



# The Historical Evolution of Islamic Scholarship in West Africa: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry

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## Abstract

Islamic scholarship has played a significant role in West African history, particularly in Kenya where it has influenced religious, cultural, and intellectual development over centuries. The research utilizes a combination of qualitative semi-structured interviews with scholars and community leaders, along with quantitative surveys among the general population. Data collection is conducted across various regions of Kenya to ensure comprehensive coverage. A thematic analysis of interview transcripts revealed recurring themes on the integration of Islamic teachings into local legal systems and education, indicating a profound influence of Islamic scholarship in shaping societal norms. The mixed-methods approach successfully bridges qualitative insights with quantitative data, offering nuanced understanding of how Islamic scholarship has shaped West African societies. Future studies should incorporate longitudinal data to track changes over time and explore the evolving role of Islamic scholars in contemporary Kenyan society. Islamic Scholarship, Historical Evolution, Mixed Methods Study, Kenya

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, Africanist, Sociohistorical, CriticalTheory, QuantitativeResearch, QualitativeAnalysis, GeographicalMapping*

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