



Cyber Misogyny and Women's Mental Health

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Article History: Submitted/Received September 03, 2025 First Revised Oktober 12, 2025 Accepted November 22, 2025 First Available online December 03, 2025 Publication Date December 07, 2025</p> <p>Keyword: Misogyny, Mental Health, Woman, Violence, Cyber.</p>	<p>Misogyny, or hateful behavior toward women, is a problem that not everyone is interested in discussing in depth. Similarly, the issue of women's mental health remains unresolved in Indonesia. The purpose of this article is to examine the development of research on cyber misogyny and women's mental health. This scientific literature review was conducted differently through a search of the Google Scholar database. First, we searched for several articles and journals using the title words "Misogyny" and the keywords "Women, cyber." In a second search, we used the title words "women's mental health" and the keywords "women, online" using the search feature. The search results identified 200 scientific articles discussing misogyny and 22 articles discussing women's mental health indexed by Google Scholar during the period 2015-2025. The results show a surge in publications in 2020-2023, in line with increasing public awareness of the issue of gender-based digital violence. Previous studies have confirmed that cyber misogyny has a direct impact on women's psychological well-being and reinforces gender inequality in online spaces. Overall, this research emphasizes that cyber misogyny is a serious issue that affects not only digital security but also women's mental health. Therefore, academic and practical strategies are needed to strengthen women's protection in digital spaces and minimize its psychological impact.</p> <p>© 2025</p>

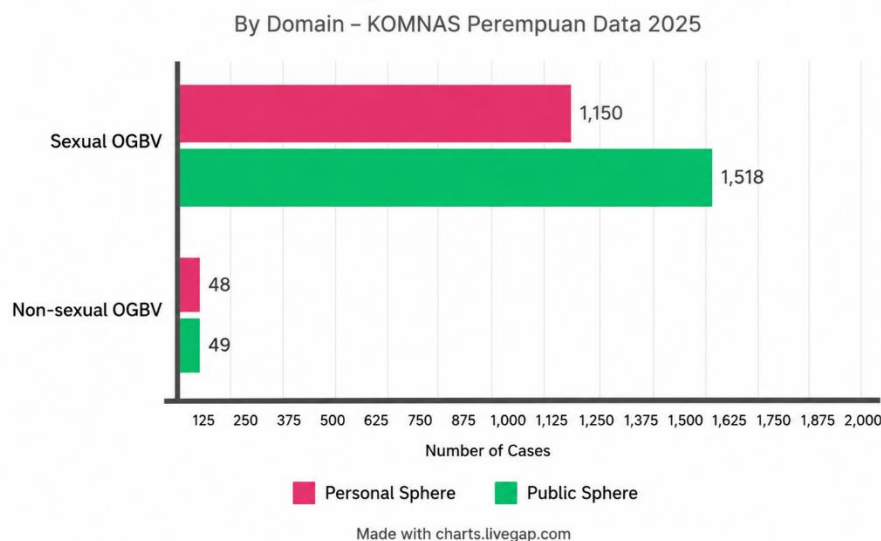
1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, social media has become an integral part of human life. Technological developments have also influenced how people interact and communicate with one another. However, despite these advancements and positive impacts, social media often gives rise to new forms of violence against its users. One very common and

increasingly normalized phenomenon on digital platforms like social media is cyber misogyny, a form of online violence directed at women rooted in hatred, mistrust, and discrimination against women with the aim of maintaining gender inequality (Rennie, E. 2022). This phenomenon manifests in various and sometimes unconscious forms, ranging from body shaming and sexist comments to unauthorized distribution of private photos and hate speech based on gender stereotypes.

Based on data, the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) noted that forms of violence in the personal sphere still dominate, reaching 336,804 cases, including Online Gender-Based Violence (KBGO). This data shows that digital platforms, which should be a platform for women to freely express themselves, have instead become a venue for irresponsible parties to spread hate speech and traumatize their victims.

Number of Types of Violence in OGBV



According to 2024 data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women, the most frequently reported form of Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) is online threats. In the sexual-based OGBV category, 1,380 cases of online threats were recorded, consisting of 637 cases in the personal sphere and 743 in the public sphere. The second most frequently reported form of violence was cybersexual harassment, with a total of 613 cases, followed by malicious distribution (423 cases), privacy violations (137 cases), and sexexploitation (149 cases). Overall, there were 2,668 cases of sexual-based OGBV. Meanwhile, reports of non-sexual OGBV were lower at 96, with online threats accounting for the most cases, with 67 reports, 34 of which were in the personal sphere and 33 in the public sphere.

The high rate of OGBV against women demonstrates that even modern digital media remains plagued by structures of misogyny that undermine safe spaces for women. This phenomenon cannot be separated from the impact felt by victims afterward, and its impact on women's mental health. Victims of both direct and cyber sexual harassment often experience psychological consequences, including increased depression, trauma, anxiety, and negative body image (Iroegbu et al., 2024).

This study aimed to map the development of research on cyber misogyny and women's mental health through bibliometric analysis and identify the literature gap

between the two. Specifically, this study identified influential journals, research theme clusters, and publication trends related to cyber misogyny and women's mental health.

2. METHODS

Violence against women is a phenomenon with widespread and serious impacts, particularly on the mental health of its victims. Although the high number of cases among women makes this group a primary focus of research, a deeper understanding of the risks and psychological impacts experienced by female victims remains urgently needed. Therefore, this research employed a descriptive quantitative approach combined with bibliometric analysis to map trends and developments in the literature related to violence against women and its consequences for mental health.

The bibliometric method was chosen for its ability to identify scientific publication patterns, collaborative networks between researchers, and key themes emerging in this field. Bibliographic data was collected using Publish or Perish software, while keyword networks and research collaborations were visualized using the VOSviewer application.

Prior to data mapping using VOSviewer, this research also involved a comparative review of several previous scientific works related to the topic of violence against women and its impact on mental health. This review aimed to identify gaps or shortcomings in previous research, identify consistent patterns of findings, evaluate the methodology used, and confirm the empirical and theoretical contributions this research can make.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Relevant Studies

The increasing use of social media as a public interaction space has been accompanied by the rise of cyber misogyny practices, which place women as targets of hate speech, harassment, and gender-based discrimination. This phenomenon is a serious concern because it not only impacts digital security but also has direct implications for women's mental health, such as increased anxiety, stress, and emotional disturbances. Based on this urgency, various studies have been conducted to examine the link between cyber misogyny and women's psychological well-being. Therefore, the following table presents several previous studies that form the basis for this research.

Table 1.1

No	Article/Book Title	Researcher and Year	Research Results
1.	Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV) in the Context of Misogyny and Sexism on X (Twitter) Social Media	Cantika Rani, Nida Destiana, Dheavica Angeliie (2025)	This research shows that the analyzed Twitter account X consistently displays online gender-based violence (OGBV) through misogynistic and sexist content. These findings suggest that social media is not only a space for expression but also a means of reproducing patriarchal ideology that reinforces gender inequality and normalizes violence against women in the digital realm.

No	Article/Book Title	Researcher and Year	Research Results
2.	Internalized Misogyny, Psychological Distress, Cyber Bullying in the Pick Me Girl/Boy Trend on TikTok	Mauliddini Azizah, Nadia Khalishah Fitri, Nazelin Maura, Jihan Salsabila (2023)	This study shows that levels of internalized misogyny and psychological distress are moderate, while cyberbullying is low. However, there is a significant correlation; higher levels of internalized misogyny are associated with higher levels of cyberbullying and psychological distress. Internalized misogyny also contributes 30.4% to psychological distress. The "Pick Me Girl/Boy" phenomenon on TikTok reinforces online gender-based violence, which negatively impacts mental health.
3.	Investigating the Psychological Impact of Cyber-Sexual Harassment	Marvin Iroegbu, Freya O'Brien, Luna Clara Muñoz, Georgia Parsons (2024)	The main findings of this study were that 44% of adult female participants reported experiencing cybersexual harassment (CSH). CSH was significantly associated with increased levels of depression, anxiety, trauma symptoms, and body image dissatisfaction. CSH was shown to be a significant predictor of anxiety and depression. The most vulnerable groups were younger women and those with a larger number of social media followers. Although CSH had a negative impact, face-to-face sexual harassment, or in-person sexual harassment (ISH), was found to have a stronger influence on body image dissatisfaction.

No	Article/Book Title	Researcher and Year	Research Results
4.	Women and the Phenomenon of Online Gender-Based Violence on Social Media	Fidella Azhar Julian, Wa Ode Asmawati (2024)	The study's findings indicate that online gender-based violence (OGBV) is an increasingly common problem experienced by women, particularly through platforms like WhatsApp and Instagram, which are most frequently used by respondents. The study, which involved 82 female students, fully understood what OGBV is, making them more vulnerable to becoming victims. Respondents assessed that the main causes of OGBV are low tolerance between genders, minimal knowledge about gender equality, and the strong patriarchal culture and toxic masculinity that still thrive in society. The impacts include emotional, psychological, and social harm comparable to conventional violence, as well as limiting women's participation and freedom in digital spaces. These findings confirm that OGBV is a serious problem that requires more intensive attention and handling.
5.	Cyber Misogyny: Hate Behavior Toward Women on Social Media	Muhammad Dicka Ma'arief Alyatalathaf (2019)	The research results show that cyber misogyny on Instagram is dominated by mob attacks, online abuse, and sexual harassment targeting women through hate speech, sexual harassment, and threats. The production of misogynistic comments is supported by a permissive attitude toward harassment, the practice of silencing women, victim blaming, and gender-based prejudice. This phenomenon persists due to power imbalances, a culture of misogyny, and weak implementation of legal regulations, leaving women vulnerable to victimization in the digital space.

3.2 Result

We began this research by conducting a systematic literature search in the Google Scholar database, a process technically assisted by the Publish or Perish (PoP) application. The selection of PoP was crucial due to its ability to comprehensively extract scholarly publication metadata, including titles, keywords, publication years, and citations. In the

initial phase, the researchers focused on mapping research related to misogyny in the digital space between 2015 and 2025.

To achieve this goal, the initial search was conducted using a combination of the title word "misogyny" combined with the keywords "women" and "cyber." Based on these criteria, the search process successfully identified and collected a total of 200 scholarly articles indexed in Google Scholar. The articles found covered various contexts and manifestations of misogyny in the online world, such as cyber misogyny, cyber harassment, and hate crime.

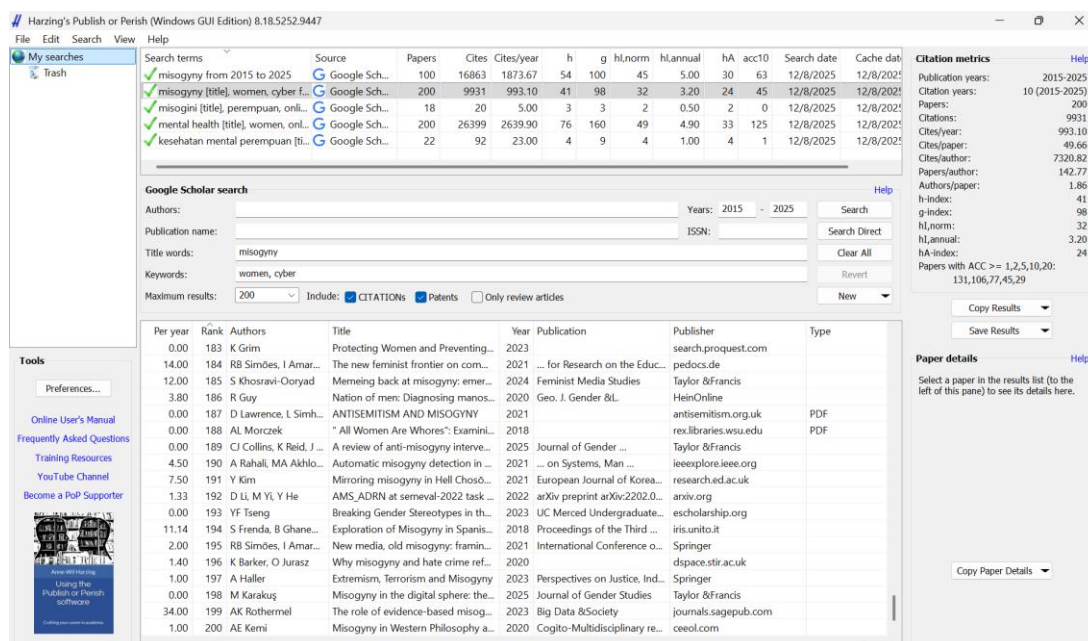


Figure I. Search for publication data from 2015-2025 with the title words "Misogyny" and keywords "Women, cyber" indexed by Google Scholar in the Publish or Perish application.

Based on a search process using the Publish or Perish app, a total of 200 articles relevant to the keywords "Women, cyber" were obtained, focusing on publication years 2015-2025. These articles covered various contexts and forms of gender-based digital violence, such as cybersexism, cyberharassment, online sexual harassment, and gender-based hate speech against women.

The analysis showed an increase in 2018. The highest number of publications appeared in the 2020-2023 period, in line with the rise in social media usage, increased awareness of gender-based digital violence, and the rise of the anti-violence against women movement in the digital space. This indicates that cybermisogyny is increasingly recognized as a serious issue in the media.

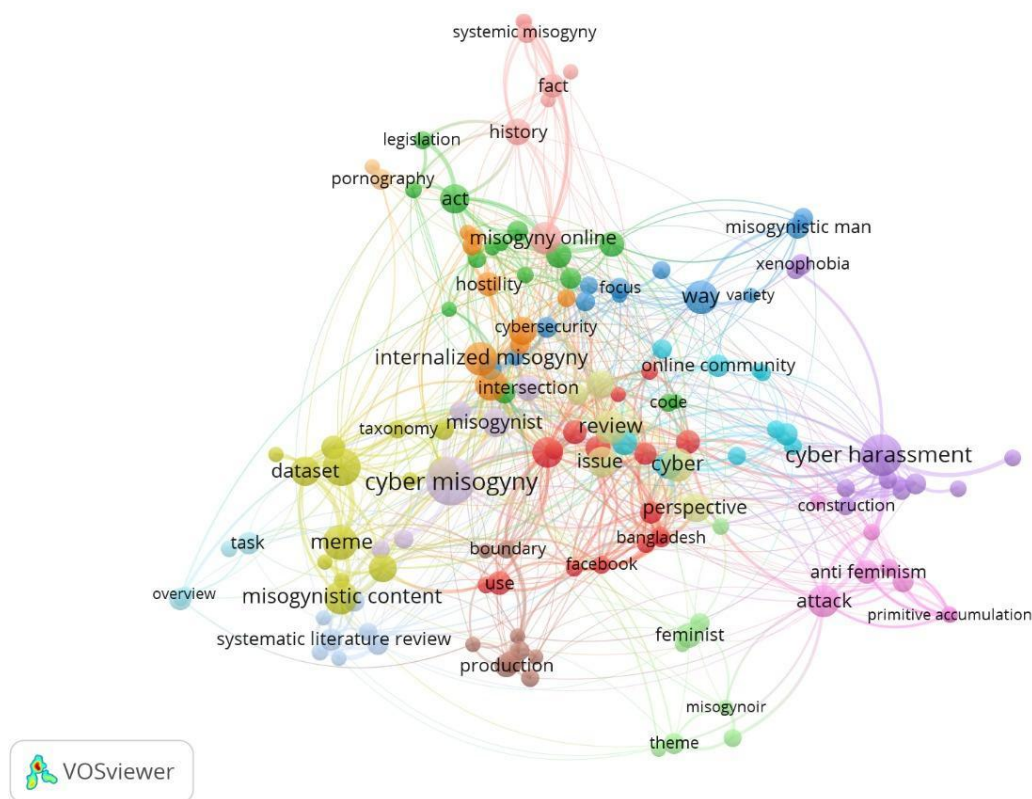


Figure 2. Network visualization of publication data with the title words “Misogyny” and keywords “Women, cyber”.

This VOSviewer Network visualization displays a keyword structure that reflects the relationships between research themes related to internalized misogyny, online communities, legislation, and xenophobia. The display shows several colored clusters that mark emerging research focuses in the literature. The size of the nodes indicates the frequency of keyword occurrences in publications, while the thickness of the lines represents the strength of the relationships between concepts.

a. Red and Purple Clusters – “Violence and Resistance to Feminism”

The Red Cluster centers on keywords such as cyber harassment, attack, and anti-feminism. This emerging theme highlights forms of direct aggression against women in digital spaces, including harassment, verbal attacks, and anti-feminist campaigns. The relationship between keywords indicates that digital misogyny encompasses more than passive content, but also active actions aimed at undermining the feminist movement and women's participation in public spaces, particularly online media. This cluster represents the conflictual and political dimensions of cyber misogyny.

b. Green Cluster – “Content and Internality of Misogyny”

This cluster features keywords such as cyber misogyny, internalized misogyny, and misogynistic content. The green cluster focuses on how patriarchal values and misogyny are reproduced through digital content, whether in the form of comments, memes, or visual representations. The term internalized misogyny emphasizes that some women can also absorb and internalize misogynistic values, thus reinforcing the cycle of discrimination. This cluster illustrates the psychosocial and cultural dimensions of digital misogyny.

c. Blue Cluster – “Methodological and Analytical Approach”

Keywords within this cluster, such as systematic literature review, taxonomy, dataset, and overview, dominate. Emerging themes relate to academics' efforts to classify, study, and develop a conceptual framework for digital misogyny. The blue cluster demonstrates attention to research methodology, both through systematic reviews and the development of taxonomies or groupings to better understand the phenomenon. Thus, this cluster represents a scientific and analytical dimension.

d. Yellow Cluster – Community and Theoretical Perspectives

This cluster contains keywords such as feminist, online community, perspective, and theme. It focuses on how online communities, both pro- and anti-feminism, have become important arenas for debates about misogyny. The terms "perspective" and "theme" demonstrate the diversity of theoretical perspectives used to understand this phenomenon, ranging from feminist perspectives to intersectional studies. This cluster emphasizes the sociological and theoretical dimensions of digital misogyny studies.

Thus, the VOSviewer network visualization with the title "misogyny" and the keywords "women, online" not only shows the dominant keywords but also demonstrates how research on digital misogyny is divided into four broad dimensions: conflictual, cultural, methodological, and sociological.

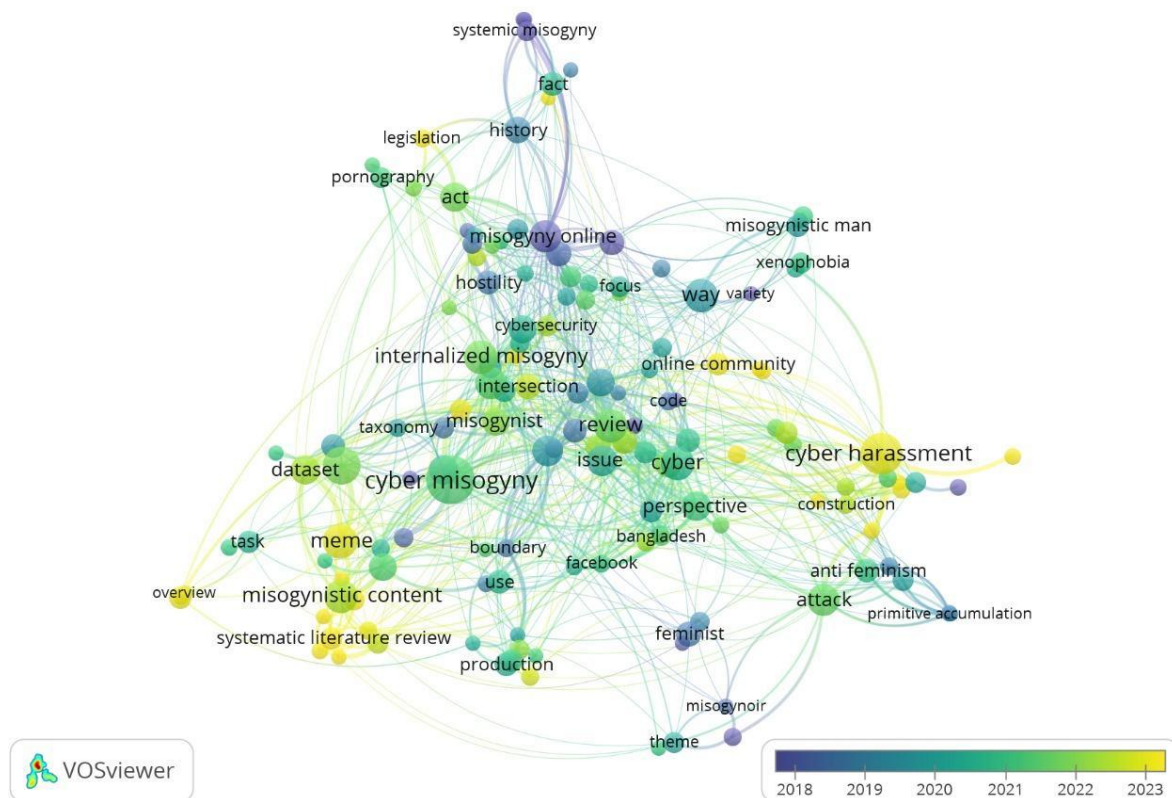


Figure 3. Overlay visualization of publication data with the title words “Misogyny” and keywords “Women, cyber”.

This VOSviewer overlay visualization depicts the temporal development of research topics, particularly keywords such as cyber misogyny, misogynistic content, and internalized misogyny, which emerged earlier, indicated by dark blue to dark green, from approximately 2018 to 2021. During this period, researchers focused on introducing the term misogyny into mass media, particularly digital media. They also focused on understanding how women at that time unconsciously accepted, justified, reinforced, and reinforced sexist views and stereotypes that harmed other women.

Entering the period from approximately 2021 to 2023, which the VOSviewer overlay visualization indicates with a gradient of light green to yellow, shows a significant increase in the intensity of discussion around keywords such as cyber harassment, anti-feminism, and online misogyny. The dominance of these terms reflects a shift in research focus toward more explicit and structured forms of aggression against women and feminist movements in the digital space. This phenomenon demonstrates that cyberspace is not only a medium for free expression but also an arena for ideological conflict that demonstrates resistance to the values of gender equality. The growing academic attention to these themes underscores the urgency of understanding the dynamics of gender-based violence that evolve alongside technological transformations and patterns of online social interaction.

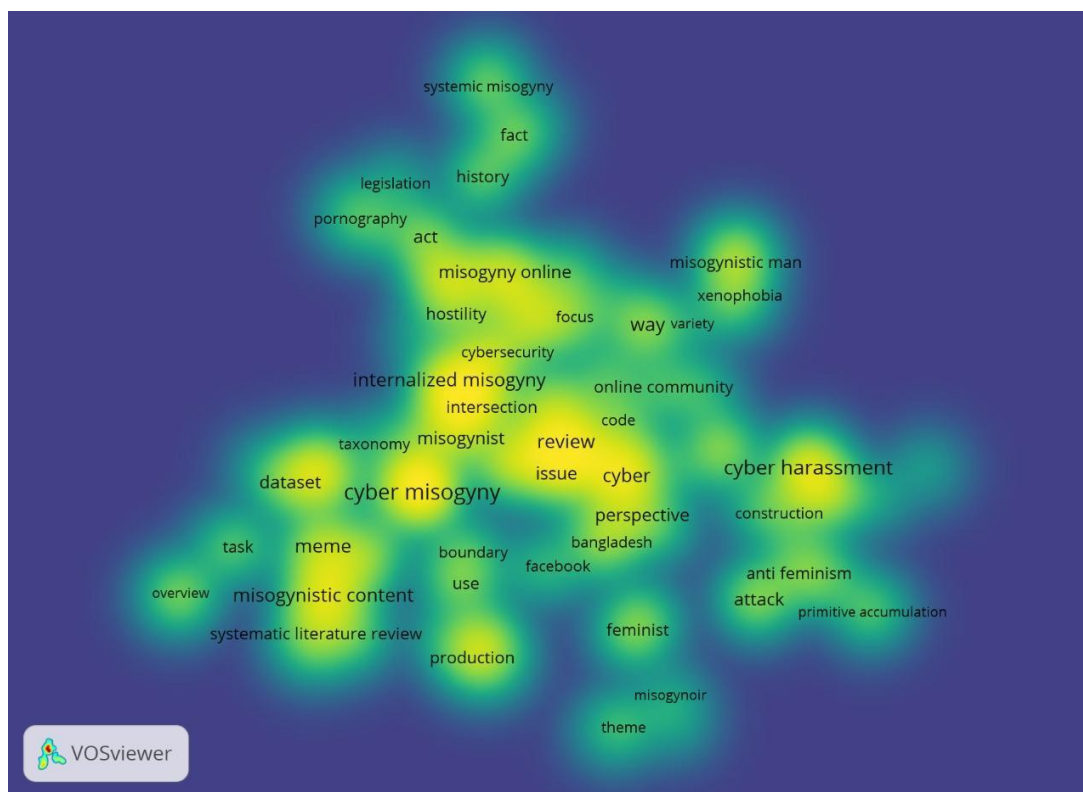


Figure 4. Density visualization of publication data with the title words “Misogyny” and keywords “Women, cyber”.

A density visualization created with VOSviewer shows how frequently certain words appear in research on digital misogyny (hatred of women in online spaces). Lighter

situation colors indicate frequently discussed and highly relevant keywords, while darker colors indicate less frequently occurring keywords.

In this visualization, terms like cyber misogyny, cyber harassment, internalized misogyny, and misogynistic content appear most prominently in light colors. This indicates that much recent research has focused on forms of gender-based violence in the digital world, both in the form of direct harassment and misogynistic content spread on social media and online communities.

Furthermore, terms like meme, Facebook, and online community also appear quite frequently, indicating that the phenomenon of digital misogyny is widely studied within the context of social media and popular culture. Meanwhile, terms like systemic misogyny, taxonomy, and review appear less frequently, usually as theoretical frameworks or research methods, rather than as primary topics.

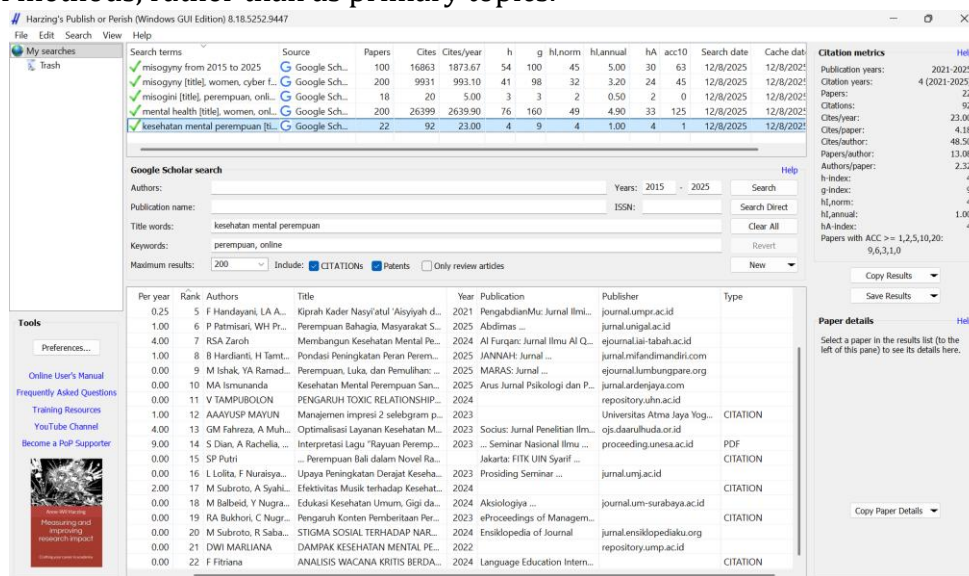


Figure 5. Search for publication data from 2015-2025 with the title words "Kesehatan mental perempuan" and keywords "Perempuan, online" indexed by Google Scholar in the Publish or Perish application.

A literature search was conducted through the Publish or Perish application using Google Scholar data sources, using the title words "Kesehatan mental perempuan" and the keywords "Perempuan, online" to identify research covering women's mental health in the context of digital media use for the period 2015-2025.

The search yielded only 22 relevant articles. This number is significantly outweighed by the urgency of the issue of women's mental health in the digital space, and is relatively small. These results demonstrate that academic research on women's mental health remains very limited, especially when compared to the numerous crime cases and phenomena on social media that significantly impact women's psychological well-being.

The paucity of publications on this topic reinforces the importance of bibliometric analysis, as the limited literature indicates a significant gap and research gap in the study of women's mental health in the digital space.

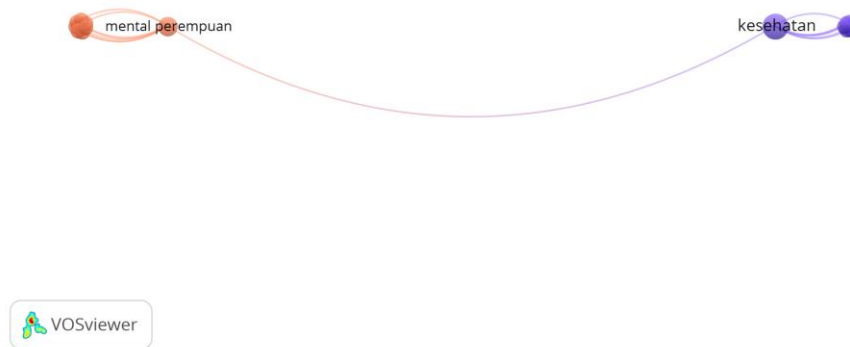


Figure 6. Network visualization of publication data with the title words “*Kesehatan mental perempuan*” and keywords “*Perempuan, online*”.

Based on the results of the VOSviewer network visualization with the title words “*Kesehatan mental perempuan*” and the keywords “*Perempuan, online*”, two main clusters were generated. The first cluster is marked in red, centered on the keyword “*Kesehatan mental perempuan*,” while the second cluster is marked in purple, centered on the keyword “*Kesehatan*.” The relationship between the two clusters is indicated by a single connecting line that is far apart, indicating that the link between women's mental health and health in general is still relatively weak.

a. Red Cluster – “*Mental Perempuan*”

The red cluster focuses on the keyword “*Mental Perempuan*” and represents a group of studies specifically addressing women's psychological experiences, vulnerability to mental health disorders, and the social and emotional factors that influence mental health and the psychological aspects experienced by women. The approach used in this cluster is linked to women's experiences specifically, not neutrally.

b. Purple Cluster – “*Kesehatan*”

The purple cluster focuses on the keyword “*Kesehatan*” and describes research that focuses on general health issues. This cluster's approach focuses on general public and medical health, without any focus on mental health or women's psychological conditions. The concept of this cluster serves as a platform encompassing various aspects of health.

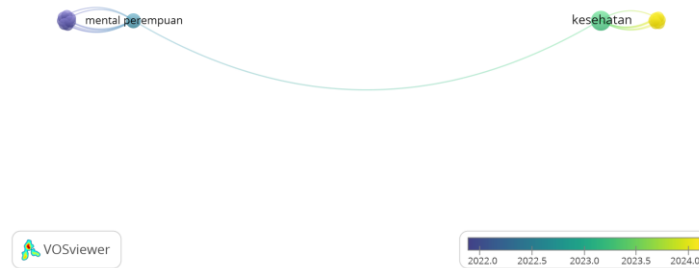


Figure 7. Overlay visualization of publication data with title words “*Kesehatan mental perempuan*” and keywords “*Perempuan, online*”.

An overlay visualization using VOSviewer shows that the color of each keyword indicates the average year of publication. The color gradient indicates a shift in publication time, with darker colors representing earlier publications, while lighter colors indicate more recent publications.

The color difference between the two keywords indicates a gap in research development. Although women's mental health issues emerged earlier, this topic has not yet developed significantly in line with developments in general health issues. In other words, current research trends are still dominated by developments in broader health discussions, while women's mental health issues, especially in the online context, have not yet become a focus of new research.



Figure 8. Publication data density visualization with title words "*Kesehatan mental perempuan*" and keywords "*Perempuan, online*".

The density visualization shows the frequency of keyword occurrences in the analyzed publications. The visualization above shows that the keyword "*Kesehatan*" has a higher density, indicated by a brighter color and a larger area. This also indicates that health, in general, dominates the available literature.

Meanwhile, the keyword "*Mental Perempuan*" is displayed with a lower density and a relatively limited area. This finding demonstrates that despite the high urgency of women's mental health issues and their presence in scientific publications, the topic remains understudied.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the bibliometric analysis, it can be concluded that studies on cyber misogyny have developed quite extensively and complexly in the scientific literature, particularly in the context of digital space and gender-based violence. Conversely, studies specifically linking cyber misogyny to women's mental health remain limited and disconnected. This finding indicates an imbalance in research focus, where the psychological impact of cyber misogyny on women has not yet become a primary concern in academic discourse. Network, overlay, and density visualizations consistently show that the topic of women's mental health tends to emerge separately, with low intensity, and without significant temporal development. Meanwhile, general health issues and cyber misogyny studies have developed more prominently, but have not been adequately integrated with women's mental health perspectives. This condition indicates a clear research gap in the literature.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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6. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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