

**Use of Scientific Research Methodology among Masters Graduates in Islamic Studies at  
Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina State, Nigeria**

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## **Abstract**

*This study is on the use of scientific research methodology among Masters graduates in Islamic studies at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina State, Nigeria. Forty (40) theses works were subjected to observation with a view of finding out the use of scientific method in writing theses. The scope of the theses is 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Two research objectives and questions were raised to guide the study. The major findings revealed that there is no consistency in the number of chapters that each thesis should contained, as such it leads to writing theses with different approaches which may be contrary to scientific research. It is recommended that more training is required for MA graduates at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University on writing thesis based on scientific research approach.*

**Keywords:** Scientific, research, methodology, Islamic studies.

## **Chapter Introduction**

### **1.1 Background to the Study**

Nigeria is located on the western coast of Africa. It has a diverse geography with climates ranging from arid to humid equatorial. Hundreds of languages are spoken in the country including Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo and English. The country is endowed with abundant natural resources notably petroleum, mineral resources, natural gas and agriculture. It has as of 2021 an estimated population of 225,954,000. The capital city of Nigeria is Abuja. Modern Nigeria dates from 1914 when the British protectorates of northern and southern Nigeria were joined together. The country became independent on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1960.

Nigeria has four geo-political zones – south-west, south-east, north-west and north-east. Umaru Musa Yar’adua university, which is the main focus of this study, is located in the north-western part of Nigeria. The North-West region of Nigeria consists of seven states comprising Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Kebbi, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara. The states emerged from the old Northern Region, and majority of its people consists majorly of Hausa and Fulani with Islam as their major religion. Local government areas differ among the States under this region.

Katsina state is divided into 34 local government areas (Nigeria Zip Codes, 2020). The State had been a significant seat of learning and a commercial centre of the trans-Saharan trade which covers a total land mass of 24,971 sq km, with a population of 5,801,584 based on the (2006) National population census (Katsina State Home of Hospitality, 2016). According to Katsina State Government (2010), there have been in existence Islamic Schools and other centers of scholarship as far back as the 14th century, where the famous Gobarau Islamic Learning Centre and Mosque (Gobarau Minaret) was constructed during the reign of Sarkin Katsina (Emir) Muhammadu Korau (1348-1398) and was the centre of learning for the whole of Western Sudan at that time. At present the State has three functional Universities, namely Umaru Musa Yar’adua University, Alqalam University and Federal University Dutsinma and some other institutions of higher learning.

Umaru Musa Yar’adua university (UMYU), formerly Katsina State university, established by the Katsina State Government in 2006, to serve as a nucleus for socio-economic, technological and political development of the State by producing highly skilled human resource through conventional face-to-face and distance learning modes. Umaru Musa Yar’adua, the then Governor of Katsina State began the work of creating the university. The university commenced academic

activities in January, 2007 with three faculties (Education, Humanities and Applied Natural Sciences) and sixteen undergraduate programmes. Currently, the university has the faculties of Education, Humanities, Applied and Natural Sciences, Social and Management Sciences, law and Medicine. Humanities comprises of departments of Islamic studies, Arabic studies, History, English language, Nigerian language (Hausa), Accounting, Political science, Public administration and Economics. The vision of the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University is to be one of the best universities with a mission of producing well grounded, sound, God-fearing and entrepreneurially minded graduates that undertake research for societal development (UMYU, 2022). In this research, I would like to study the status of training the MA graduates of this particular university in terms of scientific research.

When talking of Research Methodology in modern research, it does not only means the research methods but also the logic and philosophy behind the methods used in the context of research studies and explaining the reasons why using a particular method or technique and why not using others so that research results are capable of being evaluated either by the researcher himself or by others (Puri, 2019). Modern research method is required due to the fact that:

- a. It involves worldviews about research;
- b. It involves the use of scientific approach in obtaining and analyzing data;
- c. It involves the formulation and testing hypotheses;
- d. It gives room for generalization of findings; and
- e. It is accepted globally.

Thus, usage of modern research methodology can assist students in achieving more accurate results of the study, be it social or religious studies. In traditional Muslim intellectual circles, however, the potential of modern research methodology is not fully acknowledged in Islamic studies. This study accordingly examines the modern research methodology among Masters graduates in Islamic Studies at Umaru Musa Yar'adua university Katsina.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Modern research in Islamic studies has mostly been carried out through the use of traditional method which uses classical authorities and other means as sources of obtaining and analyzing data. For instance, relying heavily on the works of predecessors. This traditional approach cannot

in any way be comparable to the modern research method which uses scientific approach in collecting and analyzing data. This problem may lead to backwardness in Islamic studies research and inability of the subject to compete in the global research arena which will in turn affects the standard and quality of the studies carried out under Islamic studies as well as the graduates who cannot compete with their colleagues globally. This is evident from what Alpay (2010) states that “Two primary findings can be about the state of science and technology in OIC Countries. First, major indicators on research and scientific development display a large disparity within the OIC Countries. Second, the OIC Members, individually or as a group, lag far behind rest of the World, particularly the developed countries, with a few exceptions.” In its “Vision 1441H”, a 15 year plan for scientific and technological development, the OIC acknowledged that “the Muslim World is facing a knowledge gap because of its deficiency in science, technology and innovation” (Alpay, 2010:14). Consequently this study intends to investigate on whether the Masters graduates in Islamic studies at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina are using scientific method of research for the betterment of the subject and quality of research, and the graduates.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

- a. To appraise the use of scientific research method among Masters graduates in Islamic studies at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University.
- b. To determine the significance of training MA graduates to use scientific research method through thesis writing process.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

- a. What is the level of usage of scientific research method among Masters graduates in Islamic studies at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University?
- b. What is the significance of training MA graduates to use scientific research method through thesis writing process?

### **1.5 Significance of the Research**

The research is significant to the Islamic studies students of higher institutions in keeping them abreast on the use of scientific research method in conducting their research.

It will also help in promoting world view on research methods among Islamic studies lecturers and students of the department of Islamic studies. Others that would find the research significant to them are the students from other departments by making use of the findings to improve their research works. It would also be significant in conducting further research works in the Islamic studies and other related fields.

The Ministry of education and other related departments and parastatals would also find this work significant in educational planning stages their states. It would also be significant in motivating stakeholders to provide in-service training for teachers with deficiency in research methodology. It would also provide an avenue for stakeholders to organize seminars, conferences and workshops for teachers and students with regards to scientific methods of conducting research.

## **1.6 Research Methodology**

Simple random sampling technique would be used in selecting the sample projects (MA theses) for this study. The sample projects would be subjected to observation of the techniques used in conducting the research works (theses). The data is collected by the researcher from the Post Graduate library, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina, where the concluded theses are being kept for references and other uses.

The participants/subjects for this study are the Masters graduates theses of 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 from the department of Islamic studies Umaru Musa Yar'adua university Katsina. This method is used because the Masters graduates could not be found easily since they left the university. Therefore, the most suitable method to undertake this study is through observing the techniques and methods used in conducting the previous research works. The data collected would be analyzed using descriptive statistics as well as in answering the research questions. The research is a qualitative one because it involves observation of graduates theses to investigate on the usage of scientific method in writing theses works. Dada (2016) described qualitative research as a research method which typically include interviews and observations including case studies, surveys, historical and document analyses. It is concerned with processes as opposed to products.

This study consisted of three chapters: Chapter one which is an introduction, chapter two which is the review of related literature and chapter three which is the presentation and analysis of the data collected.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Review of Related Literature**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter reviewed related literature on the study and it comprised of the following components:

2.1 Understanding Scientific Research

2.2 Process of Scientific Research

2.3 Significance of Scientific Research

2.4 Islamic Studies and Scientific Research

2.5 Challenges of Scientific Research

2.6 Conclusion

2.7 Summary

### **2.1 Understanding Scientific Research**

Research means investigating or finding out about a particular issue at stake with a view to identify, examine or come out with the actual phenomena pertaining to that particular issue. Research has been defined as an academic activity that involves identifying the research problem, formulating a hypothesis, collecting and analyzing data and reaching specific conclusions in the form of solutions or general theories (Directorate of Distance Education, 2012). Asaad and Ismail (2021) have defined research as a search for knowledge, as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic and as a careful investigation or inquiry specially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge. According to Woody (n.d) as cited in Asaad and Ismail (2021), research comprises defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis or suggested solutions; collecting, organizing and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit.

The purpose of scientific research according to Woody (n.d) as cited in Asaad and Ismail (2021) is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures with the aim of finding out the truth which is hidden or not been discovered yet, and to:

- a. learn about a phenomenon or obtain new insights about it - explanatory or formative research;
- b. depict the characteristics of a particular individual, situation, or group - descriptive research;
- c. determine the frequency with which something occurs or with which it is associated with something else - diagnostic research, and;
- d. test a hypothesis of a casual relationship between variables - hypothesis-testing research.



According to Akhmetova and Rafikov (2021), modern scientific research emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe, and the method is a product of developments which happened throughout 1000 years. The paradigm of scientific research according to them consists of ontology, epistemology methodology, and methods. During the Ancient Greece, scientific research was in form of a rational theoretical science aimed at rational understanding of nature, for example, the philosophy of scientific research of Aristotle (384-322BC) involved both inductive and deductive reasoning, and he developed a systematic study of logic. Observation was undervalued by the Greeks at that time, in favour of the deductive process, where knowledge is built by means of pure thought. The philosophy and aims of research as at that time was search for a truth (Akhmetova and Rafikov, 2021).

The emergence of inductive experimental method happened during the early Islamic Civilization when Al-Kindi (801–873) and Jabir ibn Hayyan (d. 816) started to put a greater emphasis on the use of experiment as a source of knowledge. Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen) used experimentation to obtain the results in his *Book of Optics* (1021). He combined observations, experiments and rational arguments to support his intromission theory of vision, in which rays of light are emitted from objects rather than from the eyes (corrected the theory of Ptolemy). The aims and philosophy of research at that time was to understand the Power and Creation of Allah (nature, universe) (Akhmetova and Rafikov, 2021). It is to be noted however, that the aims and philosophy of research today is to understand phenomena and to build knowledge about the natural world in order to predict and control.

## **2.2 Process of Scientific Research**

There are various ways and methods of conducting a scientific research depending on which one is suitable for the researcher and the research topic, as such it involves process through which it can be conducted or undertaken, some of such process were pointed out by Akhmetova and Rafikov (2021) as follows:

- a. Observation: Scientific research can be undertaken through a careful observation of a phenomenon under study, applying rigorous skepticism about what is observed, and then interprets the observation without any distortion.

- b. Formulation of Hypothesis: Scientific research can be undertaken or conducted through formulation of hypothesis, which is assumption about a phenomena which is usually tested to determine whether to retain the hypothesis or not.
- c. Testing with Experiments: The process of scientific research can also be through experimental and measurement-based testing of deduction drawn from the hypothesis.
- d. Analysis and Reports Conclusion: Scientific research can be undertaken through refinement or elimination of the hypothesis based on the experimental findings.

According to Caparlar and Donmez (2016), scientific research can be classified according to data collection techniques through observation and experiment; causality relationships through descriptive and analytical methods; relationships with time by means of retrospective, prospective and cross-sectional methods, and the medium through which they are applied such as clinical, Laboratory and social descriptive research.

Asaad and Ismail (2021) affirmed that in conducting scientific research many steps were involved which include identifying a problem to solve, thorough researching of a standard topic and identifying gaps in knowledge to bridge. Other steps as enumerated by them are:

- a. Performing a comprehensive literature search to help in developing a research question.
- b. Revising the research question to make sure it is clear, specific, refers directly to the problem, and identifies a target group of participants.
- c. Outlining the research plan which is the roadmap the any studies.
- d. Determining the sample size to work with and large enough to perform statistical analyses. This is normally derived from the population.
- e. State all experimental procedures and conditions if the study involves experimentation.

In the process of conducting research, there are simple lay down rules and regulations. These rules and regulations were identified by Dada (2016) in steps below:

Step 1: Identifying the gap in knowledge on the basis of experience and observations.

Step 2: Identifying the antecedent/causes on the basis of experience, observation and a review of related literature.

Step 3: Stating the goals.

Step 4: Formulation of hypotheses in form of null or alternate.

Step 5: Collecting relevant information using appropriate tools and techniques

Step 6: Testing the hypotheses with appropriate statistical tools.

Step 7: Interpreting the findings.

Step 8: Comparing the findings with prior researchers findings.

Step 9: Modifying theory on the basis of step 7 and step 8.

Step 10: Asking new questions based on the findings of the study.

### **2.3 Significance of Scientific Research**

Generally, research is significant in many aspects of life especially pertaining to education Islamic studies education inclusive. In his attempt, Kapur (2018) pointed out some of the significance of research including enabling substantial progress to be made in curriculum development and reform, educating slow learners, understanding the psychological traits of the physically challenged individuals and in adapting methods of instructions to the needs of individual learners. According to him, research has rendered an imperative contribution in acquiring information regarding different cultures, norms and values.

There is need for scientific research today in the Muslim world, especially in Islamic studies as scientific research will support Islamic studies education to achieve numerous goals and objectives and contribute in boosting and rebuilding confidence of Islamic studies teachers at various levels. Boykin (1972) as cited in Kapur (2018) emphasized that research that is well organized will rebuild confidence in public schools, adapt to cultural diversity, boost self-identity and individual realization, re-establish faith in human beings, develop moral and democratic values, achieve the goals of quality and relevance, and cope with the challenges of future world of scientific and technological advancement. Research in education has enabled substantial progress to be made in curriculum development and reform, educating slow learners, understanding the psychological traits of the physically challenged individuals and in adapting methods of instructions to the needs of individual learners. Research in education has rendered an imperative contribution in acquiring information regarding different cultures, norms and values. The individuals have made substantial

contributions through research to their knowledge and generation of awareness, understanding administrative leadership and behaviour, group procedures

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According to Kane (2017) research especially scientific is an objective method to prove a hypothesis, claim or observation, unlike relying on mental processes or reasoning. Thus, it is not restricted by the limits of critical thinking, biased discussion or personal opinions, as such conducting research is significant and valuable for developing and promoting the body of knowledge and information that drives innovation, and allows us to live healthier and longer lives. It is also significant for dispelling the false claims of inaccurate or weak research findings.

#### **2.4 Islamic Studies and Scientific Research**

Islamic studies as a comprehensive subject derived from Islamic principles and taught at different levels of primary, secondary and higher institutions. It has a number of issues and problems that requires careful studies or research since the beginning of revelation to present day. Many verses of the Qur'an emphasized on the need for making enquiry, research and investigations. Allah says: "O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become over what you have done, regretful". (The Qur'an, Hujurat: 6)

Islam encourages scientific thinking (use of precision) in other words scientific research. According to Badi (2017), the term "scientific thinking style" in light of the Qur'an connotes the style by which the Qur'an enhances the thinking ability of man in matters of natural sciences to research and investigates so that men can be able to realize and recognize the greatness of Allah as The Creator, and to utilize and develop the findings resulting from the exercise of such thinking for the betterment of humanity. Praising and enabling the pen and admiring the acquisition of knowledge were among the first verses of the Qur'an. The first five verses of surah of Al-'alaq contains that evidence.

The use of perceptual thinking (use of perception) is also encouraged in Islamic studies. This style as elaborated by Badi (2017), is related to human perception of the world. The Qur'an was revealed to initiate and correct perceptions of the world and life. For example, the status of the Hereafter, values and ethics, emphasizing what is good and what is evil in a very effective way. People naturally do not expect good out of things they hate or dislike. The Qur'an came to change this perception by telling us that this is not true and what we dislike may be good and beneficial.

Allah says: "Fighting (in the cause of Allah) is ordained for you, even though you dislike it, but it may be that you hate a thing while it is good for you, and that you love a thing which is bad for you: and Allah knows, whereas you do not know." (Surah Al-Baqarah: 216).

Again Allah says: "Verily those who brought forth the slander are a group of you. Consider it not a bad thing for you. Nay, it is good for you..." (Surah Al-Nur: 11).

Another area where Islamic studies encourage research is through the verses of the Qur'an that motivated conceptual thinking, in other words use of conceptual expansion and combination. According to Badi (2017), this style of thinking can be divided into two categories:

**Conceptual Expansion:** This refers to constructing, stretching, extending, modifying, and refining concepts to fit new situations and thus creating new meanings. The concept of "worship" was confined to mere "religious ritual acts" and to good religious deeds related to the spiritual aspect of Islam alone. Islam came to extend the meaning of the term to include all the actions that please Allah.

**Conceptual Combination:** This refers to the combination of two concepts to produce a new idea or meaning where a non-existent concept is brought into being. It is one of the basic processes that can produce a creative outcome and is a source of conceptual change and growth. For example the Qur'an describes a marvelous natural phenomenon in the following way: "and the night as it darkly falls, and the morning as it softly breathes." (Surah Al-Infitar: 17-18). It is as if night and morning are living beings.

Islamic studies encourage rational thinking, that is use of reason and logic to investigate, research and find out the reality of issues and solve problems.

According to Badi (2017), rational can be literally defined as: "having the faculty of reasoning endowed with the reason, exercising one's reason in a proper manner, and having sound judgement. It also means agreeable to reason, not foolish absurd or extravagant".

Badi (2017) expatiates that "rationality" has at least seven meanings:

- a. Conceptual rationality, which means minimizing fuzziness and imprecision.
- b. Logical rationality, which means striving for consistency and avoiding contradiction.
- c. Methodological rationality, which means questioning, doubting and criticizing, justifying and demanding proof or evidence, either favourable or unfavourable.
- d. Epistemological rationality, which is caring for empirical support and avoiding conjecture incompatible with the bulk of the body of scientific and technological knowledge.
- e. Ontological rationality, which is adopting a constant worldview compatible with the bulk of the sciences and the technology of the day.
- f. Valuation rationality, which means striving for goals, which in addition to being attainable, are worth being attained.
- g. Practical rationality, which is adapting means that are likely to help attain the goals in view.

The Qur'an uses the rational style of thinking in the following areas::

1. Proving and affirming the existence of Allah, His oneness, His attributes and that He is the only one that deserves to be worshipped.
2. Proving and affirming the Day of Judgement.
3. Attacking the faulty reasoning of those who deny the existence of Allah and the Hereafter, and refuting their arguments and misconceptions.

For example where Allah says: "Had there been therein (in the heavens and the earth) gods besides Allah, then verily both would have been ruined, Glorified is Allah, the Lord of the Throne, (High is He) above all that evil they associate with (Surah Al-Anbiya: 22)

In using this style of thinking to refute the arguments of those who deny and do not believe in the Day of Judgement, the Qur'an uses two forms of reasoning. The first is by telling them that renovation is easier than creating new things, Allah the Almighty says, "And He is Who originates the creation, then He will repeat it (after it has Perished); and this is easier for Him" (Surah Al-Rūm: 27).

Scientific research is not an alien or in isolation in Islamic studies for several reasons. Sadaratullah, Riaz Khan Al-Azhari and Fayaz Karim Khan (2016) are of the view that scientific research in Islamic studies should be encouraged in order to take care of:

- a. Scientific Inventions: New inventions have brought and raised a lot of questions which Muslims need answers on. For example, a person travelling by air, by ship in the sea or

stepped on the moon, such as Astronomers need to investigate and search for answers on how to determine the time for prayers, fasting time and the Qibla direction.

- b. Medical Issues: Such as DNA issues, genotype issues, epidemic and pandemic issues, transplant, family planning, artificial intelligence among others.
- c. Economic Issues: There are many economic issues which need proper research in the light of Islamic thoughts such as establishment of Islamic banking and elimination of interest from society, issues on sophisticated techniques of gambling etc.
- d. Socials Issues: There are many social issues which need proper research in the light of Islamic thoughts to solve social issues or problems. For example, elimination of corruption, analysis of social norms and rites, the use of internet, camera and television. To improve the Muslims societies and to make them according to the real soul of Islamic thoughts, a proper research and analysis is essential.

Some of the effects of research according to Sadaratullah, Riaz Khan Al-Azhari and Fayaz Karim Khan (2016) include that acquisition of fresh information will be possible; performance will be enhance in many endeavours; there may be awareness of facts; many superstitious beliefs may be eradicated; protection from embarrassment; increase in the scope of depth of knowledge; access to the real conclusions; there may be end of stagnancy; knowledge of the secrets and mysteries of the universe may be uncovered; it will bring an end to the atmosphere of doubts and; it will support progress.

To stress the importance of research, Allah the Almighty revealed the story of Prophet Musa (A.S) who went on a mission to investigate and search for a special knowledge and further his education on societal and community affairs.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also affirmed the position and views of Mu'az bn Jabal when send to Yamen as a Judge and informed the Prophet (peace be upon him) that in the absence of rulings from the Qur'an and Sunnah, he will make research and further enquiries to resolve complicated issues (Al-Tirmidhi, No. 1327), although is a weak tradition.

## **2.5 Challenges of Scientific Research**

Research works encount certain challenges depending on the situation or condition of the study or the researcher. The major problems of scientific research as Oden (2022) states, are failure to

delimit science; inability to identify purpose of science in research; poor design of many studies; broken peer review system; and over quantification of phenomena.

Aedh and Elfaki (2019) identified the challenges of scientific research which include:

- a. Lack of resources and research facilities: The demand for resources is far exceeds the funds which is crucial for research. Considering international aspects, it is clear that big science and projects are becoming too costly for countries, accompanied by low demand for research by policy-makers. First of all, systematic reviews require access to a wide range of databases and peer-reviewed journals, which can be problematic and very expensive. Additionally, money is needed too to run studies, in terms of subsidizing lab equipment, for paying research assistants and even for their own expenses. Declining investment in research has been cited as a reason for deteriorating research quality.
- b. Lack of motivation and incentives: Motivation and incentives are part of the major challenges that encounter research. Researchers argue that most of the time work demand does not give room for research. They just admire it but do not have enough time for it. This makes them less supportive to new ideas and thus encouraged for conducting research.
- c. Lack of training, guidance and supervision: Lack of training and mentorship from senior researchers had been cited too as one of the major challenges facing scientific research. It was indicated that most of the potential mentors and senior researchers are too busy with their work and have little for junior researchers. This lack of training may lead to lack of confidence to take-up new studies.
- d. Organizational obstacles and difficulties for obtaining data: Data collection is not always an easy job, and most often secrecy takes place. Policy-makers and stakeholders usually unwilling or don't want to make much information at public level. Therefore, absence of reliable sources can make the process of research writing difficult.

## **2.6 Summary and Conclusion**

It can be seen from this chapter that scientific research is paramount in all research process, comprising all disciplines, Islamic studies inclusive. The major components discussed in the chapter which include understanding scientific research, its process, significance, Islamic studies and scientific research and the challenges of scientific research elaborated more on the significance of using scientific method in conducting research works. With the above literature reviewed, and



the significance of scientific research methods that it come up with, it is hoped that the use of scientific research methodology among Masters graduates in Islamic studies and other related fields in the social sciences at Umaru Musa Yar'adua university Katsina State, Nigeria, and other related universities would be enhanced to a wider scope.

## **Chapter Three**

### **Data Analysis**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The theses studied comprised of works/studies conducted by the Masters graduates in Islamic studies of 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. Ten (10) theses from each year were subjected to observation, totaling forty (40) theses works in all.

The main components observed from the theses are:

- a. Number of chapters involved in each thesis
- b. Headings of each chapter
- c. Methodology used under each chapter
- d. Type of statistical tools
- e. Referencing style

f. Bibliography

### 3.2 Data Analysis

The collected data is presented below in tabular form.

**Table 3.1: Number of Chapters involved in each Thesis**

Years	4 Chapters	5 Chapters	6 Chapters
2017	2	5	3
2018	0	7	3
2019	2	6	2
2020	1	6	3

From table 3.1 it can be seen that in 2017, 2 theses have four chapters, 5 theses have five chapters and 3 theses have six chapters. In 2018, 7 theses have five chapters and 3 have six chapters. In 2019, 2 theses have four chapters, 6 have five chapters and 2 have six chapters. In 2020, 1 thesis have four chapters, 6 have five chapters and 3 have six chapters.

**Table 3.2: Headings of each Chapter**

Years	Chapter One	Chapter Two	Chapter Three	Chapter Four	Chapter Five	Chapter Six
2017	General Introduction	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Two theses contained data presentation and analysis.	One thesis contained data presentation, findings and recommendations	Continuation of Literature Review
2018	General Introduction	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review

2019	General Introduction	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review
2020	General Introduction	One thesis contained title literature review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review	Continuation of Literature Review

From table 3.2, it can be seen that chapter one of all the theses in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 contained general introduction, two theses in 2017 contained data presentation and analysis in chapter four, one thesis contains data presentation, findings and recommendations in chapter five. In 2020, one thesis contained the title of literature review. Other chapters from 2017 to 2020 were all continuation of literature review.

**Table 3.3: Methodology used under each Chapter**

Years	Chapter One	Chapter Two	Chapter Three	Chapter Four	Chapter Five	Chapter Six
2017	Background to the study, statement of the problem, aims and objectives, scope and limitation, significance, contribution to knowledge, methodology and review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Two theses contains Data Presentation and analysis. Others are Review of Literature	One thesis contains Data presentation, findings and recommendations, others are Review of Literature	Review of Literature
2018	Background to the study, statement of the problem, aims	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature

	and objectives, scope and limitation, significance, contribution to knowledge, methodology and review of Literature						
2019	Background to the study, statement of the problem, aims and objectives, scope and limitation, significance, contribution to knowledge, methodology and review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature
2020	Background to the study, statement of the problem, aims and objectives, scope and limitation, significance, contribution to knowledge, methodology and review of Literature	One thesis contains heading Review of Literature others continuation of Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature	Review of Literature

From table 3.3, it can be seen that chapter one of all the theses in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 contained the background to the study, statement of the problem, aims and objectives, scope and limitation, significance of the study, contribution of the study to knowledge, methodology and review of literature. Under chapter two, in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 all the chapter two contained explanations of concepts, i.e literature review with no title of literature with the exception of only one thesis in 2020 which contained a title of review of literature as a title or heading. In chapter three, all the theses in 2017 to 2020 has no titles but a continuation of literature review. In chapter four, all the theses in 2017 to 2020 also has no titles but a continuation of literature review with the exception of two theses in 2017 which contained data presentation and analysis as a title or heading. In chapter five, all the theses in 2017 to 2020 also has no titles but a continuation of literature review with the exception of one thesis in 2017 which contained data presentation, findings and recommendations as a title or heading. In chapter six, all the theses in 2017 to 2020 has no titles but a continuation of literature review.

**Table 3.4: Referencing Style**

Years	Use of References
2017	No References

2018	No References
2019	No References
2020	No References

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From table 3.4 above, it can be seen that from 2017 to 2020 none of the theses contained references.

**Table 3.5: Use of Bibliography**

Years	Use of Bibliography
2017	Used in all theses
2018	Used in all theses
2019	Used in all theses
2020	Used in all theses

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From table 3.5 above, it can be seen that from 2017 to 2020 all of the theses contained bibliography.

### 3.3 Findings

Based on the analysis in table 3.1 it has been found that there was disparity in the number of chapters contained in the 40 theses work studied between 2017 and 2020. Five theses work contained four chapters in all, twenty four theses work contained five chapters, while eleven theses work contained six chapters. It shows that there is no consistency in the number of chapters that a thesis should contain. This is not in agreement with modern research method which comprised of specified number of chapters.

From table 3.2 it is found that all the headings of chapter one from 2017 to 2020 were leveled as “General Introduction”. It is also found that in chapter two 39 theses work has no chapter name but a continuation of literature review which started from chapter one while only one thesis has a

heading of “Literature Review”. Also from 2017 to 2020 it is found that in chapter three, all the 40 theses studied has no chapter name but a continuation of literature review which started from chapter one. It is also found that in chapter four, 38 theses studied has no chapter name but a continuation of literature review which started from chapter one, while 2 theses work has a heading of “Data Presentation and Analysis”. It is also found that in chapter five, 23 theses studied has no chapter name but a continuation of literature review which started from chapter one, while only 1 thesis work has a heading of “Data Presentation, Findings and Recommendations”. Also it is found that in chapter six, all the 11 theses studied has no chapter name but a continuation of literature review which started from chapter one. There is disparity in the headings of the chapters in most of the theses studied, where only 4 theses where found with headings in other chapters apart from chapter one, while all the rest of the chapters were continuation of literature review. This is contrary to scientific research method which emphasized that chapters should contain proper headings.

According to NOUN (2019), Dada (2016) and Jumare (2017) the title of the chapters should be as follows: Chapter one introduction, chapter two review of related literature, chapter three methodology, chapter four data presentation and analysis, and chapter five summary, conclusion and recommendations. Therefore, these disparities in the headings of the chapters as seen above proved that there is no proper usage of scientific research method among Masters graduates in Islamic studies at Umaru Musa Yar’adua University, Katsina State.

Based on the analysis from table 3.3, it is found that the methodology used under chapter one is that all the 40 theses work studied contained background to the study, statement of the problem, aims and objectives of the study, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, contribution of the study to knowledge, methodology and review of literature. Under chapter two, 39 theses work from contained continuation of review of literature while only 1 thesis has a heading title “Review of Literature”. The methodology used under chapter three contained continuation of literature review in all the 40 theses work studied. Also under chapter four, 38 theses contained continuation of review of literature, while 2 theses work contained a title “Data Presentation and Analysis”. Under chapter five, 23 theses work contained continuation of review of literature, while 1 thesis work contained a title “Data presentation, findings and recommendations”. Under chapter six, 9 theses contained continuation of review of literature,

while 2 theses work contained a title “Data Presentation and Analysis”. This shows that there is no uniform methodological approach in the contents of chapters of all the theses work studied. This is not in agreement with modern approach to research.

NOUN (2019), Dada (2016) and Jumare (2017) affirmed that the methodology to be used in chapter one should be the background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research question or hypothesis, significance of the study, scope of the study and operational definitions of terms. In chapter two, there should be an introduction, conceptual/theoretical framework, explanation of variables that are contained in the topic and empirical studies relevant to the study. In chapter three, there should be the description of the research design, population of the study, sample and sampling techniques, instrumentation, validity and reliability of the instrument, data collection procedure and procedure for data analysis. In chapter four, there should be data presentation and analysis, and discussion of the findings. In chapter five, there should be the conclusion, summary and recommendations. Then followed by references. Based on the findings of the study none of the theses studied complied with the use of scientific approach to research or modern approach to research.

The findings in table 3.4 showed that none of the 40 theses work studied contained references at the end of the chapters.

From table 3.5 it was also found that all the 40 theses work studied used bibliography at the end of all the chapters.

## **Conclusion**

The study is on the use of scientific research methodology among Masters graduates in Islamic studies at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina State, Nigeria. The major findings revealed that there is no consistency in the number of chapters that each thesis should contained, as such it leads to writing theses with different approaches which may be contrary to scientific research. Also no proper headings of chapters in the majority of the theses work studied which is not popular in the scientific method of research. Furthermore, the study revealed that almost all the 40 theses studied has deficiencies in compliance with the methodology of scientific research and therefore, the methodology used under most of the chapters is not in line with scientific research method. It can be concluded that the level of usage of scientific research method among Masters graduates in Islamic studies at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University is poor and there is need for a shift to scientific

research method in writing theses. It is also significant to train MA graduates on the use of scientific research method in thesis writing.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were offered.

- a. More training is required for MA graduates at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University on writing thesis based on scientific research approach.
- b. Islamic studies department in Umaru Musa Yar'adua University should liaise with other departments particularly, Education department for more support on the use of scientific research method.

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