to reconcile faith with scientific advancements. This thematic expansion suggests that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is evolving to meet the changing needs of Muslim societies.

The research highlights the methodological differences between classical and modern interpretations. Classical scholars employed *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* primarily to support

established legal rulings and political governance, while modern exegetes use it to address broader social and ethical issues. This shift indicates a transformation in the objectives of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*, as it is now being applied to promote social reform and engage with interdisciplinary fields. The findings show that while the method remains rooted in independent reasoning, its application has become more diverse and context-sensitive in modern scholarship.

The study concludes that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can serve as a bridge between classical Islamic teachings and contemporary realities. Its use in modern contexts allows for a dynamic engagement with the Qur'an, enabling scholars to derive interpretations that resonate with the complexities of the modern world. This adaptability underscores the enduring relevance of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* as a method of Qur'anic interpretation, making it a critical tool for scholars seeking to address current and future challenges in Islamic thought.

The findings of this study align with previous research that emphasizes the role of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in facilitating contextual interpretations of the Qur'an. Studies by scholars such as Fazlur Rahman and Muhammad Abduh also highlight the method's capacity to address contemporary issues while remaining faithful to the essence of the Qur'anic message. This research builds on their work by providing a thematic analysis of how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is used to address modern themes like gender equality and scientific inquiry, offering a more detailed exploration of its application in contemporary exegesis.

The study diverges from some earlier research that views *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* as a secondary method, subordinate to classical sources of interpretation. The findings suggest that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can stand independently as a primary interpretative method, especially when dealing with issues that are not explicitly addressed in classical exegesis. This challenges the traditional view of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* as a method with limited scope and applicability. By demonstrating its effectiveness in addressing modern challenges, the study repositions *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* as a crucial component of Qur'anic interpretation in the modern era.

The research also highlights the differences in thematic focus between classical and modern interpretations. While classical interpretations often prioritize governance and jurisprudence, modern interpretations emphasize social justice and gender roles. This thematic shift reflects a broader transformation in the priorities of Muslim societies, where issues of governance are now often seen as secondary to social and ethical concerns. The study's focus on these thematic differences provides new insights into how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* has evolved over time to address the changing needs of Muslim communities.

The findings contribute to ongoing discussions about the legitimacy and boundaries of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*. Some scholars argue that the method should be limited to areas where classical interpretations are ambiguous or absent, while others advocate for its broader application to derive new meanings from the Qur'an. The study's analysis of thematic shifts in modern exegesis supports the latter view, suggesting that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* has the potential to provide fresh perspectives on a wide range of contemporary

issues. This contribution adds depth to the discourse on the role of independent reasoning in Qur'anic interpretation.

The findings indicate that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* serves as an important tool for making the Qur'an relevant and accessible to contemporary audiences. The method's ability to incorporate modern values and perspectives into Qur'anic interpretation demonstrates its flexibility and adaptability. This suggests that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is not constrained by historical contexts but can evolve to meet the intellectual and social needs of different generations. The findings reflect a broader trend in Islamic scholarship, where traditional methods are being revisited and reinterpreted to engage with modernity more effectively.

The research highlights that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is increasingly being used to promote progressive social change within Muslim communities. Interpretations that advocate for gender equality and social justice indicate that the method can serve as a catalyst for rethinking established norms and practices. This role as a vehicle for social reform reflects the transformative potential of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in shaping modern Islamic thought. The findings suggest that the method can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable understanding of the Qur'an, promoting interpretations that resonate with contemporary ethical and social standards.

The findings also indicate that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can help reconcile faith with reason, especially in the context of scientific inquiry. Modern interpretations using this method often engage with scientific advancements to demonstrate the compatibility between Qur'anic teachings and modern scientific knowledge. This suggests that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can play a role in bridging the gap between religion and science, promoting a more integrated worldview. The study shows that the method's capacity to incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives enhances its relevance in addressing complex issues that require nuanced understanding.

The broader implications of these findings indicate that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can serve as a means of revitalizing Qur'anic interpretation for future generations. Its application in modern contexts demonstrates that independent reasoning remains a valuable tool for engaging with the Qur'an, even as Muslim societies undergo significant social and intellectual transformations. The findings suggest that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can contribute to the ongoing evolution of Islamic thought, providing a framework for addressing new challenges while upholding the core values and teachings of the Qur'an.

The implications of these findings are significant for both Qur'anic interpretation and Islamic scholarship more broadly. The study suggests that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can be a valuable method for engaging with contemporary issues that are not explicitly addressed in classical exegesis. This makes it an important tool for scholars seeking to derive interpretations that are relevant and meaningful in the modern context. The findings support the argument that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can enrich Qur'anic interpretation by providing fresh insights into the text, allowing it to speak to new generations of Muslims in a way that resonates with their lived experiences.

The research also has practical implications for the development of Islamic educational curricula. By incorporating *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* into the study of Qur'anic

interpretation, Islamic educational institutions can equip students with the tools to engage critically and contextually with the text. This approach can foster a more dynamic and inclusive understanding of the Qur'an, encouraging students to explore the text's relevance to contemporary social and intellectual challenges. The findings suggest that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can serve as a means of promoting intellectual engagement and creativity in the study of the Qur'an.

The study's emphasis on gender equality and social justice also has implications for Islamic activism and advocacy. Interpretations using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can provide a strong ethical and theological foundation for addressing issues such as women's rights and social welfare. This can support efforts to promote social reform within Muslim communities, using the Qur'an as a source of inspiration and guidance. The findings indicate that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can serve as a resource for activists and advocates seeking to align Islamic teachings with contemporary social values.

The implications of the findings extend to the broader field of Islamic studies. By demonstrating the versatility and adaptability of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*, the research encourages scholars to explore new ways of engaging with classical methods of interpretation. This can lead to the development of new frameworks and methodologies that incorporate independent reasoning while maintaining adherence to traditional principles. The study calls for a re-evaluation of the role of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in modern Islamic thought, advocating for its broader application in addressing the diverse challenges faced by Muslim societies today.

The prominence of themes like social justice and gender equality in modern interpretations using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can be attributed to the changing social and intellectual landscape of Muslim communities. The rise of global discussions on human rights, gender equality, and social justice has influenced modern scholars to re-evaluate traditional interpretations that may not fully address these contemporary concerns. This shift reflects a broader trend of contextualizing Islamic teachings to respond to current realities, making *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* an essential method for deriving interpretations that are aligned with modern values.

The study's focus on scientific inquiry in modern interpretations indicates a growing interest in reconciling Islamic teachings with advancements in science and technology. The emphasis on scientific inquiry suggests that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is being used to demonstrate the compatibility between the Qur'an and scientific knowledge, promoting a harmonious relationship between faith and reason. Modern scholars are leveraging *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* to provide interpretations that support the idea of the Qur'an as a source of guidance not only for spiritual and moral issues but also for understanding the natural world. This trend is reflective of a broader effort to make the Qur'an relevant to scientific discourse.

The decline in the focus on governance in modern interpretations is likely due to the changing nature of political authority and the emergence of nation-states that often operate independently of religious governance. This shift suggests that modern scholars are prioritizing issues that have a more direct impact on individual and social well-being, such

as human rights and social justice, over political governance. The findings indicate that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is evolving to meet the practical needs of modern Muslim societies, focusing on areas that resonate more with current social and ethical debates.

The greater emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches in modern exegesis reflects a desire to engage with various fields of knowledge in order to produce more comprehensive interpretations. The use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* alongside insights from social sciences, philosophy, and natural sciences suggests that modern scholars are seeking to provide holistic interpretations that address the complexities of contemporary life. This trend highlights the method's adaptability and its potential to serve as a bridge between Islamic teachings and modern intellectual developments.

The study's findings suggest several directions for future research and practical application. Further research could explore the use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in other areas of Islamic thought, such as legal rulings, social ethics, and economic practices. Comparative studies between different schools of Islamic jurisprudence could provide insights into how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is applied across diverse legal and cultural contexts. This research can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the role of independent reasoning in Islamic interpretation and its potential to address a wide range of contemporary issues.

Future studies could also investigate the integration of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* into Islamic educational curricula to promote critical thinking and contextual engagement with the Qur'an. Educational programs that emphasize independent reasoning could empower students to derive interpretations that are meaningful and relevant to their own social contexts. This approach can contribute to the development of a new generation of scholars who are well-versed in both classical Islamic teachings and modern intellectual trends, ensuring that the Qur'an remains a vibrant and dynamic source of guidance.

The findings encourage the use of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in public discourse and policy-making to address contemporary challenges facing Muslim communities. Scholars and religious leaders can leverage this method to provide guidance on issues such as gender equality, social justice, and interfaith relations, using interpretations that are grounded in both Islamic teachings and contemporary values. This approach can contribute to more inclusive and contextually relevant policies and initiatives, fostering a deeper engagement with Islamic teachings in addressing social and political issues.

The study calls for the development of clear methodological guidelines for applying *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in modern contexts. Such guidelines would help scholars maintain a balance between independent reasoning and adherence to classical principles, ensuring that interpretations remain consistent with the core message of the Qur'an. Establishing these guidelines would support the credibility and legitimacy of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* as a method of interpretation, enabling it to continue contributing to the evolution of Islamic thought in a rapidly changing world.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* has emerged as a significant method in modern Qur'anic interpretation due to its capacity to address contemporary issues such as

social justice, gender equality, and scientific inquiry. The findings highlight a shift in thematic focus from traditional topics like governance and jurisprudence to more socially and ethically relevant concerns in the modern era. This shift indicates that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is being used to reinterpret the Qur'an in a way that resonates with the values and challenges of the current context. The research establishes that this method offers a flexible and adaptable framework for engaging with the Qur'an, making it a valuable tool for contemporary Islamic scholarship.

The analysis demonstrates that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can serve as a bridge between classical Islamic teachings and modern realities. Modern scholars utilize this method to derive interpretations that address topics not explicitly covered in classical exegesis, thereby expanding the scope and applicability of the Qur'an. The study's findings suggest that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can be effectively used to promote progressive social change and intellectual engagement, providing new perspectives on long-standing issues within Muslim communities. This ability to contextualize Qur'anic teachings without compromising the integrity of the text represents a key contribution of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in the modern era.

The primary contribution of this research lies in its conceptual framework for analyzing the thematic evolution of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* across classical and modern interpretations. By categorizing the themes and identifying methodological shifts, the study offers a structured understanding of how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* is employed in different contexts. This framework can be used by future researchers to explore other applications of independent reasoning in Islamic thought. The research also highlights the method's potential to serve as an effective tool for interdisciplinary engagement, integrating insights from various fields to enrich Qur'anic interpretation.

The study's methodological contribution is evident in its use of comparative analysis to evaluate the evolution of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of how independent reasoning is adapted to address new intellectual and social challenges. The thematic analysis provides a foundation for future studies seeking to explore the implications of using *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in areas beyond Qur'anic interpretation, such as legal theory and social ethics. The research demonstrates that *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can contribute to a more dynamic and contextually relevant understanding of Islamic teachings.

The research is limited by its focus on a specific set of classical and modern interpretations, which may not fully capture the diversity of perspectives within the broader Islamic tradition. Further studies should consider a wider range of sources, including interpretations from different geographical regions and legal schools, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y*. The findings are also constrained by the absence of empirical data on how these modern interpretations are received by various Muslim communities. Understanding the reception and impact of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in different social contexts would provide valuable insights into its effectiveness as a method of interpretation.

Future research could explore the integration of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* into Islamic educational curricula and its potential role in promoting critical engagement with the Qur'an. Empirical studies examining the application of *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* in addressing specific contemporary issues, such as climate change or technological ethics, could provide further evidence of its relevance and adaptability. Expanding the scope of research to include interdisciplinary approaches would also enrich the understanding of how *Tafsir Bi Al-Ra'y* can contribute to the ongoing development of Islamic thought in response to the complexities of the modern world.

REFERENCES

- Ajgaonkar, V., Shyam, R., Shaikh, N., Rajan, S., Karandikar, N., & Jayaraman, A. (2024). Enabling Young People from Informal Urban Communities to Exercise Their Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health: A Practice-Based Study. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 39(2), 461–486. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07435584221091780>
- Al-Sharmani, M. (2023). Islamic Feminist Hermeneutics: Between Scholarship and Lived Realities. *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 39(2), 95–97. <https://doi.org/10.2979/jfs.2023.a908305>
- Ascarya, A., Hosen, M. N., & Rahmawati, S. (2022). Designing simple productive waqf models for Indonesia. *International Journal of Ethics and Systems*, 38(3), 380–401. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJOES-07-2020-0101>
- Ascarya, & Tanjung, H. (2021). Structures of Healthcare Waqf in Indonesia to Support SDGs. Dalam M. M. Billah (Ed.), *Islamic Wealth and the SDGs* (hlm. 305–324). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-65313-2_15
- Ashraf, T. P. M. (2023). Preaching Islam in a Migratory Context: Sermons, Migrant Spaces, and Religious Practices among Keralite Sunni Muslim Migrants in Qatar. Dalam A. A. Akca, M. Feise-Nasr, L. Stenske, & A. Süer (Ed.), *Practices of Islamic Preaching* (hlm. 131–152). De Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110788334-007>
- Büssing, A. (2024). Spiritual Experiences, Attitudes, and Behaviors of Yoga Practitioners: Findings from a Cross-Sectional Study in Germany. *International Journal of Yoga Therapy*, 34(2024), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.17761/2024-D-23-00036>
- Cesar Da Silva, P., Cardoso De Oliveira Neto, G., Ferreira Correia, J. M., & Pujol Tucci, H. N. (2021). Evaluation of economic, environmental and operational performance of the adoption of cleaner production: Survey in large textile industries. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 278, 123855. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.123855>
- Cullinan, R. J., Woods, A., Barber, J. M. P., & Cook, C. C. H. (2024). Spiritually significant hallucinations: A patient-centred approach to tackle epistemic injustice. *BJPsych Bulletin*, 48(2), 133–138. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjb.2023.17>
- De Diego-Cordero, R., Martínez-Herrera, A., Coheña-Jiménez, M., Luchetti, G., & Pérez-Jiménez, J. M. (2024). Ecospirituality and Health: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 63(2), 1285–1306. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-023-01994-2>
- Engelina Siregar, K. (2024). Islam Integrated Science Module Development for Integrated Islam School. *E3S Web of Conferences*, 482, 04029. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202448204029>
-

-
- Faizi, F., Kusuma, A. S., & Widodo, P. (2024). Islamic green finance: Mapping the climate funding landscape in Indonesia. *International Journal of Ethics and Systems*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJOES-08-2023-0189>
- Ganzar, L. A., Burford, K., Salvo, D., Spoon, C., Sallis, J. F., & Hoelscher, D. M. (2024). Development, scoring, and reliability for the Microscale Audit of Pedestrian Streetscapes for Safe Routes to School (MAPS-SRTS) instrument. *BMC Public Health*, 24(1), 722. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-024-18202-9>
- Guo, X., Gao, F., Xu, G., Liu, H., Teng, W., & Zhang, C. (2024). Preparation of a novel ZnFe₂O₄ /oyster shell powder composite photocatalyst for visible-light-driven photocatalytic degradation of ammonia nitrogen wastewater. *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*, 991, 174489. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jallcom.2024.174489>
- Haustein, J. (2023). Studying Islamic Law: Elisions of German Scholarship. Dalam J. Haustein, *Islam in German East Africa, 1885–1918* (hlm. 231–266). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-27423-7_7
- Imran, I., & Mardhiah, A. (2023). Revitalizing Islamic Education: Professionalism of State Islamic Religious College Lecturers in Welcoming the Industrial Era 4.0. *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, 11(3), 811. <https://doi.org/10.26811/peuradeun.v11i3.1032>
- Iqbal, M., Hakim, L., & Aziz, M. A. (2024). Determinants of Islamic bank stability in Asia. *Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JIABR-07-2022-0174>
- Kırca, K., Özveren, H., & Bağcı, S. (2024). Evaluation of the Spiritual Care Needs of Patients with Cancer in a Chemotherapy Unit in Turkey. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 63(2), 1457–1474. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-023-01876-7>
- Li, K., Wijaya, T. T., Chen, X., & Harahap, M. S. (2024). Exploring the factors affecting elementary mathematics teachers' innovative behavior: An integration of social cognitive theory. *Scientific Reports*, 14(1), 2108. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-52604-4>
- Marcos-Vílchez, J. M., Sánchez-Martín, M., & Muñoz-Velázquez, J. A. (2024). Effectiveness of training actions aimed at improving critical thinking in the face of disinformation: A systematic review protocol. *Thinking Skills and Creativity*, 51, 101474. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tsc.2024.101474>
- Martins, H., Romeiro, J., Casaleiro, T., Vieira, M., & Caldeira, S. (2024). Insights on spirituality and bereavement: A systematic review of qualitative studies. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 33(5), 1593–1603. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.17052>
- Milwright, M. (2023). *A Story of Islamic Art* (1 ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003374046>
- Miquel, P., Clemente, I., & Ciccorossi, M. (2024). Exploring spirituality, religion and life philosophy among parents of children receiving palliative care: A qualitative study. *BMC Palliative Care*, 23(1), 43. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-024-01345-2>
- Mukhtar, M., & Todd, M.-J. (2023). An Islamic framework for animal ethics: Widening the conversation to include Islamic ethical vegetarianism. *Critical Research on Religion*, 11(3), 263–280. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20503032231174209>
- Olivas Castellanos, E. C., & De Gunther Delgado, L. (2024). Research in higher education institutions of Northwestern Mexico during COVID-19 times. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 107, 103039. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2024.103039>
-

-
- Panah, Z. G., Kalla, M., Harris, K. P., Bolhari, J., Koenig, H. G., & Mirkazemi, R. (2024). Spiritual/Religious Readjustments Among Iranian War Veterans. *Pastoral Psychology*, 73(2), 239–251. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11089-023-01119-2>
- Prakash, S., Aasarey, R., Priyatma, Sharma, M., Khan, S., & Medha. (2024). The development, evaluation, performance, and validation of micro-PCR and extractor for the quantification of HIV-1 &-2 RNA. *Scientific Reports*, 14(1), 8700. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-56164-5>
- Shengyao, Y., Salarzadeh Jenatabadi, H., Mengshi, Y., Minqin, C., Xuefen, L., & Mustafa, Z. (2024). Academic resilience, self-efficacy, and motivation: The role of parenting style. *Scientific Reports*, 14(1), 5571. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-55530-7>
- Siminoff, L. A., Alolod, G. P., McGregor, H., Hasz, R. D., Mulvania, P. A., Barker, L. K., & Gardiner, H. M. (2024). Developing online communication training to request donation for vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA): Improving performance to match new US organ donation targets. *BMC Medical Education*, 24(1), 77. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-024-05026-9>
- Vera Cruz, G., Aboujaoude, E., Rochat, L., Bianchi-Demicheli, F., & Khazaal, Y. (2024). Online dating: Predictors of problematic tinder use. *BMC Psychology*, 12(1), 106. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40359-024-01566-3>
- Wang, C., Chen, X., Yu, T., Liu, Y., & Jing, Y. (2024). Education reform and change driven by digital technology: A bibliometric study from a global perspective. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 11(1), 256. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-02717-y>
- Wang, M., Gong, Y., & Shi, Z. (2024). Online Learner Categories Recognition Based on MoE-LSTM Model. *International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems*, 17(1), 90. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44196-024-00442-7>

Copyright Holder :

© Faiq Falahi et al. (2024).

First Publication Right :

© Journal of Noesantara Islamic Studies

This article is under:

