



The History of Islamic Scholarship in Gambia: An Action Research Study from 2005 to 2005

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Abstract

Islamic scholarship in Gambia has a rich history that spans centuries. The country's strategic location along major trade routes and its cultural exchanges with other West African nations have contributed to the development of Islamic knowledge. The study employed a multi-faceted approach involving archival research, interviews with scholars and educators, and surveys among students to gather data on scholarly activities, educational practices, and community engagement related to Islamic studies. A thematic analysis was conducted on collected documents to identify recurring patterns and themes in the field. The findings highlight a significant increase in the number of local scholars who have contributed to both traditional oral traditions and modern academic circles over the past decade. There is also a notable emphasis on the integration of Islamic teachings with contemporary environmental issues, reflecting broader societal concerns. The study concludes that while there has been growth in formal education and scholarly engagement within Gambia's Islamic scholarship community, it remains deeply intertwined with traditional practices and oral traditions. Recommendations include fostering collaborative efforts between local scholars and international institutions to enhance knowledge dissemination and research opportunities. Additionally, promoting cross-cultural dialogue can help preserve and expand the relevance of Islamic scholarship in contemporary contexts.

Keywords: *Geographic, Africa, Scholarship, Historiography, CriticalTheory, QualitativeResearch, PostcolonialStudies*

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