

Analyzing Trends in Patriarchy and Gender Roles Through A Bibliometric Examination Of Relationships And Scholarly Patterns

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Abstract:

This study centers on the evolution of literature concerning patriarchy and its influence on gender roles over the period from 2014 to 2024. The analysis was refined using the SALSA method on a total of 313 publications. Statistical data reveals a significant increase in publications addressing patriarchy and gender influence over the past decade. Through the VOS viewer's bibliometric analysis, a co-occurrence network of 42 items was generated, revealing 5 distinct clusters based on keywords. Each cluster, which has its own color, significantly aids in subject comprehension. The intricate relationships between gender roles and patriarchy are evident through various networks, overlays, and visualizations. This analysis provides insight into existing knowledge, highlights areas needing further exploration, and directs future research efforts. This also sheds light on the evolving themes in patriarchy and gender roles, demonstrating through specific examples how the patriarchal system influences a wide range of gender-related disparities and subtleties. The reinforcement of gender role segregation significantly impacts the dynamics among diverse cultures, nations, and societies, leading to profound implications.

1. Introduction

The roots of patriarchy are deeply connected to the concept of gender roles, which include the societal expectations and accepted behaviours assigned to individuals according to their sex. Patriarchy is understood as a hierarchical authority system embedded within the family structure. This hierarchical structure of authority can shape familial decision-making processes and power dynamics, impacting individual roles and responsibilities within the family unit [1]. The concept of patriarchy, referring to the unequal treatment of individuals based on sex and age, is crucial for understanding the variations in discriminatory practices across diverse populations. In patriarchal societies, older men often enjoy preferential treatment compared to younger individuals and women in decision-making and resource allocation. This underscores the intersectionality of age and gender in sustaining unequal power dynamics [2]. The presence of patriarchy is clearly reflected in systemic gender

bias. This bias can lead to disparities in educational opportunities, restrict employment prospects, and foster legal discrimination against women, highlighting the widespread effects on women's access to education, employment, and legal rights. This unfortunate reality continues to sustain inequality [3].

Patriarchal systems, dominated by men, normalize violence against women. Societal attitudes that excuse or overlook violence can support this normalization by sustaining a cycle of acceptance within patriarchal frameworks [4]. The existing patriarchal norms within institutions significantly influence women's performance. For example, these norms can lead to restricted advancement opportunities, unequal treatment in decision-making processes, and obstacles to leadership roles, which impact women's professional growth and success [5]. These norms foster an atmosphere of discrimination, undermining their confidence and deterring them from engaging in workplace behaviours.

Research indicates that societal expectations

frequently result in the segmentation of gender roles, with men typically engaged in productive roles, while women assume domestic duties and engage in economic activities [6]. This division mirrors the societal norms that define the acceptable roles for each gender. Students, particularly girls, recognize the social disadvantages faced by boys but often overlook the structural implications of patriarchy on girls and women, concentrating instead on aspects of biology and beauty [7]. Research indicates that nursing students from patriarchal families tend to have more pronounced gender role assumptions, which correlate with their satisfaction in their major, suggesting that these attitudes influence their academic experiences [8]. Children as young as 6 years old exhibit gender biases in their behaviours and activities that align with cultural expectations of their gender [9]. Gender expectations are significantly shaped by enduring patriarchal norms, which often position women in subordinate roles while affording men specific privileges. The impact of patriarchy and gender roles is evident across multiple facets of society, literature, and personal experiences, cutting across disparities in culture.

Across the globe, various cultures have historically acknowledged and classified individuals into specific gender roles according to their physical traits. The concepts of social roles significantly influence how individuals perceive gender roles, especially in terms of classifying responsibilities as either gender-specific or egalitarian. Perceptions may differ among various cultures [10]. In many societies, gender roles and identities frequently correspond with religious, moral, and political standards, which generally favor leadership positions for biological males [11]. Gender roles are shaped by societal norms, which can sustain inequality by endorsing male dominance and superiority over women. This system reinforces societal norms, leading to gender inequality in multiple facets of life [12]. Beliefs about gender roles have a significant impact on professional dynamics, work-family balance, and broader societal trends. Egalitarian beliefs can enhance household responsibilities and relationships, yet traditional notions frequently result in women's diminished income and occupational segregation [13]. Analyzing the roles of gender within the context of social organization in a community is crucial for understanding the motivations and behaviours of individuals regarding the allocation and use of resources [14].

In a patriarchal society, men as a social group hold the most extreme positions within the demographic and political spectrum, irrespective of factors like

ethnicity, class, age, and social status [15]. Consequently, conservatives tend to embrace more traditional views compared to liberals or social democracies. The influence of beliefs regarding gender roles on mental health is significant. Traditional views are associated with lower levels of anxiety and sadness, while non-traditional beliefs are connected to enhanced psychological well-being, especially among women [16]. Social expectations regarding gender roles are profoundly shaped by patriarchal structures. Undoubtedly, patriarchal structures significantly shape the expectations and behaviours linked to gender roles. The evolutionary origins of patriarchy suggest that male dominance over female sexuality predates humanity, with human societies displaying varying degrees of gender inequality [17]. This can lead to rigid interpretations of masculinity and femininity, limiting personal expression and opportunities. Patriarchal structures continue to endure, despite economic and social transformations [18]. The persistent gender wage gap, the limited representation of women in leadership roles, and the ongoing prevalence of gender-based violence clearly illustrate this issue. The impact of a prevailing patriarchal structure molds gender roles by creating imbalanced power dynamics and differing experiences of privilege, subsequently affecting the relational behaviours of men and women in heterosexual relationships [19]. Patriarchy influences gender roles, especially concerning masculinity, resulting in discrimination against men who fail to adhere to conventional standards of manliness [20]. Gender roles are influenced by patriarchal structures, evident in middle school physical education, where boys exhibited higher levels of motivation. Practices ranged from biased policies to overt discrimination, solidifying patriarchal consciousness [21]. The literature presented demonstrates the widespread influence of patriarchy throughout various societal levels and its effect on gender roles, establishing strict classifications with distinctly defined masculine and feminine boundaries. This framework sidelines women and also impacts men who deviate from societal norms, pushing them into marginal roles within traditional societies and limiting their chances to participate beyond conventional expectations.

2. Methodology

This study aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis of research findings related to patriarchy and gender roles, examining the trends and patterns of these studies sourced from the Scopus database.



Figure 1 Steps of Data Collection for Bibliometric Analysis

This study employed the Scopus database exclusively, leveraging its vast array of reputable publications to guarantee the reliability of the information presented. This research analyzed international journals sourced from the Scopus database using a search engine. The journal search aims to deliver an extensive compilation of articles focused on the theme of patriarchy and students within the realm of social sciences. The search encompasses the publication period spanning from 2014 to 2024. The researchers employed the well-established SALSA approach to meet their objectives and analyze their data [22]. SALSA is commonly known for its components: search, appraisal, synthesis, and analysis. Data was collected using a search engine for the initial search. The search terms utilized were "Patriarchy" and "Gender Roles.". The search for "Patriarchy" produced 8,554 documents, whereas the search for "Gender- Roles" resulted in 438 documents. The search was subsequently refined to include publications from 2014 to 2024, focusing specifically on the field of social sciences. Our selection was limited to articles and reviews of a particular document type, concentrating exclusively on journals published in English. After refining the search, a total of 313 documents were selected for analysis. Figure 1 illustrates the SALSA method utilized in the data collection steps for the current study.

3. Results

This section provides a comprehensive overview of the data analysis results obtained from the VOS viewer software.

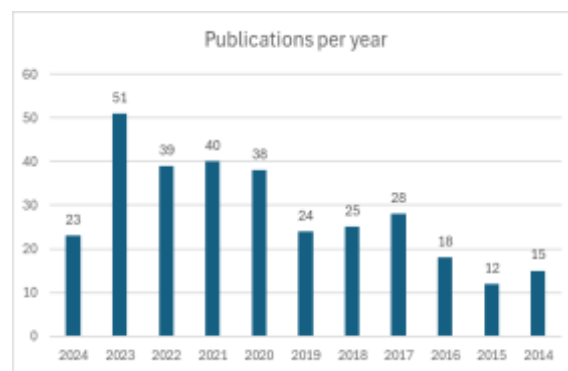


Figure 2 Papers published from 2014-2024

This analysis offers a bibliometric examination utilizing the co-occurrence of keywords and citations. In recent years, there has been a significant rise in research focused on patriarchy and gender roles. Recently, there has been a notable increase in discussions surrounding this topic. Figure 2 illustrates the volume of papers published on the topic from 2014 to 2024. In 2015, the total count of published articles was significantly reduced compared to earlier years. In 2023, the number of articles published saw a remarkable increase, reaching an all-time high. Furthermore, the trend shows that the number of articles published in 2024 is increasing.

Table 1 showcases the papers that garner the most references within the realm of patriarchy and gender influence. The 15 articles from various publications are arranged in descending order based on the number of references they have received. In 2020, a pivotal paper titled "Patriarchy and gender-inequitable attitudes as drivers of intimate partner violence against women in the central region of Ghana" was authored by Sikweyiya Y., Addo-Lartey A.A., Alangea D.O., Dako-Gyeke P., Chirwa E.D., Coker-Appiah D., Adanu R.M.K., and Jewkes R. This paper has received significant attention and has been cited by 110 research papers. Likewise, all the high cited details are given in table 1. Table 2 displays the leading 7 source titles with the greatest number of publications concerning patriarchy and gender roles. The "Women's Studies International Forum" stands out as the premier journal, boasting 8 documents and 68 citations. In close pursuit is "Gender, Place, and Culture," which has 7 documents but achieves the highest citation count at 126. The graphic employs colors to illustrate clusters and utilizes labels to denote frequently occurring keywords or concepts. Clustering is frequently utilized to extract meaningful insights from bibliometric data. Conversely, image mapping is

Table 1. The articles with the highest number of citations

Authors	Title	Year	Cited by
Sikweyiya et al.	Patriarchy and gender-inequitable attitudes as drivers of intimate partner violence against women in the central region of Ghana	2020	110
Afiouni	Women's careers in the Arab Middle East: Understanding institutional constraints to the boundaryless career view	2014	72
Murnen et al	Boys Act and Girls Appear: A Content Analysis of Gender Stereotypes Associated with Characters in Children's Popular Culture	2016	60
Hirschman	Gender, the status of women, and family structure in Malaysia	2016	57
Madiba & Ngwenya	Cultural practices, gender inequality and inconsistent condom use increase vulnerability to HIV infection: narratives from married and cohabiting women in rural communities in Mpumalanga province, South Africa	2017	55
Ganle et al.	'If I go with him, I can't talk with other women': Understanding women's resistance to, and acceptance of, men's involvement in maternal and child healthcare in northern Ghana	2016	44
Aziz et al.	Analyzing the women's empowerment and food security nexus in rural areas of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan: By giving consideration to sense of land entitlement and infrastructural facilities	2020	42
Valentine et al.	Ways of Seeing: Sexism the Forgotten Prejudice?	2014	42
James-Hawkins et al.	The Patriarchal Bargain in a Context of Rapid Changes to Normative Gender Roles: Young Arab Women's Role Conflict in Qatar	2017	40
Bell	Bread and roses: A gender perspective on environmental justice and public health	2016	40
Ling	Precious Son, Reliable Daughter: Redefining Son Preference and Parent-Child Relations in Migrant Households in Urban China	2017	37
Diabah & Appiah Amfo	Caring supporters or daring usurpers? Representation of women in Akan proverbs	2015	32
Freistein & Gadinger	Populist stories of honest men and proud mothers: A visual narrative analysis	2020	31
Mushfiqur et al.	The impacts of work-life-balance (WLB) challenges on social sustainability: The experience of Nigerian female medical doctors	2018	31
Ullah	Male migration and 'left-behind' women: Bane or boon?	2017	30

employed to create an extensive visualization of a bibliometric network along with its clustering patterns [23]. Figure 3 based on title and abstracts provides a visualization in which each circle symbolizes a commonly occurring keyword or phrase. The circle's size indicates how often the

keyword is found in the titles and abstracts of the publications. As the size of the circle expands, the quantity of pertinent publications rises [24]. The overlay visualisation, based on Figure 4, displays the interconnected keywords commonly

Table 2. Sources with the highest number of published documents on Patriarchy and Gender-roles.

Source	Document	Citation
Women's Studies International Forum	8	68
Gender, Place and Culture	7	126
Journal of International Women's Studies	4	1
Journal of North African Studies	4	14
World Journal of English Language	4	2
Hawwa	3	19
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health	3	52

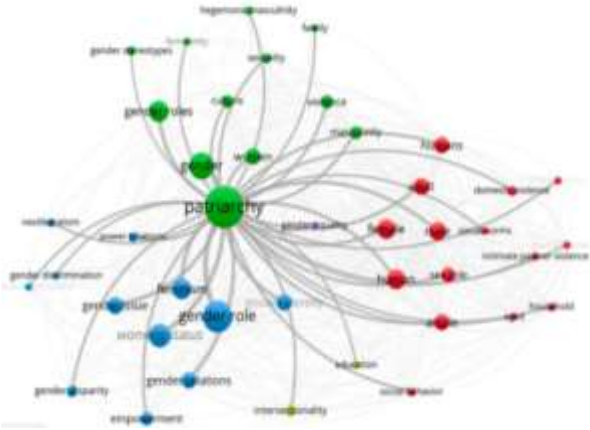


Figure 3. Network visualization of co-occurrence based on keywords.

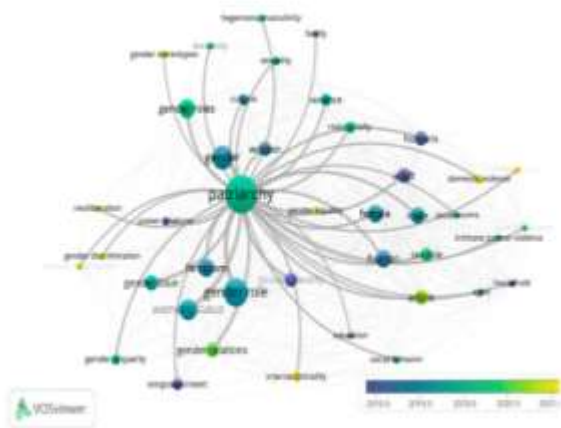


Figure 4 Interconnected keywords

associated with "Patriarchy and Gender Roles.". After the revisions, the start date of the visualisation was updated to 2019–2021. The colours used in the overlay visualisation can represent various aspects, such as the publication year and frequency of occurrence of keywords. As an illustration, articles from the prior year are

represented by dark colours. The age of the publication can be determined by the darkness of the colour. Figure 4 illustrates the co-occurrence of keywords related to "Patriarchy and Gender-Roles" in a visual format, highlighting the relationships between these terms. Figure 5 displays the visualisation of cluster density, which is determined by the co-occurrence of certain terms. The clusters that have the highest frequency are displayed more prominently in the image. The colour-coded clusters in the visualisation signify distinct thematic groupings of keywords, each comprising 42 items, facilitating a clearer understanding of the relationships among the terms.

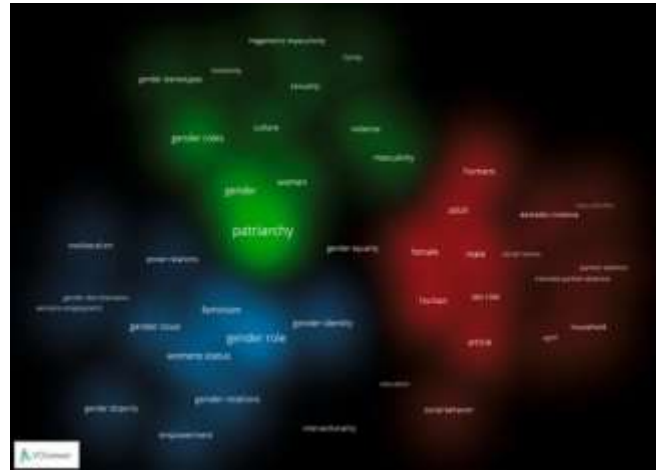


Figure 5. Density visualization based on co-occurrence of keywords.

Figure 6 displays the countries with the highest number of citations, indicating their significant impact. The United States has emerged as the leading country in terms of citations, followed by the United Kingdom and South Africa in the next places. The results of the bibliometric coupling of countries are illustrated.

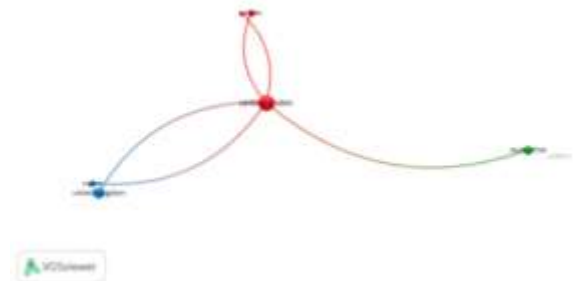


Figure 6 Citations by Countries

As shown in Figure 7. The image highlights the countries that are currently prioritising trend research on patriarchy and gender roles by using a lighter colour (yellow) and darker colours than the countries that have been working earlier with darker tones (blue and violet). Figure 8 illustrates

the co-authorship based on the number of documents published. Yellow highlights the authors' most recent publications on patriarchy and gender roles, while the colour palette shifts to darker hues with each passing year, violet being the oldest ones.

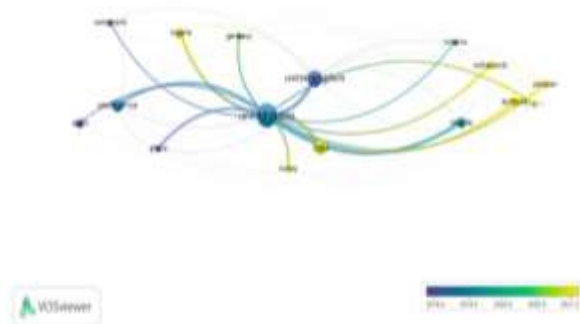


Figure 7 bibliometric coupling by countries

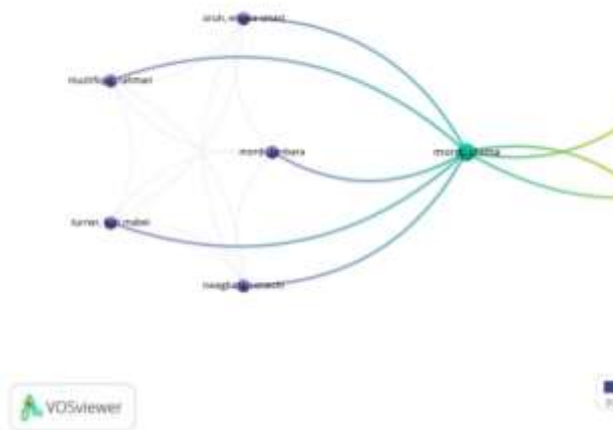


Figure 8 Co-authorship based on the number of documents

4. Discussions

The study showcases the relationship between the entities of patriarchy and gender roles and attempts to measure these concepts. The current study is a bibliometric analysis employed to find out the research trends and patterns. This study presents a descriptive statistical method aimed at tracking the development of pertinent research, including keywords, authors, countries, and co-occurrence networks in the field of patriarchy and gender roles. The bibliometric analysis allows the current researchers to conduct subsequent empirical research on the topic. The analysis indicates a slow but steady rise in the number of publications focused on patriarchy and gender roles, particularly over the past decade. The study shows that though there is a gradual increase year by year in the number of studies, 2023 has the highest number of studies till now.

While comparing the citation patterns of the studies, the paper by Sikweyiya et al. is the topmost cited document with 110 citations; the highest number of publications comparatively were done by women's studies international forum and gender, place, and culture, related to the selected topic. The United States and the United Kingdom are the top countries carrying out research related to patriarchy. This study encompasses prominent researchers from various countries, highlighting their substantial contributions and influences on the growing interest in strategic leadership and emotional intelligence across diverse fields. These works have significantly influenced the conversation regarding the effects of patriarchal structures on both society and individuals. Their innovative research has shed light on the complexities of gender dynamics within the social structure, providing valuable insights for future studies in this area. Patriarchy is a social system deeply embedded in human society's origins and developments, serving as the foundation for male dominance and orientation across various civilizations throughout history. This framework has sustained gender disparity and bias, resulting in the sidelining and subjugation of women across various societies. In spite of ongoing initiatives aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering women, the influence of patriarchy remains firmly entrenched within societal frameworks and conventions. Gender roles limit individuals by forcing them into rigid stereotypes and expectations, hindering their capacity to express themselves genuinely and follow their true interests. We can understand the relationship between patriarchy and gender roles as a framework of authority and dominance that assigns roles and expectations based on biological sex, perpetuating the idea of male superiority over females. Systems of dominance and traditional gender expectations perpetuate disparities and prevent individuals from realizing their full potential and success. This perpetuates detrimental stereotypes and severely limits the opportunities for individuals of all genders to fully achieve their potential. By challenging these standards and advocating for fairness, we can cultivate a more equitable and inclusive community for everyone. Although the literature review offers an in-depth exploration of patriarchy and gender roles, it is crucial to acknowledge specific limitations that call for additional inquiry. For instance, the review may have featured numerous studies conducted in Western contexts, which could potentially limit their applicability to diverse cultural settings. Furthermore, the timeframe of the literature could present a limitation, given that societal

perspectives on patriarchy and gender roles are in a state of continuous evolution. Consequently, subsequent investigations ought to focus on examining these ideas across a broader spectrum of populations and take into account the dynamic evolution of societal norms. The Scopus database was exclusively utilized for data extraction and analysis to avoid any potential duplication of studies. Subsequent researchers may leverage information from various databases, such as PubMed and the Web of Science. Future researchers may consider exploring a variety of alternative methodologies for bibliometric analysis to gain further insights into patriarchy and gender roles. Furthermore, integrating various analytical approaches can provide a deeper understanding of the dynamics between patriarchy and gender. This approach enables a comprehensive and thorough investigation of the topic, resulting in a deeper understanding of the intricate interactions at play.

Author Statements:

- **Ethical approval:** The conducted research is not related to either human or animal use.
- **Conflict of interest:** The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper
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- **Data availability statement:** The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

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