Bibliometric Analysis of Studies in the Policy-Making Field of Facing the COVID-19 Crisis in Iran

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Abstract

Purpose: The crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic has provided a plethora of study opportunities for researchers in the policy-making field. This article aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis of articles addressing policy-making strategies to combat the COVID-19 crisis in Iran.

Methodology: This research adopts an applied approach and utilizes bibliometric methods. The statistical population comprises articles published in journals specializing in policy-making within the realms of science and technology, social and economics, and general and strategic fields from February 2020 to the commencement of 2024.

Findings: The analysis reveals that Iranian researchers have published a total of 118 articles across 27 scientific journals focusing on policy-making responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. These articles are distributed as follows: 59 in the science and technology domain, 32 in social and economic sectors, and 27 articles addressing general and strategic aspects.

Conclusion: Evaluation of the articles within the policy-making domain concerning the COVID-19 crisis demonstrates a prompt and effective response from the Iranian research community. These studies can assist policy-makers in making timely and well-informed decisions amidst similar crises.

Value: This article represents the first academic endeavor dedicated to analyzing studies within the policy-making field in response to the COVID-19 crisis in Iran. It aims to assess, emphasize, and present a comprehensive report on the research articles in this area.

Keywords: *COVID-19, Policy-Making, Science and Technology, Social and Economic, General and Strategic, Bibliometric Analysis*

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Extended Abstract

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic presented a novel health crisis that challenged existing policies implemented by governments worldwide. Countries had to quickly adapt and learn new regulations in response to the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic. The implementation of these new policies, often without precedent or alignment with public expectations, has led to criticisms (Atkinson et al., 2020; Ferorelli, Mandarelli & Solarino, 2020; Moatti, 2020). The emergence of COVID-19 has urged countries to develop and implement innovative policies across various sectors such as healthcare, budgeting, and financing (Djalante et al., 2020; Dasman et al., 2021). This new health crisis catalyzed the formulation of new policies aimed at addressing emerging challenges and priorities in the field.

Purpose: This study aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis of articles focusing on policy-making in response to the COVID-19 crisis in Iran.

Methodology: Employing bibliometrics as the primary research method, this study analyzed quantitative data from scientific articles to explore trends in authorship, institutional affiliations, journals, and countries in the context of COVID-19 policy-making. The research population included articles published in journals covering the fields of science and technology, social and economics, and general and strategic policy-making from February 2020 to early 2024. Data was collected by systematically searching for relevant articles using keywords such as "coronavirus," "COVID-19," "epidemic," and "pandemic," and analyzed using a framework based on Nobakht's research (2019).

Findings: The analysis revealed a significant increase in the publication of articles related to policy-making in response to the COVID-19 crisis in Iran. Iranian researchers contributed 118 articles across 27 scientific journals, with a significant focus on disciplines such as science and technology, social and economics, and general and strategic policy-making. Thematic trends in these articles indicated a diverse range of subjects, with economics, information, and education being the most prevalent themes.

Table 1. The trend of publishing articles in the field of policy-making to deal with the COVID-19 crisis in Iran

Row	Field	Journals number	Year of publication					Total
			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Science and technology	6	0	31	9	11	8	59
2	Social and economic	12	0	3	12	14	3	32
3	General and strategic	9	0	13	7	4	3	27
Total		27	0	47	28	29	14	118

Table 4. Thematic tendencies of the articles published in the policy-making field of facing the COVID-19 crisis

Row	Thematic trends	Number	Percentage
1	Economics	8	6.8
2	Information and education	8	6.8
3	Scientometrics	8	6.8
4	Governance	6	5.1
5	Tourism industry	6	5.1
6	Others	82	69.4
Total		118	100

Conclusion: The COVID-19 pandemic has spurred rapid and adaptive responses from the research community in Iran, resulting in the timely publication of articles addressing various policy-making challenges brought forth by the crisis. These studies provide valuable insights for policymakers, enabling them to make informed decisions during emergencies. The findings underscore the importance of research in shaping effective policy responses during times of crisis.

Value: This study contributes to the existing literature on policy-making by offering insights into the landscape of research in response to the COVID-19 crisis. By delineating knowledge structures and potential research pathways, this research aims to guide future studies in the field of policy-making in similar emergency situations.

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