Moral Education (2010-2019):
A Bibliometric Study (Part 1)

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Abstract   Recently, moral education has developed into a popular theme of study in various countries. Mapping of moral education research that includes publication trends, the most cited articles, the most contributing journals and publishers, and the terms in the author keywords needs to be done to provide direction for future research. This article aims at identifying and analyzing moral education studies that have been published in reputable international journals in the 2010-2019 timeframe through bibliometric studies. This study employed a systematic and structured mind-mapping method, which includes four stages: (1) searching articles through the Publish or Perish applications from the Scopus database; (2) filtering articles to be included in bibliometric analysis; (3) checking and completing the article metadata; and (4) conducting bibliometric analysis through VOSviewer application. Four findings are yielded from the analysis: (1) yearly moral education publication trends. The analysis showed an increasing publication trend at the end of 2019; (2) the most cited article. Most citations occurred in moral education articles in the scope of business with 56 number of citations; (3) journals and publishers that published the most moral education articles. The most contributing journal is the Journal of Moral Education, and the most contributing publisher is Routledge or Taylor and Francis; and (4) the most widely used author keywords in moral education articles. The keyword term that is most widely used by authors is 'moral education'. This study concluded that publications in moral education have increased, but the citation is still in a decreasing pattern. Therefore, making a top-cited article becomes an opportunity for future research.

Keywords   Moral Education, Bibliometric Analysis, Bibliographic Review, Ethics and Morals, Publish or Perish, VOSviewer, Publication Trends, Bibliography Mapping

1. Introduction

Moral education is a significant aspect in various countries [1-3]. In current educational practice, moral education has an advantage in the curriculum [4-8]. Correspondingly, moral development is the focus of educators to educate humans fully [9-11]. Over the decades, the practice of moral education has become a student-centered practice, which focuses on fostering independence and interdependence [12-17].The study of moral education also penetrated various fields, such as music [18], health [19], business [20], and many more. Observing the development of moral education from various researchers in various countries can provide new directions for subsequent research for researchers or educators who are focused on this field. Therefore, a bibliographic study of moral education articles that have been published in reputable journals has become indispensable.

In a conceptual framework, moral training is an education of essential qualities and standards including but not limited to reasonableness, trustworthiness, and regard for other people, and those would develop moral duties in students [21-24]. No community can survive and thrive without a specific degree of cohesion to these values [25-27]. Strictly speaking, moral education is an approach to instill knowledge, values, beliefs, and attitudes that can assist students to become members of community that are informative, caring, and responsible, who comprehend and have faith in the idea of 'equity, decency, and human welfare' [28, 29]. In every society, the enculturation of moral education to the children must be considered as a continuum that begins with the values and virtues of consensus that sustain society [30-32]. As children become more established and turn out to be increasingly developed, they will be gradually brought into a progressive education and they will learn an informative and intelligent manner in response to disputable ethic points [27, 33-37]. In a

pluralistic society, peaceful coexistence relies upon the acknowledgment and support of ideals and municipal qualities such as upholding the right to involve everyone, resolving differences by deliberating, and drawing conclusions in accordance with information obtained[38, 39]. The character education manifesto considers schools and educators as the principle specialists to introduce and enhance moral education. All schools should cultivate students' individual and community ethics such as trust worthiness, mental fortitude, duty, determination, administration, and regard for the equal respect for everything [40-42].

Current research on moral education has been conducted by researchers. The search conducted by Wong [43] in Hong Kong regarding contextualized addressing strategies of moral discussion in classes recommended that teachers' investigating methodology in a moral discussion should incorporate a contextualized action such as the assessment of protagonists, narrative focus, and implanted virtues in a story through an educational program arranging and educating. It should offer bearings for future investigations of ethic studies.

The research conducted by Sugrue [44] in regards to moral injury among experts in K-12 education based on the correlational analysis found that experiences of moral injury were related with guilty feeling, upset conscience, burnout, and the intention to find employment elsewhere. Linear regression analysis exhibited that experts working in high-destitution and racially isolated schools were bound to endorse experiences of moral injury significantly. These discoveries strengthened the criticalness of the intersectionality of race and class in duplicating harsh and indecent instructive practices and results. A more profound comprehension and more prominent consideration regarding the potential sources of moral injury is critical to foster a more equitable and ethical education system.

Research conducted by Corsa [45]on compassion and ethic training in the Theatre of the Oppressed and The Laramie Project indicated that remarkable scholars have contended that theater and drama played beneficial parts in the ethic training of people, including developing compassion ability. However, there are worries from other scholars regarding dramas and practices that involved improvisation. They stated that it might not drive beneficial changes and might even have unfavorable influences. Corsa's research focused on the techniques utilized by the Theatre of the Oppressed, conceived by Augusto Boal, and on the strategies engaged in the development of The Laramie Project, createdby Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project. It contended that those dramas have developed the empathetic limits of actors and audiences, and it overcame the worries from numerous scholars over the impact of the drama.

Research conducted by Valor, Antonetti and Merino [46]in regards to the connection between moral abilities and practical utilization among advanced students indicated that moral abilities were indirectly associated with practical utilization. It recommended that the advancement of these abilities may also encourage the reception of practical utilization. Moreover, this research also contributed to the improvement of the educational programs of Education for Sustainable Consumption by giving a comprehensive, hypothesis-based, and observationally tried operationalization of ethic abilities and affirming the structure of the Values in Action Inventory of Strengths as an operationalization instrument and evaluation of the development of ethic abilities of the students.

A moral education and decision-making in clinical dispatching research conducted by Knight et al. [47] demonstrated that moral training had not been received by most members in anticipation of their dispatching role and they were facing challenges in distinguishing and examining moral issues. Members frequently feel uncomfortable about choices they were associated with, attributing this to a few variables, such as a feeling of moral unease; a concern regarding the non-transparent decision-making process of the commissioning groups; and the unaccountable commissioning groups. The results of this research also inferred that the commissioning groups encounter complicated choices regarding moral concerns and the association of moral disquiet is exacerbated by an absence of moral education and an absence of trust in distinguishing and breaking down the concerns. This research also indicated a reasonable prerequisite for extra support and moral education for the commissioning groups to support the decision-making process.

Over the recent ten years, besides the abundance of accessible literature on moral education, there were no comprehensively reported bibliometric studies in publications of journals indexed by Scopus that have been reported. In the existing literature, the portrayals of bibliometric maps and grouping methods that empower an outline of the different parts of moral education seem to be disregarded. On the top-cited articles in the field, there is no bibliometric study that demonstrating gradually increased qualities of the publications. Henceforth, a new citation analysis on this subject is supported to be conducted. In this manner, the present study has been completed to evaluate the volume of scientific publications identified with moral education in general, and to conduct a most-cited bibliometric study.

This bibliographic review study is significant to be conducted, as the idea of bibliography has been procuring applicable significance in the research field [48-52]. Moreover, this research can be estimated in a progressively dependable manner by breaking down the quantity of publications and the number of citations [53-57]. The bibliometric indicators was used to analyze the scientific production quantitatively and qualitatively [58-60]. The utilization of the indicators can also produce the best possible portrayal of the research development condition, thereby fortifying the scientific policy decision-making [61-63].

One of the quantitative methods to distinguish the pattern of publication and citation within a research in a period of time is bibliometrics. It can also offer understanding into the dynamics of the area subsequently [64-66]. The significance of the bibliographic studies has additionally been accounted by previous researchers [67-69]. The article review can assist with getting data through the examination of high-referred articles and their reference rates in the research [70]. Many research network, publishers, and policymakers have understood the significance of the evaluation forms, and especially the bibliometric indicators utilization based on the author's publication practices and journal editorial rehearses [71-74].

From such scientific and essential examination significance, the purpose of this research was drawn. The purpose is to perform a moral education bibliometric analysis and to report the overall topographies. It is because these articles are esteemed to be the most notable and most noticeable publications exhibiting up-to-date academic information, progress, and propensities in the field. Consequently, this article takes part in science-mapping process to expound fundamental bibliometric subtleties of the articles by addressing the following identification of the problems:

Q1: How is the trend of publication in moral education research in 2010-2019?

Q2: How is the citation pattern in moral education research in 2010-2019?

Q3: Which journals and publishers published the most moral education articles in 2010-2019?

Q4: What is the most widely used author keyword in moral education research in 2010-2019?

2. Methods

2.1. Examination Procedure

Publish or Perish Software (PoP) is used in this research as an application to search the bibliographic database. The database source used for searching bibliographies in the PoP application is Scopus. Itis utilized because it is one of the largest databases of peer-reviewed literature providers[75].It covers a lot more extensive scope of materials contrasted to other databases[70, 76], and it also encompasses 70% larger sources than WoS[70, 77].The bibliography searches are limited specifically to the following aspects: (1) the type of bibliography that is sought is only in the type of journal; (2) the title and author keywords sought are aimed at two words namely "Moral Education"; and (3) the search year is limited to 2010-2019 (last 10 years). Because searching on the Scopus database via PoP is limited to a maximum of 200 articles in one search, the search is carried out twice, the first one is in 2010-2014, and the second one is in 2015-2019. Bibliographic searches were conducted in January 2020. Figure 1 presents the process of searching bibliographies in the PoP application.

The bibliographic search results are saved in the EndNote X9 application and into a CSV file to be opened in the Excel or Numbers application. Files that have been saved are then checked and equipped with the metadata.

Figure 1. Bibliographic Search in PoP Application

2.2. Bibliographic Filters

The selection and sorting for the bibliography to be included in the bibliometric analysis were conducted. Some of the criteria applied include: (1) having the right context of moral education, (2) using English, and (3) published by established or reputable bibliographic database publishers or providers. Every bibliography that will be included or removed from the bibliometric analysis process was checked first by tracing it into the Scopus database that has been extracted from the PoP application. The selected bibliography used was only the journal type. There were some of the bibliographies that appeared in the search process of the PoP application that was not selected because they were in the form of Conference Articles, Erratum, Notes, Editorials, Reviews, or articles that are not equipped with abstracts.

The initial search results through the PoP application produced 252 bibliographies. After being selected, there were 207 selected bibliographies. However, 45 bibliographies could not be selected because they did not meet the established criteria. Table 1 shows the total number of bibliographies from each year resulting from searches through the PoP application.

Table 1. Bibliographic Selection Results

Year of publication	Inclusion	Exclusion	Total
2019	29	9	38
2018	29	1	30
2017	24	5	29
2016	13	2	15
2015	19	4	23
2014	23	4	27
2013	23	8	31
2012	15	3	18
2011	18	3	21
2010	14	6	20
Total	207	45	252

2.3. Bibliography Attributes

To analyze the filtered bibliography, the metadata of the bibliography was examined and completed. The examination includes author names, article titles, author keywords, abstracts, years, volumes, issue numbers, pages, affiliations, countries, number of citations, article links, and publishers. After the metadata was completed, the bibliometric analysis begun.

2.4. Bibliometric Analysis

Bibliometric analysis was carried out based on the following four aspects; (1) moral education publication trends, (2) the most cited articles, (3) journals and publishers that are published moral education articles the most, and (4) author keywords that are the most widely used in moral education articles. The VOSviewer application was used to help conducting bibliometric analysis and visualize the results of bibliometric analysis [78-80]. VOSviewer was utilized in view of its capacity to work proficiently with enormous informational index and can give an assortment of fascinating visuals, examination, and investigations [81-83]. It can also make publication, author, or journal maps based on co-citation systems or construct keyword maps based on shared systems [79].The file type inputted into the VOSviewer application for the analysis was put in the EndNote (enw) bibliography file.

3. Results

3.1. Theme 1: Analysis Based on Publication Trend

Figure 2 shows that the publication of moral education articles from 2010-2019 amounted to 207. Publication trends showed an ascending pattern three times, descending pattern twice, and fixed pattern twice. The ascending pattern occurred in 2010-2011, 2012-2013, and 2016-2018; the descending pattern occurred in 2011-2012 and 2014-2016; and the fixed pattern occurred in 2013-2014 and 2018-2019. If seen from the whole year, the least publication occurred in 2016 and the most publication occurred in 2018-2019. Thus, in recent years publications on moral education have increased quite significantly.
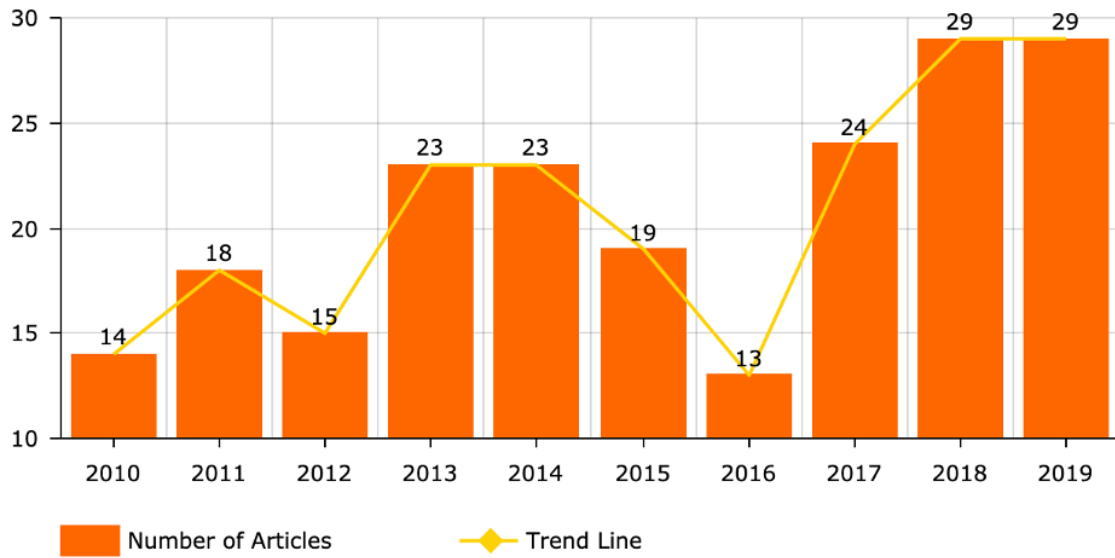
Figure 2.   Yearly Publication Trend

3.2. Theme 2: Analysis Based on the Most Cited Articles

3.2.1. The Citation Rates per Year

Figure 3 shows that the total number of citations per year from 2010-2019 was 961 citations. The citation pattern showed a descending pattern three times, ascending pattern three times, and fixed pattern once. The descending pattern occurred in 2010-2011, 2014-2015, and 2018-2019; the ascending pattern occurred in 2011-2014, 2015-2016, and 2017-2018; and the fixed pattern occurred in 2016-2017. If seen from the whole year, the most citations occurred in 2014 and the least citation occurred in 2019. Thus, the overall citation pattern experienced a decline from 2010-2019. An average number of citations per year is presented in Figure 4.
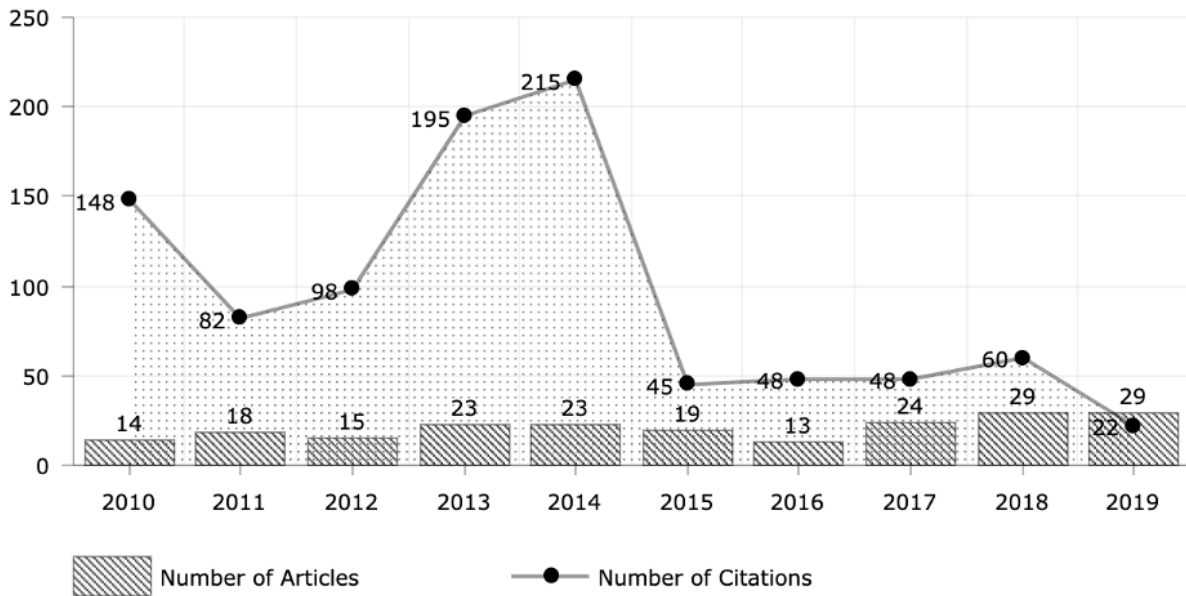

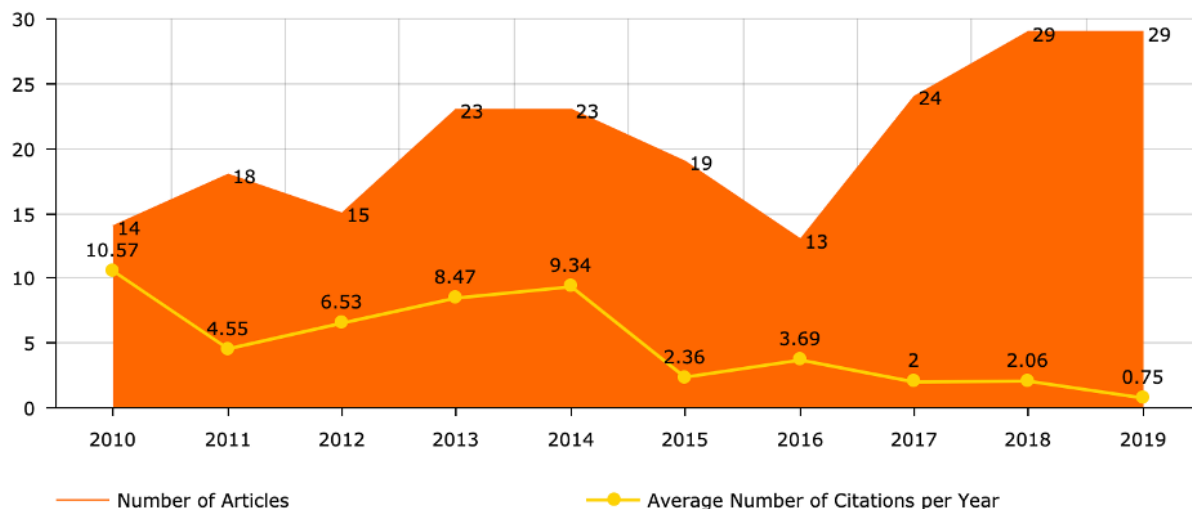**Figure 3.**   Number of Citations per Year

Figure 4. Average Number of Citations per Year

Table 2. Top Ten of the Most Cited Articles

No.	Author(s)	Article Title	Year of Publication	Number of Citation	Journal Name	Publisher / Database
1	May, D.R., Luth, M.T., Schwoerer, C.E.	The Influence of Business Ethics Education on Moral Efficacy, Moral Meaningfulness, and Moral Courage: A Quasi-experimental Study	2014	56	Journal of Business Ethics	Springer
2	Sanderse, W.	The meaning of role modelling in moral and character education	2013	53	Journal of Moral Education	Taylor & Francis
3	Banerjee, K., Huebner, B., Hauser, M.	Intuitive moral judgments are robust across variation in gender, education, politics, and religion: A large-scale web-based study	2010	30	Journal of Cognition and Culture	Brill
4	Wang, L.C., Calvano, L.	Is Business Ethics Education Effective? An Analysis of Gender, Personal Ethical Perspectives, and Moral Judgment	2013	29	Journal of Business Ethics	Springer
5	Kozloski, M.J.	Homosexual moral acceptance and social tolerance: Are the effects of education changing?	2010	27	Journal of Homosexuality	Taylor & Francis
6	Grace, P.J., Robinson, E.M., Jurchak, M., Zollfrank, A.A., Lee, S.M.	Clinical ethics residency for nurses: An education model to decrease moral distress and strengthen nurse retention in acute care	2014	25	Journal of Nursing Administration	Wolters Kluwer Health
7	Uditsky, B., Hughson, E.	Inclusive Postsecondary Education-An Evidence-Based Moral Imperative	2012	23	Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities	Wiley Online Library
8	Wurthmann, K.	A Social Cognitive Perspective on the Relationships Between Ethics Education, Moral Attentiveness, and PRESOR	2013	23	Journal of Business Ethics	Springer
9	Bonnett, M.	Environmental concern, moral education, and our place in nature	2012	22	Journal of Moral Education	Taylor & Francis
10	Fougère, M., Solitander, N., Young, S.	Exploring and Exposing Values in Management Education: Problematizing Final Vocabularies in Order to Enhance Moral Imagination	2014	22	Journal of Business Ethics	Springer

3.2.2. The Top Ten Most-Cited Articles

As shown in Table 2, of the 10 most cited articles, articles written by May, D.R., Luth, M.T., and Schwoerer, C.E. (Title: The Influence of Business Ethics Education on Moral Efficacy, Moral Meaningfulness, and Moral Courage: A Quasi-experimental Study) are the articles that ranked first with 56 citations.The second rank is the article written by Sanderse, W. (Title: The meaning of role modelling in moral and character education) with 53 citations. Meanwhile, the last place is occupied by the article written by Bonnett, M. (Title: Environmental concern, moral education and our place in nature) with 22 citations, and article written by Fougère, M., Solitander, N., Young, S. (Title: Exploring and Exposing Values in Management Education: Problematizing Final Vocabularies in Order to Enhance Moral Imagination) with 22 citations.

3.3. Theme 3: Analysis Based on Journal and Publisher

3.3.1. The Most Frequently Published Journals

Table 3 shows nine journals that published the most moral education articles from 2010-2019. The first place was occupied by the Journal of Moral Education published by Taylor & Francis with 57 articles. The second place was occupied by the Journal of Philosophy of Education published by Blackwell Publishing with 12 articles. Meanwhile, the last place was occupied by three journals with the same number of citations, which are the European Journal of Science and Theology published by the Acad Organization for Environmental Engineering & Sustainable Development, the Journal of Academic Ethics published by Springer, and the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research published by Pharmainfo Publications. All three journals published three articles each.

3.3.2. The Most Published Publisher of Moral Education Articles

Table 4 shows that that the publisher who published the most moral education articles was Taylor & Francis (T&F). There were two journals published by T&F, namely the Journal of Moral Education (57 articles) and the Journal of Beliefs and Values (four articles), so T&F published a total of 61 articles. Meanwhile, the second place was occupied by Springer. There were two journals published by Springer, namely the Journal of Business Ethics (10 articles) and the Journal of Academic Ethics (three articles), so Springer published a total of 13 articles. The third place was occupied by Blackwell Publishing, which published the Journal of Philosophy of Education (12 articles).

Table 3. Nine of the Most Published Journals in the Area of Moral Education

No.	Journal Name	Numbers of Article	Publisher
1	Journal of Moral Education	57	Taylor & Francis
2	Journal of Philosophy of Education	12	Blackwell Publishing
3	Journal of Business Ethics	10	Springer
4	Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences	9	Mediterranean Center of Social and Educational Research
5	Journal of Advanced Oxidation Technologies	4	Walter de Gruyter GmbH
6	Journal of Beliefs and Values	4	Taylor & Francis
7	European Journal of Science and Theology	3	Acad Organization for Environmental Engineering & Sustainable Development
8	Journal of Academic Ethics	3	Springer
9	Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research	3	Pharmainfo Publications

Table 4. The Top Five Published Publisher of Moral Education Article

No.	Publisher	Total Articles	Journal
1	Taylor & Francis	61	Journal of Moral Education; Journal of Beliefs and Values
2	Springer	13	Journal of Business Ethics; Journal of Academic Ethics
3	Blackwell Publishing	12	Journal of Philosophy of Education
4	Mediterranean Center of Social and Educational Research	9	Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences
5	Walter de Gruyter GmbH	4	Journal of Advanced Oxidation Technologies

3.4. Theme 4: Analysis Based on Author Keyword

575 author keywords were analyzed with three minimum numbers of occurrences and from this analysis, 29 keywords that have strong links were generated. Table 5 shows the clustering of author keywords based on color and number of items. Meanwhile, Figure 5 shows the author keyword from the network visualization version, Figure 6 shows the author keyword from the overlay visualization version, and Figure 7 shows the author keyword from the density visualization version.

Table 5. Clustering of Author Keywords

| Cluster	Color	Number of Item	Author Keywords
1	Red	5	character education (8); gender (3); moral judgment (5); moral psychology (3); virtue ethics (4)
2	Green	5	defining issues test (3); ethics (9); higher education (5); literature (3); moral reasoning (4)
3	Blue	5	education (10); moral distress (3); morality (5); morals (3); spirituality (3)
4	Yellow	4	curriculum reform (3); indoctrination (3); moral education (48); teachers (3); virtue (3)
5	Purple	5	development (3); moral (5); religion (4); society (4); values (4)
6	Aqua	2	moral development (6); moral values (3)
7	Orange	2	Hong Kong (3); religious education (3)
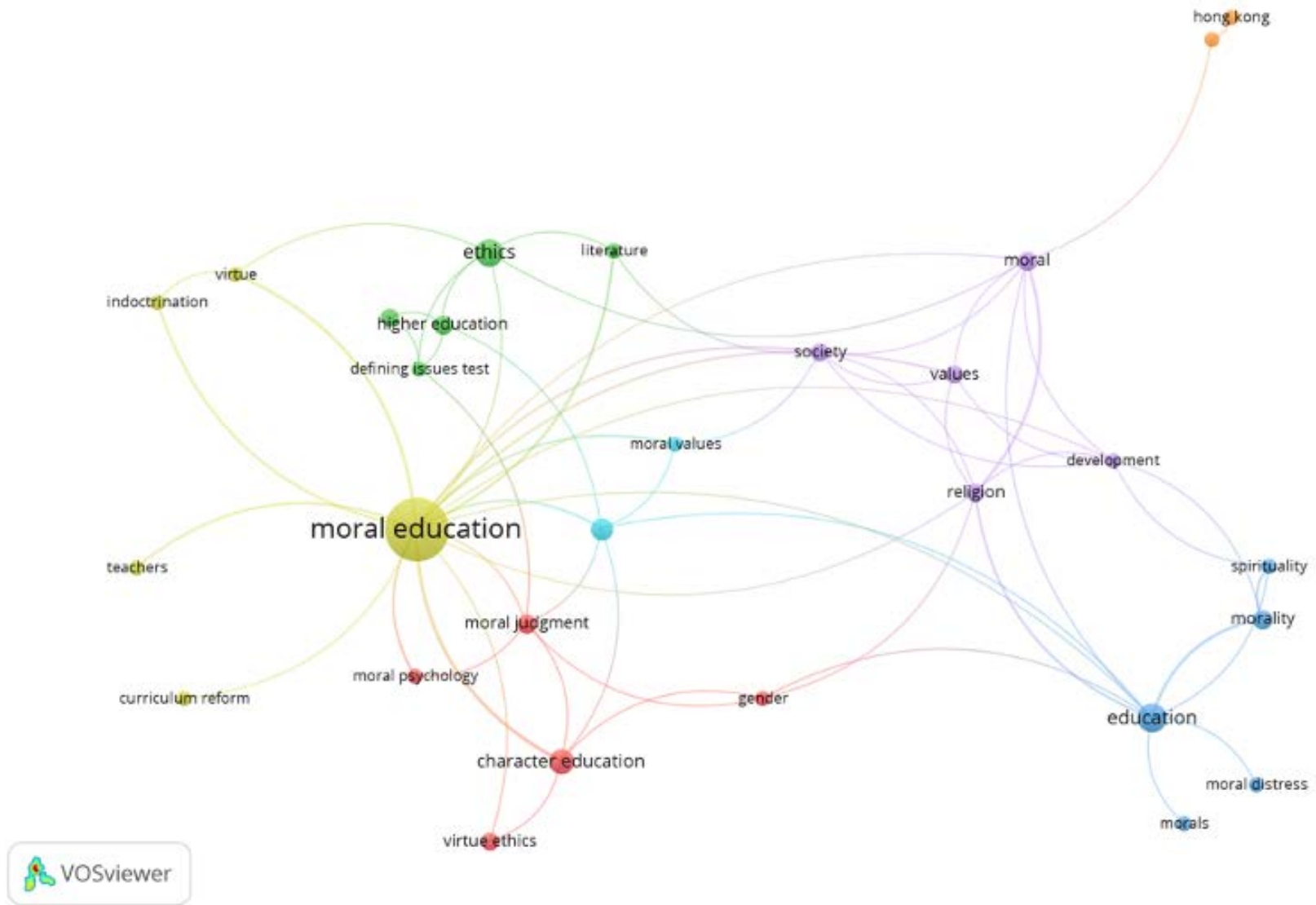
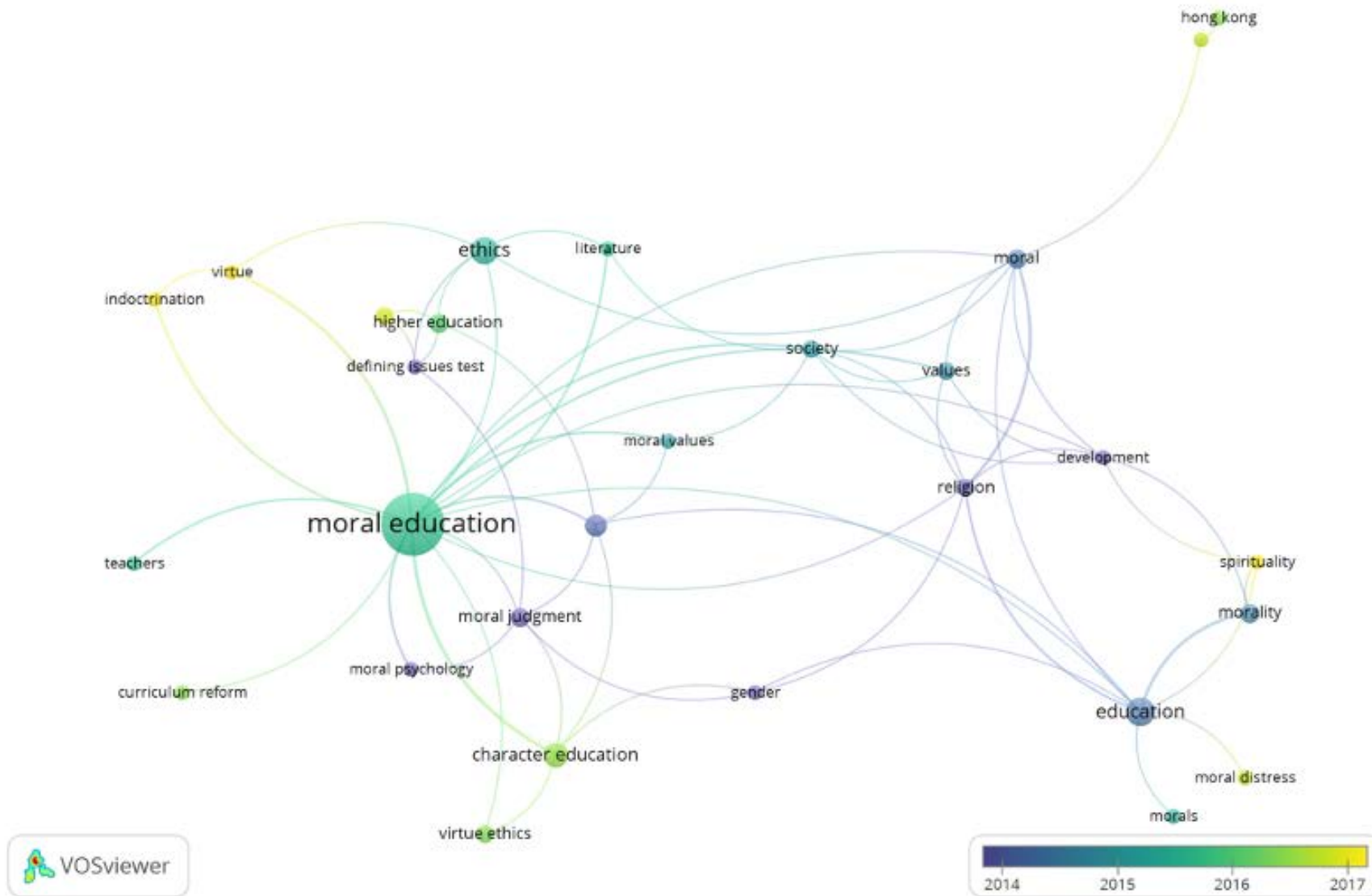**Figure 5.** Network Visualization of Author Keywords

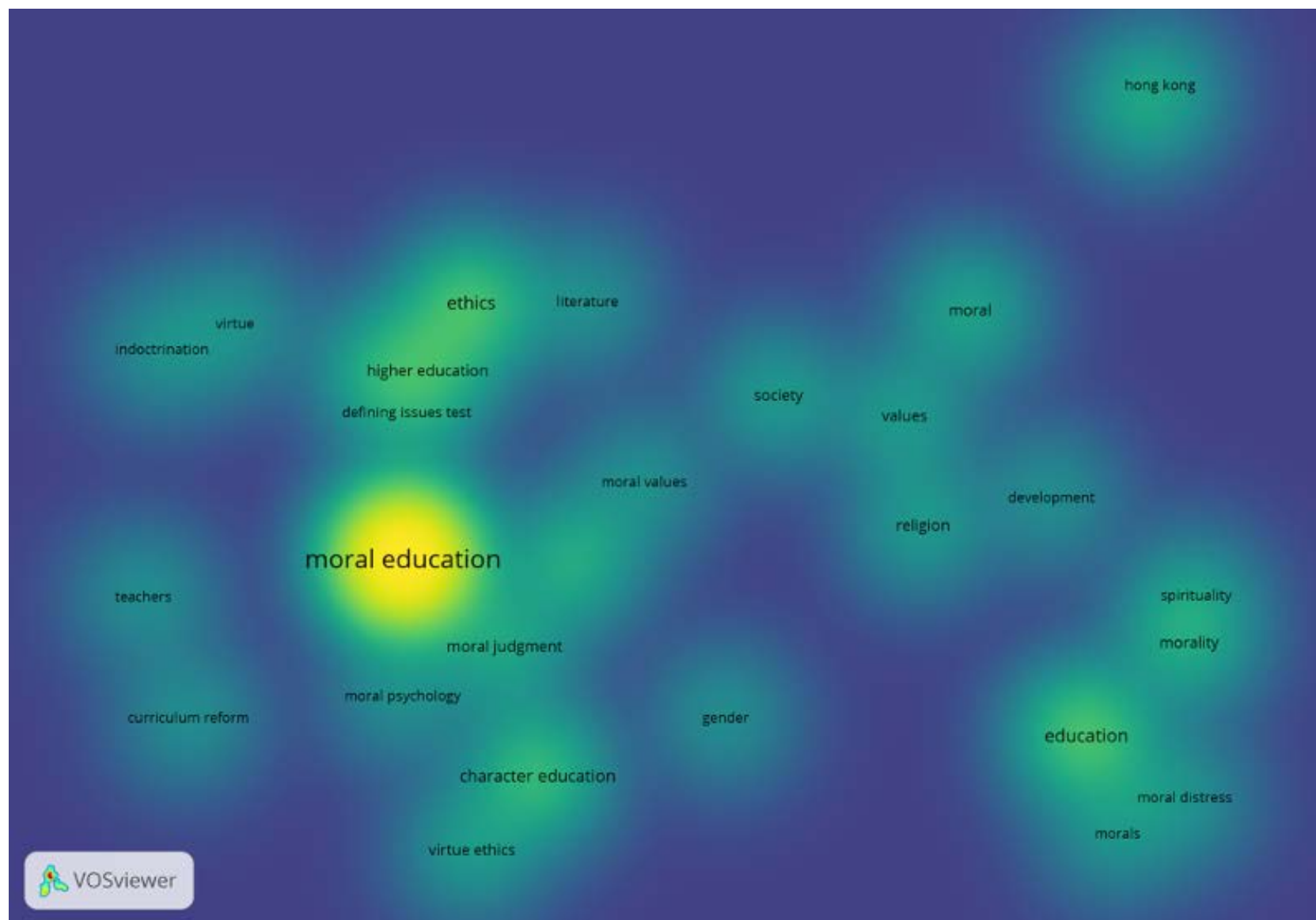**Figure 6.**　Overlay Visualization of Author Keywords

Figure 7.   Density Visualization of Author Keywords

4. Discussion and Conclusions

This bibliometric analysis has produced four themes that can be discussed as follows. The trend in the publication of articles on moral education over the past 10 years has generally increased, starting with 14 articles (2010) and ending at 29 articles (2019). The decrease in article publications only occurred for three years, namely in 2012, 2015, and 2016. Meanwhile, in other years of 2010-2019, there was an increase. The years 2017 to 2019 were the years that published the most moral education articles compared to previous years, it amounted to 24-29 articles. The trend of the publication of moral education articles from 2010-2019 can be illustrated by an ascending-descending-ascending-descending-ascending pattern. This trend at the same time indicated that researchers in various parts of the world have an increasingly high interest in the study of moral education. Publication trends also showed the development of the direction and interest of the authors in the area they are engaged in [84-87].

The situation analysis was done by extracting the number of citations per article per year obtained from the PoP application. The citation has a crucial position in publication because it can be viewed as a marker for the impact of a publication [88, 89]. The citation patterns in moral education articles over the period of 2010-2019 showed an ascending-descending-ascending-descending pattern. It started with 148 numbers of citations (2010) and ended with 22 number of citations (2019).The highest three years in the number of citations occurred in 2010 (148 citations), 2013 (195 citations), and 2014 (215 citations).Thus, the most number of citations occurred in 2014. Meanwhile, a quite drastic decrease in the number of citations occurred from 2015 to 2019, from 45 citations (2015) to 22 citations (2019). The most cited articles were published in 2014, they were articles written by May, D.R., Luth, M.T., and Schwoerer, C.E. with a total of 56 citations. This article examined the impact of business ethics education on moral adequacy, moral meaningfulness, and moral courage. The findings of this research uncovered that members in the business moral treatment course experienced noteworthy positive increments in each of the three outcome variables when contrasted to the control group. The biggest increment was in moral adequacy, followed by moral courage, and finally, moral meaningfulness [90].This gave an indication that moral education research is pretty much developing and attracting other researchers in the business area.

The highest ranking in the journal category that published the most articles on moral education was occupied by the Journal of Moral Education (57 articles). Following the name of the journal, it is natural that this journal ranked at the top of publishing articles in the scope of high-quality moral education in the 2010-2019 time spans. Meanwhile, the publisher who placed first in publishing moral education articles was occupied by the T&F publisher. Two journals published by T&F, which were the Journal of Moral Education (57 articles) and the Journal of Beliefs and Values (four articles) have brought T&F into a publisher that successfully published 61 articles of moral education in the 2010-2019 time span. This indicated that although there are other prominent journal publishers, T&F as a major publisher who is in the top ranks of journal publishers [91, 92]was one of the publishers who are the first choice of researchers to publish articles in the area of moral education.

The search results identified 575 author keywords used in selected articles. When analyzing through the VOSviewer application is done using three occurrences, 29 author keywords have strong connections. The author keyword analysis was presented in three versions, which are network visualization, overlay visualization, and density visualization. Overlay visualization and density visualization analysis was utilized to distinguish key topics in each examination or extent of information. This result was done by estimating the co-occurrence of keyword pairs [79, 82, 93, 94].The author keyword analysis produced seven clusters with the following details; cluster 1 is five items, cluster 2 is five items, cluster 3 is five items, cluster 4 is four items, cluster 5 is five items, cluster 6 is two items, and cluster 7 is two items. As shown in Figures 5, 6, and 7, the term "moral education" is the most prominent or most used term by authors, followed by the terms "education", "ethics", "character education", and "moral development." This indicated that the terms used by the authors in the article tend to use terms from the main topic of the article.

In conclusion, the four questions asked at the beginning can be answered and concluded as follows. What is the publication trend in moral education research in 2010-2019? The publications have formed a pattern of ascending-descending-ascending-descending-ascending with a trend of higher publications in 2019. What are the citation patterns in moral education research in 2010-2019? Citation on moral education articles has formed a pattern of ascending-descending-ascending-descending with the number of citations reaching the highest peak in 2014 and experiencing a drastic decline from 2015 to 2019. Which journals and publishers published the most moral education articles in 2010 -2019? The most widely published journal of moral education articles is occupied by the Journal of Moral Education, which has managed to publish 57 articles. Meanwhile, the publisher who published the most moral education articles was T&F with a total of 61 articles published in two journals. What is the most widely used author keyword in moral education research in 2010-2019? The terms that are the most widely used by the author as the author keywords in the article within the area of moral education is moral education, followed by education, and ethics.

5. Limitations and Suggestions

This research has limitations in several aspects, for

example; (1) the database used for searching articles waslimited to Scopus, (2) the software used to analyze bibliometrics is only using VOSviewer, and (3) the bibliography is included only in the type of articles based on the information displayed by Scopus. Therefore, to expand the study in this topic, future studies may be able to use several sources/databases, use other bibliometric analysis software, and include other types of writing such as book chapters, seminar proceedings, and review papers.The further research that is inseparable from the bibliometric study is presented in Part 2.

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