

Review Article

The Impact of the *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission, Gusau, Zamfara State, Nigeria, on Research and Publication

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Abstract: This paper examines the crucial impact of the *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission, Gusau, Zamfara State, on research and publication. Through extensive library research, interviews, and analysis, the study highlights notable research works and publications produced by the Commission, revealing its commitment to advancing Islamic scholarship. The paper notes the support provided by the Zamfara State Government in facilitating the Commission's activities, underscoring the importance of adequate logistics in fostering research and publication initiatives. It also acknowledges the contributions of Islamic scholars who have conducted research on diverse Islamic topics, thereby enhancing the Commission's outputs. The efforts of the Commission's leadership and management staff are highlighted, demonstrating their dedication to promoting research in Islamic studies. Furthermore, the paper analyzes the impact of the Commission's published works on the community, showing its essential role in educating the public on Islamic principles and practices. In addition, several challenges and prospects concerning the Commission's research and publication activities are identified. The conclusion presents recommendations directed at the government, academia, research bodies, affluent individuals, researchers, and the general public, advocating for increased collaboration and support to further enrich Islamic research across various disciplines and improve its accessibility.

Keywords: *Shari'ah*, Research, Publications, Islamic Scholarship, Zamfara State.

INTRODUCTION

The *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission, Gusau, has significantly influenced research and publication within the context of Islamic scholarship. Established to enhance the understanding and application of *Shari'ah*, the Commission focuses on various aspects, including education, research, and publication.

The Commission plays a crucial role in fostering academic inquiry into *Shari'ah* and its practical applications. By supporting researchers and encouraging scholarly discussions, it helps bridge the gap between traditional Islamic teachings and contemporary issues. The Commission often provides funding and resources for researchers, enabling them to pursue projects that may not have been possible otherwise. This financial support is crucial for conducting high-quality research and facilitating the publication of findings [1].

The Commission encourages collaboration among scholars, institutions, and researchers, both locally and internationally. This networking fosters an exchange of ideas and methodologies, enhancing the overall quality of research outputs. By organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs, the Commission enhances the skills of researchers. This capacity building ensures that more individuals can contribute to scholarly work and produce publications that meet

¹ Lawal Salisu, 45 years: an informant

academic standards. The Commission works to disseminate research findings to a broader audience, ensuring that the knowledge generated is accessible to the community. This engagement helps in the practical application of research outcomes in everyday life, promoting a better understanding of *Shari'ah* [2].

An Overview of *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission (SRDC), Gusau

The *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission, Gusau, was established by the Zamfara State Government in 2003 under Law No. 18 of the Zamfara State Official Gazette (No. 3) of 2003 Vol. 5. The Commission is saddled with the responsibility of carrying out research works, organizing and conducting seminars, as well as printing Islamic books on fatawa about modern issues capable of creating awareness and impact on the Muslim ummah as far as Islamic *Shari'ah* is concerned (M.F.R.A, 2023, p. 177).

Under normal circumstances, there ought to be a Research, Planning, and Statistics Department or a Research Committee within all *Shari'ah*-related Commissions in the State, to which research issues of the particular organization should be referred. It is the duty of this department or committee to refer any research case beyond its capacity to the *Shari'ah* Research Commission. The Commission, on its side, would in similar cases refer to the 'Ulama for support and approval (Ibid).

The Law Establishing the Commission

The Commission was established under the provisions of Section 18 of the Zamfara State Law of 2003, as enacted by the State House of Assembly. This was passed into law on 28th June 2003. Subsection 2 of the law establishing this Commission highlights that:

- a. The Commission is a standing body having the right to possession of property and reserves the right to sue or be sued.
- b. It reserves the right to maintain or dispose of any property owned by the Commission.

Subsection 4 of the law establishing the Commission also highlights the composition of the Commission as consisting of an Executive Chairman, five (5) Permanent Commissioners, a Secretary, and forty (40) part-time members (Ibid).

In addition, this section states that people appointed as members of the Commission must be persons of good character, knowledgeable in the Islamic religion, and experts in the field of research. It further states that:

A person may continue to be a member of the Commission for a period of four (4) years. The tenure of the Executive Chairman, Secretary, and five (5) Permanent Commissioners begins from the date of their appointment and ends when their term expires. Similarly, the forty (40) part-time members will serve for a term of four (4) years.

The second section of the law establishing this Commission grants the following powers and responsibilities:

- i. Conduct research on emerging problems arising from modern technological advancements and other new issues affecting various aspects of life at this time.
- ii. Collaborate with other relevant authorities in matters related to the implementation of *Shari'ah*, when necessary, with the aim of gathering information that will assist the Commission in carrying out its research work.
- iii. Present research findings to the relevant authorities concerned, in order to advise on appropriate measures the government should take for implementation.
- iv. Forward research findings to the state's council of scholars for issuing fatawa (Islamic legal rulings) for the benefit of the government and the general public (Ibid, p.178).
- v. Publish research results and other related information concerning the dissemination of Islam in Zamfara State.
- vi. Organize meetings for the mutual exchange of knowledge and enlightenment at gatherings to inform the public about progress achieved, the situation, and developments in the implementation of *Shari'ah* in the State.
- vii. Provide a standard library for research institutions with research materials, and foster cooperation between research centers locally and abroad.
- viii. Conduct research and offer advice or even carry out any necessary actions regarding any matter, in order to assist the government in achieving its set objectives.

Additionally, in carrying out such tasks or activities, the law allows the council to establish committees as necessary, appoint members to them, determine their duties, organize meetings, and take steps to reach decisions on any matter of importance.

² Murtala Abdullahi, 40 years: an informant

Section ten (10) of this law also grants the government the right to provide the council with adequate facilities and resources to enable the proper execution of its duties (Ibid, p.179).

Leadership of the Commission

According to the Gazette of the *Shari'ah* Research Commission, for a person to qualify for an appointment as Executive Chairman, Permanent Commissioner, Part-time Member, or Secretary to this Commission, they ought to be well-versed in Arabic language, Islamic education, and research methodology (Ibid).

Thus, right from its establishment, it remained an independent commission until 2003, when the commission was merged with the Ministry for Religious Affairs, Gusau, as a department (Ibid).

The law establishing this Commission was enacted by the State House of Assembly under Act No. 18 of 2003. The Commission was to carry out research on new developments, technological advancements, and other contemporary social issues that require spiritual guidance in accordance with the Qur'an, Hadith, and Ijma teachings. It was to forward its research findings to the relevant agencies of *Shari'ah* implementation for necessary action (Ibid).

After careful study of the findings, the Commission would recommend appropriate policies to the State Government for implementation, and these would be forwarded to the Zamfara State Ulama Consultative Council for the pronouncement of informed opinions on Islamic law (S.R.D.C., 2008, pp. 19–20).

Moreover, the Research Commission publishes research findings on *Shari'ah* development and organizes workshops, seminars, and symposiums to enlighten people on the new research findings. The composition of the Commission includes the Chairman, five Permanent Commissioners, the Secretary, and forty Part-time Members.

Functions of the Commission

The Commission has the following major functions as stated in the law establishing the Commission:

- i. To carry out research on new developments emanating from technological advancements and other contemporary issues.
- ii. To liaise with all the *Shari'ah* Implementation Agencies and other relevant agencies where necessary, with a view to collecting data for the purpose of the Commission's research.
- iii. To forward its research findings to the relevant agencies for necessary action, with a view to recommending appropriate policies to the State Government for implementation.
- iv. To pass information on the research findings to the Council of Ulama for the pronouncement of informed opinions on Islamic law (fatwa) to the State Government or the public.
- v. To publish research findings and other information relevant to the development of *Shari'ah* in the State.
- vi. To organize workshops, symposiums, and seminars from time to time, designed to enlighten people on new developments and current trends in Islamic law.
- vii. To maintain a well-equipped library, acquire research materials, and cooperate with similar research institutions worldwide.
- viii. To consider advice and suggestions for achieving the goals and objectives of the Commission (Ibid).

Impacts of the Commission on Research and Publication

The *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission, Gusau, plays a vital role in advancing the understanding of Islamic knowledge and its applications. Promoting rigorous research enhances the academic discourse surrounding *Shari'ah*, enabling Islamic scholars to address contemporary issues.

The Commission facilitates collaboration between researchers, fostering an environment for knowledge sharing. Its commitment to publishing quality research contributes to a greater dissemination of Islamic knowledge. Thus, the impact of the Commission on research and publication can be seen in its various works as follows:

- i. *Hukunce Hukuncen Azumi* (Rulings Regarding Fasting)
- ii. Virtues of the Last Ten Days of the Month of Ramadan
- iii. *Dinari da Dirhami: Matsayinsu a Cikin Ibadar Zakka da Fitarda Ita* (Gold and Silver: Their Status in the Obligation of Zakah and Its Disbursement)
- iv. *Hakkokan Shugabanni da Talakawa Bisa Ma'aunin Hujjoji da Dalilai na Shari'ar Musulunci* (The Rights of the Leaders and the Followers)
- v. Prosecution before *Shari'ah* Courts: Ways to Avoid Common Law Technicalities
- vi. Reflections: Edited Papers, Speeches, and Addresses Presented on the Occasion of the Fifth Year Anniversary of *Shari'ah* Implementation in Zamfara State, 2000–2005
- vii. *Ruh al-Siyam Wa Ma'anehi* (The Spirit of Fasting and Its Meanings)

- viii. *Tsarin Bincike-Bincike a kan Lamurran Addinin Musulunci Domin Fadakarwa da Ilmantarwa* (Research Methodology on Matters about Islamic Religion for Awareness and Education)
- ix. An Appraisal of *Shari'ah* Implementation in Zamfara State (English and Hausa)
- x. Research on children's education, starting from early childhood up to their upbringing and training
- xi. The position of *Shari'ah* regarding music, songs, and dance
- xii. The stance of *Shari'ah* on wrestling, boxing, Dambe (traditional boxing), Sharo (Fulani flogging festival), dance, praise singing, and playing instruments
- xiii. The ruling on burying the dead and Islamic rights over cemeteries
- xiv. The duration for which *Shari'ah* permits the reopening of closed cemeteries
- xv. The law of land ownership in Islam
- xvi. Providing a response to an open letter written by the Shi'a to the State Government, published in the Weekly Legacy newspaper
- xvii. Taking responsibility for a divorced woman until her waiting period (iddah) is completed
- xviii. Publishing and distributing documents containing information about fasting, from the beginning to the end of Ramadan, which was later published in book form
- xix. Publishing and distributing books about Hajj and Umrah for pilgrims, aimed at guiding them on the challenges of performing Hajj and Umrah
- xx. Publication of a book titled "Me Take Ciki" (What It Contains)
- xxi. Enlightenment on life based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.)
- xxii. Campaign against immoral laughter and mockery towards a Muslim brother without just cause
- xxiii. Selection of the most important issues in Islamic law from the Qur'an and Sunnah
- xxiv. Resolving misunderstandings related to the decree of Allah (S.W.T.) on various matters
- xxv. Archiving of Zamfara State records
- xxvi. Broadcasting a thirty-minute enlightenment program on Zamfara State Radio titled "*Da Bincike*" (With Investigation)
- xxvii. Publication of a magazine titled "Research Journal," issued twice a year
- xxviii. Guidelines on how Hisbah (*Shari'ah* enforcement) officers should conduct themselves
- xxix. Publication of another work titled "Addini da Rayuwa" (Religion and Life)
- xxx. Weekly publication of a newspaper column titled "Suda" (Speaking Out)
- xxxi. *Shari'ah* Research Journal, Vol. 1, No. 1, June 2005

Research and Publications by the Commission

The paper highlights some of the research and publication works produced by the Commission as follows:

i. Hukunce Hukuncen Azumi (Rulings Regarding Fasting):

The above-named book was authored by the Commission in 2006/1427. It was written in the Hausa language, containing twenty-three (23) items and sixty (60) pages. The book offers a detailed explanation of the Islamic jurisprudential rulings related to fasting, primarily focusing on the obligatory fast of Ramadan but also covering voluntary fasts. It explains the foundational principles of fasting, including its spiritual significance as an act of devotion, obedience, and self-purification prescribed by Allah. The book outlines the conditions that make fasting obligatory, such as reaching puberty, sanity, and physical ability, and clarifies who is exempted or permitted to delay fasting due to valid reasons like illness, travel, menstruation, pregnancy, old age or breastfeeding. It further elaborates on the correct times for fasting, the prerequisites for a valid fast, and the actions that nullify or break the fast, such as intentional eating, drinking, or other invalidating acts.

The book also addresses common contemporary questions and challenges faced by Muslims in observing fasting, ensuring that readers can apply the rulings correctly in modern contexts while adhering strictly to authentic *Shari'ah* guidelines. By combining detailed legal rulings with practical advice, the book serves as an essential resource for Muslims seeking to fulfil their fasting obligations with knowledge and sincerity, reinforcing the importance of fasting as both a physical and spiritual discipline that strengthens faith and consciousness of Allah (S.W.T) S.R.D.C (S.R.D.C., 2006, p. 5).

ii. The Virtues of the Last Ten Days of Ramadan:

The above-named pamphlet was authored by the Commission in the English language with a view to educating the general public on the virtues of the last ten days of Ramadan. It highlights the profound spiritual significance and unique blessings associated with the final ten nights of Ramadan, urging Muslims to intensify their worship and devotion during this sacred period. It emphasizes that these nights hold special merit because they include *Laylat al-Qadr* (the Night of Decree), which is described in the Qur'an as "better than a thousand months," offering immense rewards for worship and supplications. The pamphlet encourages believers to increase acts of worship such as prayer, recitation of the Quran, seeking forgiveness, and making sincere *du'a* (supplication), as well as engaging in charitable deeds and self-reflection. It also underscores the importance of seclusion (*i'tikaf*) in the Mosque during these nights to maximize spiritual benefits and focus solely on connecting with Allah (S.W.T). By presenting authentic Prophetic traditions and verses of the Qur'an. The

pamphlet motivates Muslims to seize this opportunity for spiritual renewal, repentance, and seeking closeness to Allah, reminding them that sincere efforts during these nights can lead to the forgiveness of past sins and the fulfillment of prayers (S.R.D.C. nd).

iii. *Hakkokan Shugabanni da Talakawa Bisa Ma'aunin Hujjoji da Dalilai na Shari'ar Musulunci (The Rights of Leaders and Subjects Based on Evidences and Reasons of Islamic Law):*

The above-named book was authored by Muhammad *bn* Abdallah As-Sabil one of the Chief *Imams* of the *Ka'abah*. It was edited by *Malan* Khalidu *bn* Qasim Ar-Ridadi. Similarly, it was translated into Hausa language in 2023 by the Shariah Research and Development Commission, Gusau. The book contains two (2) chapters with one hundred and forty-one (141) pages.

The book provides a thorough explanation of the mutual rights and responsibilities between rulers and their subjects within Islamic jurisprudence. It emphasizes that leadership in Islam is a trust (*Amanah*) bestowed for the welfare, justice, and guidance of the community, and that rulers are accountable to both the people and Allah (S.W.T) for their governance. The book outlines the rights of leaders, including obedience in lawful matters and support in fulfilling their duties, as well as the rights of subjects, such as the right to justice, protection, provision, and consultation. Drawing upon the verses of the Glorious Qur'an, Prophetic traditions, and scholarly interpretations, it explains how these rights and obligations are grounded in divine injunctions aimed at achieving social harmony, equity, and the common good.

The book also addresses the limits of authority, emphasizing that obedience is conditional upon the leader's adherence to *Shari'ah* and justice, and it encourages subjects to voice grievances or resist oppression within Islamic legal boundaries.

By integrating evidence from primary sources of Islamic law with practical political ethics, the book serves as a comprehensive guide for understanding the balanced and dynamic relationship between leaders and the governed, promoting governance that is both morally responsible and responsive to the needs of the Muslim community (S.R.D.C., 2023, pp.1-78).

iv. *Dinari da Dirhami: Matsayinsu a Cikin Ibadar Zakka da Fitar da Ita (Dinar and Dirham: Their Status in the Obligation of Zakat and Its Disbursement):*

The above-named booklet was authored in Hausa language by the Commission in 2012 containing two (2) chapters with 25 pages. The booklet explains the historical and religious significance of the *Dinar* (gold) and *Dirham* (silver) as traditional Islamic currencies and examines their role in the calculation and payment of *Zakah*. It also discusses the jurisprudential foundations underlying the obligation of *Zakah*, emphasizing how these gold and silver coins serve as benchmarks for wealth assessment and *Zakah* calculation due to their value and stability. The book further discusses the criteria that determine the *Nisab* (minimum threshold) for *Zakah* eligibility, highlighting the *dinar* and *dirham*'s continued relevance in ensuring fair and just wealth redistribution among the needy. Additionally, it addresses practical aspects of *Zakah* disbursement, underscoring the importance of adhering to *Shari'ah* guidelines to optimize social welfare and economic balance within the Muslim community. Through a comprehensive analysis, the book bridges classical Islamic economic principles with contemporary financial practices, advocating for a renewed appreciation of these currencies in fulfilling religious duties and promoting societal equity. S.R.D.C., 2012, PP. 1-25).

v. Reflections: Edited Papers, Speeches and Addresses Presented on the Occasion of the Fifth Year Anniversary of Shariah Implementation in Zamfara State 2000-2005:

The book was written in the English language. It was initially produced in 2005 by Zamfara State Ministry for Religious Affairs Gusau, under the authorship of a ten (10) man editing committee containing fourteen (14) sections with ninety-seven (97) pages (S.R.D.C., 2005).

The book offers a comprehensive collection of insightful speeches and scholarly papers delivered to commemorate the significant milestone of five years of *Shari'ah* law enforcement in Zamfara State. It captures diverse perspectives from legal scholars, policymakers, religious leaders, and community stakeholders, reflecting on the achievements, challenges, and socio-legal impacts of *Shari'ah* implementation within the state.

The compilation addresses various thematic areas, including the integration of Islamic jurisprudence with the existing legal framework, the enhancement of justice and morality, and the socio-economic transformations attributed to *Shari'ah* governance. Furthermore, the book critically evaluates the practical lessons learned, the role of community participation, and the strategies for further development and adaptation of *Shari'ah* principles in a modern context. By documenting these reflections, the publication not only chronicles an important phase in Zamfara's legal history but also serves as a valuable resource for understanding the dynamics of Islamic law implementation in a pluralistic society (S.R.D.C., 2005, PP 1-9).

Analysis of the Impact of the Commission on Research and Publication

The *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission (SRDC) in Gusau has impacted the advancement of research and publication on Islamic legal system. Some of such impacts are briefly outlined:

One major impact of the SRDC is its contribution to the body of knowledge surrounding *Shari'ah* law and its application in modern society. The commission facilitates research initiatives that explore contemporary issues while adhering to Islamic principles. This has encouraged scholars and researchers to engage in innovative studies that address socio-economic challenges, thus fostering a richer Islamic scholarship and modern academic standards (Salisu Lawal, *op.cit.*).

Additionally, through workshops, seminars, and collaborative projects, the commission has created platforms for scholars and academicians to publish their findings and share insights with a broader audience. This emphasis on publication not only enhances the visibility of *Shari'ah*-based research but also promotes academic credibility within Islamic scholarship (Murtala Abdullahi, *op.cit.*).

Moreover, the SRDC's efforts in capacity building for researchers through training and mentorship have empowered many individuals, leading to an increase in the quality and quantity of research and publications in *Shari'ah* related topics. This has significant implications for policy making and legal frameworks within Muslim communities, as well as promoting a better understanding of Islamic principles in various fields.

The *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission, Gusau, has significantly impacts research and publication by enhancing knowledge production, fostering academic collaborations, and promoting the practical application of *Shari'ah* law in contemporary issues, ultimately contributing to the evolution of Islamic scholarship.

The Commission played a crucial role in advancing research by creating a focused and supportive environment for the study of Islamic law and related disciplines. It has facilitated the growth of scholarly activities by encouraging systematic investigation into *Shari'ah* principles, their interpretations, and practical applications in contemporary society. Through organizing academic conferences, workshops, and training programs, the commission has enhanced the skills and knowledge of researchers, promoting rigorous methodologies and critical analysis. This has resulted in an increased production of high-quality research that addresses both theoretical and practical challenges within the framework of Islamic jurisprudence. Additionally, the commission's support for interdisciplinary collaboration has broadened the scope of research, integrating religious studies with social sciences, economics, and governance (Salisu Lawali, *op.cit.*)

The *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission in Gusau has greatly impacted publications by fostering a culture of academic writing and dissemination within the field of Islamic studies. By providing resources, guidance, and platforms for researchers, the commission has increased the quantity and quality of published works that explore various aspects of Shariah law and its contemporary relevance. It actively encourages scholars to document their findings through journals, books, and conference proceedings, ensuring that research outputs meet rigorous academic standards. This emphasis on publication has not only enhanced the visibility of *Shari'ah* scholarship from Gusau but also contributed to the broader intellectual community by making valuable insights accessible to academics, policymakers, and practitioners. Through its efforts, the commission has helped establish a sustainable framework for continuous knowledge sharing and scholarly communication, strengthening the role of publications in advancing Islamic legal thought and practice (Murtala Abdullahi, *op.cit.*)

Challenges of *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission, Gusau

The *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission Gusau faces notable challenges, including limited funding, resource constraints, access to literature, and publication difficulties. However, the prospects are promising with growing interest in *Shari'ah* studies, opportunities for technological integration, institutional support, and expanding platforms for research dissemination. Addressing these challenges while leveraging the prospects can significantly enhance the quality and impact of *Shari'ah* research and publications from the Commission.

The Commission faces significant challenges in conducting research and publication, primarily due to limited funding and resources. Financial constraints severely limit the scope and quality of research activities. Without adequate funding, the Commission struggles to acquire essential research materials, subscribe to academic journals, or invest in modern research tools and technologies. This financial limitation also cripples the academic events such as seminars, workshops, and conferences used to be organised by the Commission which are crucial for knowledge sharing and enhancing research quality (*Ibid.*)

Another major challenge is the shortage of skilled human capital in *Shari'ah* studies. The Commission often grapples with a lack of adequately trained researchers who possess both deep knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence and

competence in modern research methodologies. Many researchers may not have access to continuous professional development opportunities, limiting their ability to stay updated with current academic trends or employ innovative research techniques. Additionally, talented scholars sometimes migrate to institutions or organizations offering better working conditions and resources, leading to a brain drain that weakens the Commission's research capacity (*Ibid*).

The research culture within the Commission and the broader *Shari'ah* scholarly community presents additional challenges. In some cases, there is limited awareness of the importance of research as a vital academic activity, with more emphasis placed on traditional teaching and jurisprudence. This mindset can result in insufficient motivation to engage in rigorous research or to adopt modern, interdisciplinary approaches required to address contemporary issues effectively. Resistance to change towards new methodologies may hinder innovation and limit the potential impact of research outputs (*Ibid*).

Prospects of *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission, Gusau

Despite the numerous challenges faced by the Shariah Research and Development Commission Gusau, there are significant prospects that offer opportunities for growth and development in research and publication. One promising prospect is the growing global and regional interest in *Shari'ah* studies, particularly in areas like Islamic finance, ethics, and law. This increased attention creates a demand for scholarly work that addresses contemporary issues through authentic Islamic perspectives, positioning the Commission as an important contributor to knowledge and policy in these fields. The rising awareness encourages more researchers and institutions to engage in *Shari'ah* research, expanding the community and resource base (*Ibid*.)

Government and institutional support present another key opportunity. With increasing recognition of the importance of Islamic scholarship in societal development, there is potential for enhanced funding, infrastructure, and policy backing from governmental agencies and educational institutions. Collaborations with universities, international Islamic organizations, and research institutions can provide the Commission with access to additional expertise, resources, and platforms for research dissemination. Such partnerships can facilitate joint research projects, capacity building programs, and academic exchanges that would strengthen the quality and impact of the Commission's work (*Ibid*.)

Technological advancements also offer substantial prospects to overcome many existing limitations. The availability of digital research tools, online databases, and virtual communication platforms enables researchers to access a wider range of resources and collaborate beyond geographical boundaries. Online publishing platforms and digital repositories make it easier to disseminate research findings to a global audience, increasing visibility and engagement. Virtual conferences, webinars, and e-learning modules can facilitate continuous professional development and scholarly exchange, even with limited physical infrastructure (*Ibid*).

Capacity building and training initiatives are critical prospects for addressing the shortage of skilled researchers. By investing in workshops, seminars, and advanced training programs, the Commission can enhance the skills, methodologies, and knowledge of its researchers. Encouraging interdisciplinary research that integrates Shariah with social sciences, economics, and technology can foster innovative approaches and solutions to contemporary challenges. Building a strong research culture through mentorship and academic incentives will motivate researchers to produce high-quality work and sustain scholarly activity in the long term (*Ibid*).

Expanding publication platforms and enhancing collaboration offer promising pathways for growth. Establishing reputable, peer-reviewed journals dedicated to Shariah research can provide a credible outlet for local and international scholars, raising the Commission's academic profile. Indexing these journals in global databases will increase the reach and citation of published works. Furthermore, building networks with other Shariah research bodies and participating in international forums will facilitate knowledge exchange, joint initiatives, and greater recognition of the Commission's contributions. These prospects collectively can transform the Commission into a vibrant centre for *Shari'ah* research and publication, addressing contemporary needs while preserving Islamic scholarly traditions.

Recommendations

The following are some recommendations on the impact of the *Shariah* Research and Development Commission on research and publication, targeted at various stakeholders:

The government should establish supportive policies and frameworks that institutionalize *Shariah* research, including funding initiatives and incentives for researchers. The government should also foster collaboration between various government agencies and the *Shariah* Research and Development Commission to align research priorities with national development goals.

The academia should integrate *Shari'ah* research into academic curricula to enhance understanding and foster new research opportunities among students and faculty. Similarly, the academia should promote the establishment of peer-reviewed journals that focus specifically on *Shariah*-related studies, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and wider dissemination of research findings.

The research bodies should advocate for dedicated funding schemes for research projects that address *Shariah* issues, enabling research bodies to attract and support high-quality research. Also, the research bodies should develop networks among research bodies to share information, best practices, and resources related to *Shari'ah* research.

The wealthy individuals should invest in *Shariah* research initiatives, creating endowed funds or scholarships dedicated to promoting research and publication. Also, they should participate in advisory boards or committees that guide *Shari'ah* research directions and funding priorities.

The researchers should organize workshops focused on *Shari'ah* research methodologies, helping researchers stay abreast of emerging issues and advancements in *Shari'ah* research and publication. Similarly, they should improve their publication skills, including navigating academic publishing processes and using digital platforms for dissemination.

The general public should support and give full cooperation to the government, the academia, the research bodies, the wealthy individuals, and the researchers in respect of *Shari'ah* research and publication with a view to getting more fruitful impacts.

CONCLUSION

This research paper has highlighted the significant impact of the *Shari'ah* Research and Development Commission Gusau on both research and publication within the field of Islamic studies. Major findings indicate that the Commission has played a crucial role in promoting scholarly works, enhancing the quality of research outputs, and facilitating greater accessibility to Islamic literature. The conducting of various research and publications by the Commission has not only fostered an environment conducive to academic inquiry but has also encouraged collaboration among researchers. Furthermore, the Commission's efforts in publishing research findings have contributed to the broader dissemination of Islamic knowledge. Lastly, the paper discovered that all the research and publications of the Commission are distributed to various beneficiaries free of charge and thus not for sale.

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