



A Literature Review of Social Stratification Theory as an Analytical Framework for Mawali Research in Hadith Studies

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the application of social stratification theory in scientific research and to identify its potential relevance to hadith studies, particularly in understanding the social dimensions of hadith transmission and the position of narrators within historical social structures. This study employs a literature review to examine the application of social stratification theory in scientific research, particularly its relevance to hadith studies. The analysis covers 32 peer-reviewed articles published between 1974 and 2025 and indexed in SAGE Journals, ScienceDirect, and Scopus. The findings indicate that social stratification has been widely explored across 12 countries and various disciplines, including sociology, humanities, psychology, health, environmental studies, and economics, demonstrating its broad interdisciplinary relevance. However, no publication was found that explicitly applies social stratification theory to hadith studies or the science of hadith. This absence reveals an important epistemological and methodological gap in integrating modern social theory into classical Islamic scholarship. Historical evidence from pre-Islamic and early Islamic society reflects complex social hierarchies involving *mawali* (freed slaves), women, and non-Arab communities, many of whom contributed significantly to hadith transmission. These historical realities suggest that social stratification theory, particularly the perspectives of Karl Marx and Talcott Parsons, offers a valuable framework for analysing the social position, authority, and acceptance of hadith narrators. This study therefore recommends expanding interdisciplinary research that integrates social stratification theory with hadith studies to provide a more critical, contextual, and inclusive understanding of the transmission and development of Islamic intellectual traditions.

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INTRODUCTION

Social stratification is a central concept in sociology that explains the grouping of people into hierarchical layers based on factors such as wealth, power, education, and social status. (Haris, 2018) In general, social stratification reflects how resources in society are distributed unequally, resulting in the formation of distinct social classes.

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Social stratification is a central theme in sociological studies that explains how individuals and groups gain access to resources, power, and opportunities within a society. (Hakim, 2025; Saumantri et al., 2023) In both developed and developing countries, forms of stratification manifest in various ways, ranging from income inequality and educational disparities to systemic social exclusion, all of which are shaped by each society's historical, cultural, and political context. (Grusky, D. B., & Weisshaar, K., 2019) Understanding how this system of stratification is examined in the scholarly literature is essential for identifying patterns of inequality and social mobility on a global scale.

The comparison between developed and developing countries has become increasingly relevant in the era of globalization, where the cross-border flow of capital, labor, and information is transforming traditional class structures. (Therborn, G., 2017) For example, developed countries such as Sweden, Germany, and Canada are now facing the impact of neoliberal economic policies on the stability of the middle class. (Milanovic, B., 2016) Meanwhile, developing countries such as India and Malaysia continue to struggle with issues of poverty, caste, and rural marginalization. (Deshpande, A., 2017)

Academic interest in the issue of social stratification has grown significantly over the past decade, with many comparative studies highlighting structural and institutional factors as the main drivers of inequality. (Atkinson, A. B., 2015) Nevertheless, there remains a gap in the literature's approaches across different global regions, as much of the research is still confined within national boundaries or dominated by Western frameworks. (Jansen, J. D., 2019) Therefore, a literature review that systematically examines publications on social stratification in the context of both developed and developing countries is important and highly relevant today.

In a historical context, systems of stratification have been a key determinant in shaping social relations, access to education, political power, and even cultural and religious legitimacy. Theories by scholars such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Pierre Bourdieu highlight that social structures are not merely economic in nature but also operate through symbols, language, and power. While stratification has been widely examined in the context of modern societies, such as in studies on the working class, identity politics, or education, its application in exploring classical intellectual heritage, particularly in the religious sphere, remains relatively rare. Yet, social constructions in pre-modern societies, including pre-Islamic Arab society and the early Islamic period, also reveal complex patterns of stratification that implicitly shaped scholarly authority, the distribution of knowledge, and the social position of certain individuals or groups. Therefore, exploring social stratification within traditional domains, such as the transmission of religious knowledge or the structure of religious communities, becomes essential for opening new discourses that are more contextual, critical, and multidisciplinary in contemporary Islamic studies.

However, the application of this theory remains very limited in classical Islamic studies, particularly in analyzing the social position of marginalized groups such as the *mawālī* within the Islamic scholarly tradition. (Hana & Azis, 2023) To date, research on the *mawālī* as hadith transmitters has generally focused on the validity of the *isnād*, scholarly assessments, and their status in the works of *Jarḥ wa Ta'dīl* scholars, without deeply examining how the social structure of the time also influenced their scholarly

authority. As a group of formerly enslaved individuals, the *mawālī* lived in a social reality marked by significant inequality, where factors such as lineage, tribal affiliation, and social status played a major role in determining one's acceptance and legitimacy within the scholarly community. Therefore, studying the *mawālī* through the lens of social stratification becomes highly relevant for opening new perspectives that are more critical and interdisciplinary. This approach not only broadens our understanding of the dynamics of hadith transmission but also challenges dominant narratives that tend to overlook the influence of social structures on the formation of authority within the Islamic intellectual tradition. (Aqaba, Jassim, et al, 2021)

This study aims to examine the application of social stratification theory in scientific research and to identify its potential relevance to hadith studies, particularly in understanding the social dimensions of hadith transmission and the position of narrators within historical social structures. The ultimate goal is to identify dominant theoretical approaches, methodological trends, and emerging research directions, as well as to contribute to a more globally inclusive understanding of social stratification. Social stratification is a central concept in sociology that explains the grouping of people into hierarchical layers based on factors such as wealth, power, education, and social status. (Haris, 2018) In general, social stratification reflects how resources in society are distributed unequally, resulting in the formation of distinct social classes.

Social stratification is a central theme in sociological studies that explains how individuals and groups gain access to resources, power, and opportunities within a society. (Hakim, 2025; Saumantri et al., 2023) In both developed and developing countries, forms of stratification manifest in various ways, ranging from income inequality and educational disparities to systemic social exclusion, all of which are shaped by each society's historical, cultural, and political context. (Grusky, D. B., & Weisshaar, K., 2019) Understanding how this system of stratification is examined in the scholarly literature is essential for identifying patterns of inequality and social mobility on a global scale.

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This article aims to review and analyze scholarly publications indexed in Scopus that discuss the theme of social stratification in developed and developing countries. The ultimate goal is to identify dominant theoretical approaches, methodological trends, and emerging research directions, as well as to contribute to a more globally inclusive understanding of social stratification.

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method in the form of a literature review on the theme of social stratification in research indexed in Scopus. In tracing research results indexed in Scopus, the author utilized several tracking websites, such as Scopus, Sage Journals, and ScienceDirect. The search process used the keyword "Stratification and Social" with limitations applied to scholarly journal publications, focusing specifically on open-access journal articles to facilitate the identification and analysis of the relevant works.

Based on the search results, this study primarily focused on scholarly articles published in Scopus-indexed journals. The retrieved literature was systematically screened, filtered, and classified to ensure its relevance to the research objectives. To support the thematic analysis of the selected articles, the authors employed VOSviewer, a bibliometric visualization tool used to map relationships among research themes, identify keyword co-occurrence patterns, and explore the conceptual structure of the literature on social stratification. The collected data were subsequently analyzed and synthesized, with the findings presented through descriptive paragraphs, tables, and graphical visualizations. This integrated analytical approach facilitated the

identification of dominant research themes, interdisciplinary connections, and potential knowledge gaps, thereby providing a clearer and more systematic understanding of the development of social stratification research and its potential relevance to hadith studies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The application of social stratification theory in the study of *isnād* concerning the *mawālī* holds significant relevance in understanding the influence of social structures on the scholarly authority of hadith transmitters. The *mawālī*, as former slaves who had been emancipated, often occupied marginal positions in classical Arab society, which indirectly affected the level of acceptance of the hadiths they transmitted. Through the lens of social stratification, researchers can examine how power relations, lineage status, and access to scholarly networks played a role in the evaluation of a transmitter's integrity (*'adālah*) and precision (*ḍabt*) by the scholars of *Jarḥ wa Ta'dīl*.

This approach broadens the scope of hadith studies beyond mere textual analysis and technical transmission, encompassing the social and political dimensions that shape narrative authority within the Islamic scholarly tradition. Consequently, the application of this theory enables a more comprehensive and critical understanding of how social constructs influenced religious authority in hadith transmission, particularly in the case of narrations transmitted by marginalized groups such as the *mawālī*. (Azami, M. M, 2003; Brown, J. A. C, 2007; Hodgson, M. G. S., 1974)

Search for Article Publications on the Topic of Social Stratification Indexed in Scopus

Based on the search results from databases such as Scopus, Sage Journals, and ScienceDirect using the keyword "Social Stratification," the following findings were obtained: 197 search results were found, consisting of 119 research articles, which represent the largest portion and indicate that social stratification is widely studied through empirical and methodological approaches. In addition, there were 8 review articles providing overviews of previous studies, as well as 22 encyclopedia entries offering theoretical explanations of the concept of social stratification. The topic also appeared in 21 book chapters and 8 conference abstracts, reflecting the dissemination of this discussion across various academic forums. Other types of publications addressing this topic included book reviews (1), editorials (1), short communications (3), mini-reviews (1), and one article in the form of an academic discussion. No articles were found in the form of correspondence. Moreover, there were 12 other articles categorized under unspecified publication types. These findings demonstrate that social stratification is an important and multidimensional topic in social sciences, attracting researchers from diverse approaches and disciplines.

Meanwhile, the search on Sage Journals using the keyword "Social Stratification" yielded results grouped by article type. The findings show that the majority of publications were research articles, totaling 241, indicating that social stratification is most frequently studied and published through empirical research. This was followed by 37 articles categorized as "Other," which likely include non-standard writings or mixed-content formats. There were also 19 review articles, providing general overviews or syntheses of various previous studies related to social

stratification. In addition, there were 14 book reviews, 10 product reviews, and 8 introductions. Other article types found in smaller numbers included abstracts (4), editorials (4), article commentaries (2), a note (1), and an obituary (1). These findings indicate that social stratification is a broad and significant topic in the field of social sciences, discussed in various forms of scholarly writing on the Sage Journals platform, with research-based approaches being the dominant format.

Furthermore, a search conducted using the Scopus.com platform yielded 68 results classified into proceedings, books, review articles, and research articles. However, since this study focuses primarily on tracking articles available in Scopus, the search using the keyword “Social Stratification,” limited to scholarly journal articles in which the term appears in the title, abstract, and keywords, resulted in 32 research article topics, with the following breakdown:

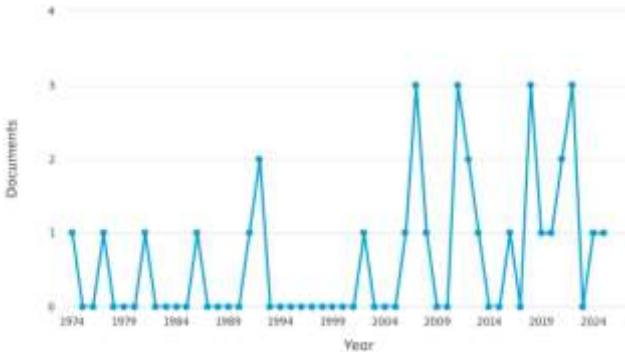
No	Author	Thopic	Journal	Year	Country/Affiliation
1	Cheng K.J.G(Cheng, 2025)	Early-life disadvantage and parent-to-child financial transfers	<u>Journal of Marriage and Family</u> , 87(2), pp. 437–459	2025	USA (Pennsylvania State University)
2	Carreon, Erin D.(Carreon, 2024)	Expected to Work for Free: Social Work's Complicity in its Own Devaluation	<u>Affilia - Feminist Inquiry in Social Work</u> , 39(1), pp. 12–18	2024	USA (University of Chicago)
3	Vigiser et al.(Vigiser et al., 2022)	JCV seroconversion rate during the SARS COVID-19 pandemic	<u>Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders</u> , 68, 104244	2022	Israel (Tel Aviv University)
4	Oeztuerk et al. (PRONIA)(Oeztuerk et al., 2022)	The clinical relevance of formal thought disorder in the early stages of psychosis: results from the PRONIA study	<u>European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience</u> , 272(3), pp. 403–413	2022	German (Univ. of Munich)
5	Farmer-Hinton(Farmer-Hinton & Kellogg, 2022)	Incentives and Existing Stratification: Social Capital, College Planning, and a Promise Scholarship Program	<u>Teachers College Record</u> , 124(2), pp. 60–84	2022	USA (University of Wisconsin)
6	IseOlorunkanmi et al.(IseOlorunkanmi et al., 2021)	Challenges in Nigeria’s education sector and the migration of Nigerian postgraduate students to South African universities	<u>Cogent Social Sciences</u> , 7(1), 1890897	2021	Nigeria (Landmark University)
7	Medwinter, Sancha(Medwinter, 2021)	Reproducing poverty and inequality in disaster: race, class, social capital, NGOs, and urban space in New York City after Superstorm Sandy	<u>Environmental Sociology</u> , 7(1), pp. 1–11	2021	USA (Univ. of Massachusetts)
8	Dong et al.(Dong et al., 2020)	The Community Renewal of Shantytown Transformation in Old Industrial Cities: Evidence	<u>Chinese Geographical Science</u> , 30(6), pp. 1022–1038	2020	China (Liaoning University)

		from Tiexi Worker Village in Shenyang, China			
9	Dover & Belon(Dover & Belon, 2019)	The health equity measurement framework: A comprehensive model to measure social inequities in health	<u>International Journal for Equity in Health</u> , 18(1), 36	2019	Kanada (Alberta Health)
10	Rai, S.K.(Rai, 2018)	Social histories of exclusion and moments of resistance: The case of Muslim Julaha weavers in colonial United Provinces	Indian Economic and Social History Review, 55(4), pp. 549–574	2018	India (Univ. of Delhi)
11	Frenkel & Israel(Frenkel & Israel, 2018)	Spatial inequality in the context of city-suburb cleavages—Enlarging the framework of well-being and social inequality	<u>Landscape and Urban Planning</u> , 177, pp. 328–339	2018	Israel (Technion)
12	Brezis & Hellier(Brezis & Hellier, 2018)	Social mobility at the top and the higher education system	<u>European Journal of Political Economy</u> , 52, pp. 36–54	2018	Israel (Bar-Ilan University)
13	Suda, Kimiko(Suda, 2016)	A Room of One's Own: Highly Educated Migrants' Strategies for Creating a Home in Guangzhou	<u>Population, Space and Place</u> , 22(2), pp. 146–157	2016	Jerman (Free Univ. Berlin)
14	Nguyen & Reardon(Nguyen & Reardon, 2013)	The Role of Race and English Proficiency on the Health of Older Immigrants	<u>Social Work in Health Care</u> , 52(6), pp. 599–617	2013	USA (NYU)
15	Akbulut & Akar(Akbulut & Akar-Vural, 2012)	Recalling of childhood: Looking for innocence in near / far historical nostalgia	<u>Milli Folklor</u> , 12(95), pp. 249–262	2012	Turki (Kocaeli University)
16	Colas-Zelin et al.(Colas-Zelin et al., 2012)	The imposition of, but not the propensity for, social subordination impairs exploratory behaviors and general cognitive abilities	<u>Behavioural Brain Research</u> , 232(1), pp. 294–305	2012	USA (Rutgers University)
17	Ponomareva, Inna(Ponomareva, 2011)	Pitirim a sorokin: The interconnection between his life and scientific work	<u>International Sociology</u> , 26(6), pp. 878–904	2011	Rusia (Kuban State Univ.)
18	Whitfield et al.(Whitfield et al., 2011)	Biobehavioral aspects of health and aging among people of Mexican origin	<u>Journal of Aging and Health</u> , 23(7), pp. 1019–1026	2011	USA (Duke University)
19	Yeoh, Emile(Kok-Kheng, 2011)	Stratification, social action and morphogenesis: Structures and agents in contemporary China's social transformation	<u>International Journal of China Studies</u> , 2(2), pp. 407–504	2011	Malaysia (Univ. of Malaya)
20	Johnson, Odis	Ecology in educational theory: Thoughts on stratification, social mobility & proximal capital	<u>Urban Review</u> , 40(3), pp. 227–246	2008	USA (University of Maryland)

21	Scott, John(Scott,John, 2007)	Power, domination and stratification: Towards a conceptual synthesis	<u>Sociologia, Problemas e Praticas</u> , 55, pp. 25–39	2007	UK (University of Essex)
22	Robinson et al.(obinson, J., Blockson, L., & Robinson, S, 2007)	American women entrepreneurs redefine success in growth ventures	<u>Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</u> , 612(2), pp. 131–154	2007	USA (NYU Stern)
23	Anderberg & Andersson(Anderberg, D., & Andersson, F, 2007)	Stratification, social networks in the labour market, and intergenerational mobility	<u>Economic Journal</u> , 117(520), pp. 782–812	2007	UK (Royal Holloway Univ. of London)
24	Syed Hussein Alatas(Alatas, 2006)	The autonomous, the universal and the future of sociology	<u>Current Sociology</u> , 54(1)	2006	Malaysia (National Univ. of Malaysia)
25	Dalud-Vincent, Monique(Dalud-Vincent, M, 2002)	Reso as a Tool for Structuring Social-Professional Categories [Reso Comme Outil De Structuration Des Categories Socioprofessionnelles]	<u>BMS Bulletin of Sociological Methodology/ Bulletin de Methodologie Sociologique</u> , 76(1), pp. 5–25	2002	Prancis (Lyon II)
26	Barriga et al.(Barriga et al., 1992)	Understanding of social organization concepts in mexican children and adolescents from low socioeconomic level	<u>Revista de Psicologia Social</u> , 7(2), pp. 175–193	1992	Meksiko (UNAM)
27	Faresjö, Tomas(Faresjö, 1992)	Social environment and health-a social epidemiological frame of reference	<u>Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care</u> , 10(2), pp. 105–110	1992	Swedia (Uppsala University)
28	Bercovitch, Fred B.(Bercovitch, 1991)	Social stratification, social strategies, and reproductive success in primates	<u>Ethology and Sociobiology</u> , 12(4), pp. 315–333	1991	Puerto Rico (Univ. of Puerto Rico)
29	Sharma K.L.	Caste, class and social movements (India).	National Library of Australia	1986	India
30	Bond, George C.	Social Economic Status and Educational Achievement: A Review Article	<u>Anthropology & Education Quarterly</u> , 12(4), pp. 227–257	1981	USA (Columbia University)
31	Jones, Frank E.	Current sociological research in Canada: Views of a journal editor	<u>Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences</u> , 13(2), pp. 160–172	1977	Kanada (McMaster University)
32	Collins, Randall(Collins R., 1974)	Reassessments of sociological history: The empirical validity of the conflict tradition	<u>Theory and Society</u> , 1(2), pp. 147–178	1974	USA (UC San Diego)

Table 1. Detailed Publications Indexed in Scopus

Then, when viewed from the research findings published in Scopus-indexed journals, as illustrated in the following graph:

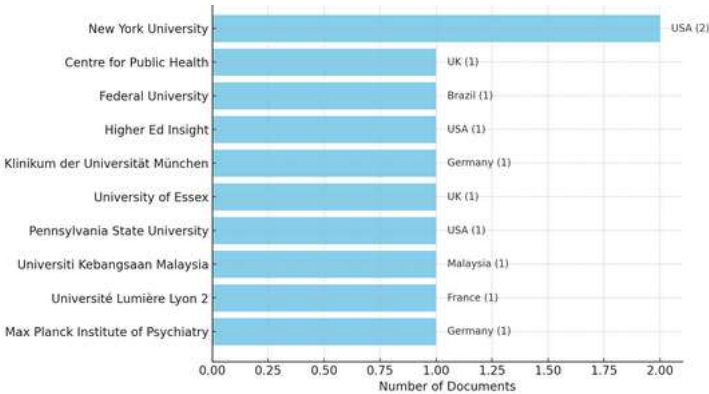


Graph 1. Identification of the Publication Year Trends of Scopus Articles

The figure shows the trend in the number of scholarly articles discussing the topic of “social stratification” in the Scopus database from 1974 to 2024. Initially, from 1974 to the late 1990s, the number of publications was very small, with some years having no articles at all. However, starting in the early 2000s, there was a noticeable increase in publications, indicating that the topic began to attract researchers’ attention. The peak occurred in several years, such as 2005, 2009, 2011, and 2019, with up to three documents published per year. Afterward, although there was a slight decline, the topic has continued to be researched consistently up to 2025. This indicates that the issue of social stratification is increasingly regarded as important in academic studies, particularly in examining inequality and social structures in modern society.

Classification of Articles by Author Affiliation and Country

Then, when viewed based on the affiliations of the authors conducting research for articles published in Scopus-indexed journals, as shown in the following graph:



Graph 2. Classification of Article Authors’ Affiliations

The figure shows a list of institutions or universities whose researchers have published the most articles on the topic of “social stratification” in Scopus-indexed journals. The graph indicates that New York University in the United States is the institution with the highest number of publications. In addition, several universities and research institutions from other countries appear, such as the Centre for Public Health (likely based in the United Kingdom), the Federal University of Brazil, and Higher Ed Insight, also based in the United States.

A number of European institutions are also represented, including Universität München and the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Germany, the University of

Essex in the United Kingdom, and Université Lumière Lyon 2 in France. Interestingly, there is one institution from Southeast Asia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, which has also contributed publications on this topic.

Based on this data, it can be concluded that research on social stratification is most frequently conducted by authors from developed countries, particularly the United States and European nations, though it has also begun to be developed in the Asian region. This can be seen from the distribution of authors' countries as follows:

Figure 1. Map of the Distribution of Authors of Scopus-Indexed Articles



The figure presents the search results on the number of scholarly documents authored by researchers from various countries. Based on the graph, the United States stands out as the country with the highest contribution, producing 11 documents significantly more than any other country. This indicates that researchers from the United States are highly active in studying and publishing scholarly works on social stratification.

Other contributing countries include Israel, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, India, Malaysia, Sweden, Nigeria, and Australia, each producing around one to two documents. This suggests that although the topic of social stratification is predominantly researched in the United States, countries from Europe, Asia, and Oceania also contribute to the scholarship, albeit in smaller numbers.

Classification by Article Discussion Themes

Meanwhile, regarding the discussion themes of the scholarly articles indexed in Scopus, the percentages are as follows:



Graph 3. Discussion Themes of Scopus-Indexed Articles

The figure is a pie chart showing the distribution of scholarly article publications by subject area, indexed in Scopus, and related to the topic of "social stratification." The chart indicates that the field of Social Sciences dominates with the

largest contribution, accounting for 42.6% of all analyzed documents. This shows that social stratification is most frequently studied in the context of social studies, such as sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Arts and Humanities ranks second with 10.6%, followed by Medicine with the same percentage of 10.6%. This suggests that the issue of social stratification is also increasingly linked to health, medical services, and cultural studies. Other contributing fields, although smaller in proportion, include Environmental Science and Earth and Planetary Sciences, each with 6.4%, as well as Economics and Neuroscience, also at 6.4% each. Psychology, Agricultural and Biological Sciences, and Nursing each account for between 2% and 4%.

These findings indicate that while social stratification is generally a prominent topic within the social sciences, it also receives attention across various interdisciplinary fields. Thus, the data demonstrate that research on social stratification takes a multidisciplinary approach, touching on diverse aspects of human life.

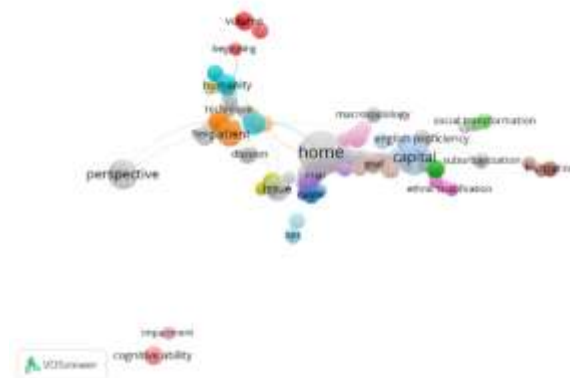


Figure 2. Results of Thematic Analysis of Scopus-Indexed Article Publications Using VOSviewer

Based on the data visualization from VOSviewer, it can be concluded that the most frequently discussed research themes center on social issues, including social inequality (social stratification), social capital (capital), housing conditions (home), and access to healthcare services (patient). Keywords such as *English proficiency*, *macro-sociology*, *ethnic stratification*, and *suburbanization* indicate that much of the research focuses on how social, economic, and cultural conditions affect people's lives, particularly in the contexts of education, health, and social integration.

In addition, the emergence of keywords such as *perspective*, *humanity*, *issue*, and *goal* suggests the presence of a multidisciplinary approach in addressing these issues. Researchers frequently explore the relationship between social status and quality of life, as well as the challenges faced by vulnerable groups such as patients, individuals with limited cognitive abilities, and certain ethnic groups. Thus, it can be concluded that the dominant theme in the research is the influence of social factors on the well-being of individuals and groups in modern society, as well as how social structures affect access, opportunities, and integration in various aspects of life. Based on the research findings using Scopus-indexed journal platforms, there are 32 article titles identified. A detailed review shows that the research and publication of these articles in Scopus-indexed journals were conducted by authors from 12 countries. Of these, 9 are classified as developed countries—namely the United States, Israel, Brazil, Sweden, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Australia, while 3 are classified as developing countries, namely India, Nigeria, and Malaysia.

Furthermore, the thematic classification of these research articles reveals that the majority focus on topics in Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Medicine, Nursing, Forestry, Psychology, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Studies, and Economics. Meanwhile, regarding publications on the theme of religion using social stratification theory, no Scopus-indexed articles were found.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that social stratification has become a significant multidisciplinary research theme, as demonstrated by the analysis of 32 scholarly articles published between 1974 and 2025 across 12 countries and various academic disciplines. The findings reveal that social stratification theory has been extensively explored in sociology, the humanities, psychology, health sciences, environmental studies, and economics, reflecting its broad applicability to understanding social hierarchies, inequalities, and the distribution of social authority and resources. Nevertheless, the literature review identified a notable gap in the application of this theory to religious studies, particularly Islamic studies, hadith, and the science of hadith. This finding highlights an underexplored intersection between contemporary social theory and classical Islamic scholarship, suggesting the need to expand interdisciplinary research beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries.

The historical complexity of pre-Islamic and early Islamic societies provides a compelling context for examining the potential contribution of social stratification theory to hadith studies. Social distinctions involving Quraysh elites, mawālī, non-Arab communities (‘ajam), women, and other social groups offer important perspectives for investigating the social backgrounds, scholarly authority, and historical recognition of hadith narrators. In this regard, the theories of Karl Marx and Talcott Parsons may provide complementary analytical frameworks for exploring the relationships between social structures, power, social roles, and the transmission of religious knowledge. However, these theoretical perspectives should be applied critically and in conjunction with established hadith methodologies, including ‘ilm al-rijāl and al-jarḥ wa al-ta’dīl, rather than as substitutes for them. Ultimately, integrating social stratification theory into hadith studies offers promising opportunities to develop a more contextual, critical, and inclusive understanding of hadith transmission and the formation of Islamic intellectual traditions, while opening new avenues for future interdisciplinary research.

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