

E ISSN: 2828-3961 P ISSN: 2827-9794

Journal Homepage: https://jicc.umy.ac.id/index.php/jicc

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To Cite This Article: Muhammad Hisyam Syafi'I¹, Adi Mulya² (2024) Literature Study on the Impact of Congregational Morning Prayer on Academic Anxiety: A View on Psychospiritual and Psychoneuroimmunology in Students, Journal of Islamic Communication and Counseling (JICC), Vol. 3 Number 1, January 2024, Pages 72–90. DOI: https://doi.org/10.18196/jicc.v3i1.72

To link this article: https://jicc.umy.ac.id/index.php/jicc



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E ISSN: 2828-3961 P ISSN: 2827-9794







Received: 04 November 2023 Revised: 04 November 2023 Accepted: 13 November 2023

DOI: https://doi.org/10.18196/jicc.v3i1.72

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Reviewing editor Dr. Syahidah Rena, M.Ed. Institut Ilmu Al-Qur'an (IIQ) Jakarta, Indonesia.

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Literature Study on the Impact of Congregational Morning Prayer on Academic Anxiety: A View on Psychospiritual and Psychoneuroimmunology in Students

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Abstract: The practice of congregational morning prayer holds significant importance in both the context of worship and globally, as it promotes positive impacts. From a psychospiritual perspective, congregational prayer can be therapeutical in the modern era. Anxiety is a human adaptation response to any imminent or uncertain event that can occur in daily life situations. During the preparation for the thesis, most university students experienced several symptoms of anxiety (physical, cognitive, emotional, and affective symptoms). These symptoms can affect the students' cognitive ability, intelligence, family demands on campus, and social interactions. This study aimed to describe efforts to overcome academic anxiety among university students through psychospiritual and psychoneuroimmunological points of view. The study used a library research approach by gathering credible sources from books, scientific articles, documents, and previous research. The findings of this study showed that congregational prayers can be an effort to relieve academic anxiety among students.

Keywords: Subuh prayer, Psychospiritual, psychoneuroimmunology, academic anxiety, studied



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A. Introduction

The daily routines of Muslims are highly related to prayers, particularly the five obligatory prayers that consist of Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha prayers. It has been a sort of identity for Muslims to practice daily Salah prayer as a form of worshipping one who commands them, Allah (SWT). Allah will give blessings and guidance to those who perform the Salah prayer.

Salah prayers are the first deed to be judged on the Day of Judgment, as stated in the Ḥadīth. Muslims that *attain khusyu'* in Salah prayers will have improved lifestyles and daily routines avoided from immoral acts. The Salah prayers can be everlasting individual virtuous deeds, leading to the enhancement of the behavior and morality of humans. Therefore, the Salah prayer becomes an essential parameter in representing the social values of the Muslim people.

In the Islamic religion, Salah prayers are considered religious pillars where it is stipulated and prioritized as a necessity for Muslims. According to the Five Pillars of Islam, Salah is the second order after the declaration of faith by reciting *Shahada*. Hence, it is crystal clear that Salah is very crucial in the daily life of a Muslim life. Moreover, the importance of Salah is mentioned in the Al-Quran 83 times. The praying of Salah is considered a spiritual way to communicate with Allah, the Almighty Creator, directly. In many ways, Muslims who conduct the Salah prayer show that they are surrendering themselves to Allah SWT.

Anxiety refers to a situation where an individual fears an uncertain event in the future (Lianasari, 2021). In most cases, pressures on university students come from academic anxiety, especially students in their last semester who dreaded thesis preparation. The issue of academic concern among university students is widely discussed during the period of thesis writing (Permatasari, 2021). As mentioned by Putro and Prasetyaningrum (2016), final-year students tend to show anxiety in many forms, particularly when they are preparing for their final tasks. Feelings of anxiety are commonly caused by the occurrence of personal conflicts as a response to what they can do. Anxiety can also refer to an adaptation form to what happens in human daily lives (Permatasari, 2021). Students are prone to negative thoughts when writing their thesis, leading to academic anxiety (Situmorang, 2018). Cognitive, affective, physical, and emotional aspects contribute to students' ability to develop a thesis. Several examples of the influencing aspects are intellectual, cognitive ability, parental expectations, and other social situations (Lianasari, 2021).

The Islamic Psychospiritual is a concept that combines the psychological and spiritual aspects of Islam (Situmorang, 2016) that includes the interconnectivity of humans with Allah (SWT), enhancement of human life purpose, human trust towards fate, self-acceptance and perceiving reality, the awareness of society and environmental influence on the present, as well as the development of spiritual growth. Based on a study by Mujib (2015), the individual spiritual psychospiritual can be grouped into (1) pure materialism, (2) pure spiritualism, (3) spiritualism-materialism, and (4) materialism-spiritualism. Psychospiritual appears as an implementation of Islamic values in the psychological state of a person and becomes the optional effort to give spiritual virtues through psychological factors in internalizing Islamic values.

Psychoneuroimmunology refers to the interdisciplinary field of the connection between the nervous system, immune system, endocrine system, and psychological state

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with health and diseases (De Vos et al., 2022). Several studies discussing the role of the gut microbiome in psychoneuroimmunology in integrative medicine found that the human immune system is linked to the gut microbiota and psychological factors. The links between those factors can be utilized as an alternative to integrative medicine to intervene in health regulation. Thus, psychoneuroimmunology exerts an essential role by influencing the human immune system through psychological factors. Another study by Pariante & Lightman (2021) reported the development of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis in major depression disorder that the HPA axis connects the central nervous system and endocrine system, implying its importance as the focus of psychoneuroimmunology study (Pariante & Lightman, 2008). Research by Chinnadurai and Venkatasubramanian (2021) involving medical students stated the longitudinal relationship between academic stress and their response to psychoneuroimmunology. Students experiencing elevated levels of academic stress had heightened rates of inflammation and cortisol response. Furthermore, academic stress has been observed to impair immune system function, increasing individuals' susceptibility to infections and disorders (Chinnadurai, 2021).

Studies in psychoneuroimmunology indicate that stress can impact the immune system, as well as impose an influence on both physical and mental well-being. The effects are apparent in university students with social, academic, and emotional pressure (Hathaisaard, 2022). Various psychoneuroimmunology management approaches, such as meditation and breathing exercises, can effectively decrease stress levels and improve mental well-being in university students. Integrating stress management techniques, such as physical exercise or workouts, with cognitive behavior therapy can effectively assist students in enhancing their capacity to handle stress and mental well-being (Situmorang, 2016). Therefore, this study aims to review theoretical literature and practices in managing academic anxiety through psychospiritual and psychoneuroimmunology perspectives to improve the mental health of university students.

B. Research Method

This research used the library research methodology, which consists of reviewing and critically analyzing written sources, including research articles, that investigated specific topics (Andrikopolou & Rowley, 2021). The collection data used literature identification analysis on research articles, magazines, scientific journal articles, websites, books, and other sources that discuss the same topic as the current study. In collecting the data, it is imperative to observe the text systematically and thoroughly to fully understand the essential elements of the text, such as research topics, purposes, text structure, and other components relevant to the research aims (Creswell, 2018). The descriptive analysis method by collecting and organizing the data (in written sentences, pictures, topics, and aims instead of numerical data) was used in this study. In general, descriptive analysis is a useful data analysis method for describing perspectives that can determine the observed characteristics and the data trend or patterns (Creswell & Poth, 2018). The inclusion criteria in this study are published within the last seven years (2017-2023), published in international journals written in English or national journals written in Bahasa Indonesia, and discussing the relationship between academic anxiety, psychospiritual, and psychoneuroimmunology.

The data was collected from various database sources, including ScienceDirect, PubMed, ResearchGate, and Google Scholar (n=374), followed by removing the duplicated

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sources (n=174), filtering the appropriate source (n=37) and a complete review of the source based on the inclusion criteria (n=37). Ten research articles were discussed in this literature review (n=10), consisting of two articles in Bahasa Indonesia from Google Scholar and eight in English from international journals.

C. Result and Discussion

The obtained data from the descriptive analysis of ten selected articles discussing academic anxiety, psychospiritual, and psychoneuroimmunology in this study is displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of the reviewed sources

	Author(s)	Journal description	Title of the article	Research methods (Design, Samples, Variables, Instrument and Analysis)	Results	Database Source
1.	Ridha et al., 2017	Jurnal Intervensi Psikologi (JIP) Volume 9, Number 2, pages 141-154	Apakah Mendengarkan Murotal Al- Quran dapat Menurunkan Kecemasan Akademik Pada Mahasiswa ?	test and post-test experiment S: random sampling with 21 participants V: the effect of Al-Quran murottal (reciting) to reduce academic anxiety I: Holmes stress scale A: Wilcoxon statistical test	Listening to Al- Quran murottal effectively decrease academic anxiety in university students (P = 0.00)	Google Scholar
2.	Anna et al, 2023	Jurnal teraputik: Bimbingan dan konseling	Efektivitas Layanan Konseling Kelompok melalui Teknik Poetry Therapy untuk mereduksi Academic Anxiety pada Mahasiswa BK	D: group experiment S: purposive sampling V: poetry therapy impact on academic anxiety I: questionnaires pre- and post- counseling A: paired t-test	Group counseling of poetry therapy reduce academic anxiety (precounselling score: 135 vs post-counselling score: 97) with $P = 0.000$	Google Scholar
3.	Michelle Rozenman	Psychiatry Research,	Improvement in anxiety and	D: cognitive behavior therapy	The CBT test in adolescents with	PubMed

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		T			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	et al.,	Volume 276,	depression	(CBT)	OCD showed	
	2019	pages 115-123	symptoms	S: randomized	beneficial effects	
			following	clinical trials	on anxiety	
			cognitive	(n=137)	symptoms and the	
			behavior	V: treatment of	shift from	
			therapy for	obsessive-	secondary	
			pediatric	compulsive	depression to	
			obsessive-	disorder (OCD)	primary depression.	
			compulsive	with CBT	Anxiety symptoms,	
			disorder	I: one-of-three	as measured by	
			disorder		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
				randomized design	MASC, showed	
				A: mixed model	significant effects	
				analysis (MASC)	in the time variable	
					(F (1,	
					197.32) = 50.94 , p	
					< 0.001)	
4.	Ronnel	The Journal of	Income	D: Multilevel	Students (age,	Science
	B.King, et	The European	inequality is	Structural Equation	mean ± standard	Direct
	al., 2023	Association for	associated	Modeling	deviation = 15.80 ±	
		Research on	with	S: collected data	0.29 years old) in	
		Learning and	heightened test	from the Program	countries with high	
		Instruction	anxiety and	for International	social inequality	
		(EARLI),	lower	Student Assessment	showed higher	
		volume 89,	academic	(n= 389,215)	academic during	
		volume 69,	achievement: a	V: academic	school tests.	
					school tests.	
			Cross-nation	anxiety during		
			study in 51	school tests as a		
			countries	prediction		
				indicator, with a		
				focus on the role of		
				psychological		
				factors and		
				proximal		
				environmental		
				factor		
				I: anxiety test and		
				general anxiety		
				scale		
				A: meta-analytic		
				investigations		
5.	Virginia	American	Impact of a	D: Pre and Post-	The university	Science
] .	Lemay, et	Journal of	Yoga and	Intervention	students were	Direct
	al., 2019	Pharmaceutical	Meditation	S: Volunteering	found to have lower	Direct
	ai., 2017	Education	Intervention		stress and anxiety	
				samples, 20	· .	
		Number 5,	on Students'	participants (nine	levels after	
		pages 747-751	Stress and	participants are	completing a yoga	

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				. 1	1	
			Anxiety	students at the	and meditation	
			Levels	University of	program for six	
				Rhode Island	weeks. The	
				College of	findings indicate	
				Pharmacy)	that practicing	
				V: Evaluation of	mindfulness at least	
				yoga intervention	once every six	
				and meditation in	weeks can reduce	
				students'	stress and anxiety	
				perspective towards	levels in university	
				stress	students. Further	
				I: Beck Anxiety	study involving	
				Inventory (BAI)	more students and a	
				questionnaires,	more extended	
				Perceived Stress	research period is	
				Scale (PSS)	essential to ensure	
				questionnaires, and	continuous and	
				Five-Factor	positive effects.	
				Mindfulness	positive effects.	
				Questionnaires		
				(FFMQ)		
				A: statistical		
				analysis was done		
				in R Studio		
				(Version 0.99.903,		
				2009-2016)		
6.	Christoph	Mental Health	Anxiety	D: literature review	Significant, inverse	Science
0.	er E.J, et	and Physical	sensitivity and	S: a review of 43	relation between	Direct
	al., 2023	Activity,	physical	research with a	anxiety sensitivity	Биссе
	ui., 2023	Volume 25	activity are	total of 10,303	and physical	
		Volume 23	inversely	respondents	activity with	
			related: A	V: Anxiety	control treatment	
			meta-analytic	sensitivity and	(r= -0.09). The	
			review.	physical activity	contrariwise link	
			icview.	were inversely	was seen to	
				related after the	increase in higher	
				meta-analysis	intensity of	
				review	physical activity.	
				I: clinical cut score	Significant values	
				of 20	between physical	
				A: PROSPERO	and cognitive	
				meta-analysis	Č I	
				(CRD4202230783)	issues were observed, but not in	
				(CND+202230703)	the link between	
					physical and social	
					issues. A rise in	

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	I					
					anxiety sensitivity	
					was associated with	
					low physical	
					activity. Which is	
					the main risk factor	
					for health	
					problems.	
7.	Eirini	Behaviour	Guided	D: iCBT	The mental	Science
	Karyotaki,	Research and	internet-based	intervention to	disorder of anxiety	Direct
	et al, 2022	Therapy,	transdiagnostic	TAU treatment	and depression in	
		Volume 150,	individually	S: sample	college students	
		pages 1-12	tailored	calculation with	during the	
		pages 1-12	Cognitive	100 participants	transition period	
			Behavioural	V: iCBT	_	
					was analyzed using	
			Therapy	I: Patient Health	iCBT. A total of	
			(iCBT) for	Questionnaire	100 participants	
			symptoms of	(PHQ-9) and	were randomly	
			depression	Treatment as usual	divided into the	
			and/or anxiety	(TAU)	treatment group	
			in college	A: statistical	(n=48) and control	
			students: A	analysis using	group (n=52). No	
			randomized	STATA (version	significant	
			controlled trial	16.0) for chi-square	difference was seen	
				and t-tests.	between groups	
				Analysis was based	after iCBT and	
				on the intention-to-	TAU tests in every	
				treat principle.	observed mental	
					disorder $(P > 0.05)$	
8.	Peter	Journal of	Stress	D: a randomised,	Comparison	Science
	Baylis et	Integrative	reduction via	double-blinded,	between the control	Direct
	al., 2022	Medicine,	neuro-	placebo-controlled	and treatment	
	,	Volume 20,	emotional	study	groups showed	
		Number 2,	technique to	S: all participants	reduced pain level,	
		Pages 135-144	achieve the	(n=112) were	rate, and	
		Tuges 135 111	simultaneous	randomly divided	inflammation level	
			resolution of	to control and	after a statistical	
			chronic low	treatment group	test $(P < 0.001)$ of	
			back pain with	V: determine the	physiological, pain,	
			multiple	effect of Neuro		
			•		·	
			inflammatory	Emotional Therapy	markers.	
			and bio-	(NET) in chronic		
			behavioral	low back pain		
			indicators: A	(CLBP) patients		
			randomized,	I: analog scale,		
			double-	psychoneuroimmun		
			blinded,	ology markers of		

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			placebo-	blood serum levels		
			controlled trial	of C-reactive		
			controlled trial			
				protein, Short Form		
				Health Survey scale		
				on the 0 (baseline),		
				1, 3 and 6 months		
				following the		
				intervention period.		
				A: health		
				biomarkers and		
				quality-of-life		
				indicators (Clinical		
				Trial number:		
				ACTRN126080000		
				2381)		
9.	Alessandr	International	Effect of Yoga	D: a single-site,	Performing yoga	PubMed
	a N.	Journal of	and	cluster randomized	and mindfulness	
	Bazzano,	Environmental	Mindfulness	controlled design	interventions in	
	2022	Research and	Intervention	S: total participants	school can decrease	
		Public Health,	on Symptom	(n=88) were	symptoms of	
		Volume 19,	of Anxiety and	randomly divided	anxiety and	
		Number 19,	Depression in	into intervention	depression in the	
		Pages 1-12	Young	(n=42) and control	treatment group,	
			Adolescents	(n=44) group	but no significant	
			Attend Middle	V: the symptoms of	-	
			School: A	anxiety and	reported.	
			Pragmatic	depression were	.	
			Community-	measured using the		
			Based Cluster	Pediatric Quality of		
			Randomised	Life Inventory		
			Controlled	(PHQA) and		
			Trial in a	Screen for Child		
			Racially	Anxiety-Related		
			Diverse Urban	Emotional		
			Setting Setting	Disorders		
			Setting	(SCARED)		
				I: the Pediatric		
				Quality of Life		
				Inventory (PHQA)		
				and Screen for		
				Child Anxiety		
				Related Emotional		
				Disorders		
				(SCARED) scale to		
				measure anxiety		
				and depression		

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		I				
				symptoms		
				A: statistical		
				analysis using		
				SPSS (version 23.0		
				Chicago, IL, USA)		
				to perform		
				between-group		
				comparison,		
				descriptive		
				-		
				statistics, student's		
				t-test and Chi-		
				square test.		
10.	Dharma	Journal of	Spiritual	D :	Spiritual fitness and	PubMed
	Singh	Alzheimer's	Fitness: A	the Finnish	cognitive health	
	Khalsa,	Disease,	New	Geriatric	and cognitive	
	2021	Volume 80,	Dimension in	Intervention Study	health can decrease	
		Number 2,	Alzheimer's	to Prevent	Alzheimer's risk	
		Pages 505-519	Disease	Cognitive	and lead to positive	
			Prevention	Impairment and	_	
				Disability	example,	
				(FINGER) as a	performing Kirtan	
				multidomain	Kriya can lower	
					_	
				intervention.	stress levels while	
				S: a total of 11,260	increasing	
				eligible elderly	cognitive function,	
				people participated	brain health, and	
				and were separated	overall well-being.	
				into intervention	In general, spiritual	
				and control groups	fitness, meditation,	
				in this multidomain	and having life	
				study	purposes can	
				V: multidomain	increase cognitive	
				intervention,	health and reduce	
				including dietary	Alzheimer's risk.	
				pattern, physical	THEHOIHOI B HOR.	
				activity, cognitive		
				•		
				C		
				vascular risk		
				monitoring		
				I: instruments,		
				cognitive function		
				tests, physical		
				activity		
				assessments,		
				dietary		
				questionnaires, and		
		<u>l</u>		,	<u> </u>	

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		vascular	risk	
		monitoring		
		measures.		
		A: literature r	review	
		and analysis is	ssue	

Congregational Salah praying holds important values in Islam, especially during Fajr, where prayer has higher virtue and degree (An-Nawawi, 2013). Performing the *rak'ah sunnah* before dawn (*Fajr*) prayer is better than having the world and all it contains, as The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) once narrated. Congregational *Fajr* prayer can also result in other essential virtues, such as:

- 1) Having the level of faith and piety towards Allah (SWT) in the form of devotion to Allah (SWT),
- 2) Enhancing solidarity between Muslims,
- 3) Improving self-discipline, as *Fajr* salah prayer must be done in the dawn and congregational Fajr prayer indicates the individual's self-discipline,
- 4) Maintaining physical and mental health (Putra, 2020),
- 5) Obtain multiple rewards, as mentioned in the Hadeeth narrated by Abu Hurairah, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "The prayer in congregation is superior to the prayer offered by person alone at home, and prayer in congregation is superior to the prayer offered by person alone in a further mosque." (Hadeeth narrated by Bukhari and Muslim).

The Fajr Salah prayer can also positively affect health by regulating hormonal stability. Engaging in activities during the early morning can stimulate the body, resulting in an earlier awakening and restoring a balanced hormonal system. Waking up early leads to heightened energy levels and increased productivity for an individual. Getting up early leads to greater concentration and increased daily productivity. The adrenal gland in the human body produces the cortisol hormone, which plays a crucial role in stimulating a positive mood in the morning and regulating blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and metabolism within the body (Eidelman, 2012). Hence, Fajr prayer not only showed a significant role in spiritual practices but also in the physical health of an individual. As previously narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari, "It has been told to us by Abdullah ibn Yusuf, who said: Malik told us that from Nafi of Abdullah ibn Umar (RA) that the Prophet Muhammad said, the prayer in congregation is twenty-seven times superior to the prayer offered by person alone."

In addition to the various rewards, congregational Fajr Salah yields other beneficial outcomes outside of spiritual and physical well-being. These include fostering a profound sense of unity and tranquility among Muslim individuals.

Another Hadeeth explaining the superiority of congregational prayer was narrated by Imam Muslim, who explained that the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) once said:

"Whoever attends Isha (prayer) in a congregation, then he has (the reward as if he had) stood half of the night. And whoever prays Isha and Fajr in a congregation, then he has (the reward as if he had) spend the entire night standing (in prayer)."

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Based on the previous sources, it is evident that the Fajr Salah prayer carries significant importance and is not an ordinary prayer. It is preferable to other Salah prayers, such as the congregational Isha' and Fajr prayers. Fajr time in the dawn is exceptional as the fresh and crisp morning air is reported to have health-beneficial effects such as accelerating blood circulation. Congregational Fajr Shalah praying can be a physical activity to lower blood glucose as the glucose in muscle cells is heightened. Predominant isometric or isotonic movement can trigger antagonistic and agonistic muscles in the body. Many predominant isometric muscle contractions during Salah praying also increase isotonic muscle contractions (El-Ma'rufie, 2011). Several examples of the superiority of Fajr praying are:

- 1) Fajr Salah praying is witnessed by the angels.
- 2) Obtain the blessings and reward from Allah SWT.
- 3) Avoided all forms of hypocrisy.
- 4) Gain multiple sustenance from Allah SWT.

The significance of religion in mental health is demonstrated both theoretically and practically through daily prayer. However, the interpretation of this prayer activity is often not fully implemented. One of the positive effects of prayer is that it can serve as a platform for psychotherapy. Worship in Islam is a practical means of promoting human well-being in various forms, often referred to as Islamic psychotherapy. Islamic psychotherapy is the process of curing diseases and illnesses, encompassing mental, physical, spiritual, and psychological aspects, by applying Islamic values derived from the Al-Quran and Hadeeth.

Anxiety refers to an individual psychological condition of excessive fear and anxiety, which rarely happen at the same time. The word anxiety derives from the Latin substantive angor, ango, and German angst, which is commonly used to depict a negative impact as a physiological response. The American Psychological Association (APA) explains that anxiety is a reaction towards an emotional situation characterized by feelings of stress, accelerated heartbeat, restlessness, and accompanied by various physical responses. Academic anxiety is a physiological and psychological response to something that has not happened regarding the individual's academics. According to Sigmund Freud, anxiety is a mechanism of the ego to generate suitable adaptive responses (Lianasari, 2021).

Academic anxiety in university students can have several psychological impacts, such as feeling anxious in the presence of a lecturer, less concentration, pessimistic thoughts, difficulty in expressing ideas and thoughts in writing, irregular sleep patterns, and increased irritability. The physiological signs of academic anxiety include lower appetite, impaired comprehension of passages, stomach discomfort, lower back pain, strained eyes, oral ulcers, heightened irritability, and increased stress during consultations (Situmorang, 2017). Academic anxiety about uncertain events in the future is commonly found in university students due to overloaded academic work, which can lead to adverse effects on the students, including psychological stress from poor and ineffective study processes. The decrease in the study process in university students results from low attention range, concentration level, and memory impairment.

According to Ottens (1991), academic anxiety is a concerning issue and is characterized by several symptoms, including:

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- The patterns of anxiety-engendering mental activity, in which an individual's viewpoint or interpretation tends to concentrate on the unpredictable, forthcoming academic worry, is one of the symptoms. This viewpoint might result in cognitive processes such as increased anxiety when every choice they make seems like an error.
- 2. The misdirected attention refers to difficulties concentrating on academic-related activities such as reading, conducting research, and preparing a thesis. These academic-related routines will slowly trigger academic anxiety in the students.

Factors regarding academic anxiety can be divided into several factors, with one of them being the internal factors that include:

- a. Low self-confidence.
- b. The feelings of excessive anxiety, fear, and worry,
- c. The sense of being overwhelmed and stressed when coping with academic pressure and
- d. Inadequate knowledge and comprehension of academic assignments by the professors.

External factors that can influence academic anxiety are:

- a. Inadequate study environment,
- b. High competition against peers,
- c. Lack of solid self-motivation and
- d. Inadequate students' proficiency or aptitude in addressing academic challenges.

Additional elements that contribute to academic anxiety include social factors such as:

- a. High societal expectations,
- b. Overwhelming workload,
- c. Peer pressure or pressure from social groups and
 The challenge of balancing university responsibilities with social activities
 for university students.

Thus, it can be concluded that an abundance of factors can affect anxiety in university students. These factors must be considered to measure the level of academic anxiety both theoretically and practically.

Psychoneuroimmunology is a concept of integrating the body's immune regulation and its function to strengthen homeostasis, as the immune system will integrate the psychophysiology of the brain to maintain its homeostasis (Nurdin, 2015). The anxiety found among college students tends to be a form of psychological reaction towards stress and pressure that felt threatening. Most stress responses come from biological compounds in the locus coeruleus noradrenaline (LC-NA) system and the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis, also known as the brain's immune system curve, which is responsible for controlling the overall homeostatic system (Nurdin, 2015). Psychoneuroimmunology is an interdisciplinary field that encompasses psychology, neuroscience, immunology, endocrinology, and psychiatry. The field aims to elucidate the interactions between the nervous and immune systems and the relationship between behavior and physical health.

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The primary focus of integration in psychoneuroimmunology revolves around the mutual relationship between immunology and psychology in response to stress (Lilin, 2017).

A previous study investigated academic anxiety by Hafidz and Ghazalah aimed to determine the relationship between academic anxiety and achievements in 200 college students of the Mathematics and Science program in Pakistan. The findings of the study showed a negative correlation between academic anxiety and achievements. A study by Idham and Ridha evaluated academic anxiety in university students through the intervention of Al-Quran listening. The participants were randomly sampled (n=21), and the study used the one-group pretest-posttest design. Listening to Al-Quran murottal effectively reduces academic anxiety in college students, which indicates a new potential alternative for alleviating academic anxiety. Another study by Herawati, Hadi Winarto, and Dharmayana (2023), which discussed the academic anxiety level before and after group counseling of poetry therapy in university students during their fifth semester, was conducted. A pre-experimental design was used. The study results showed reduced academic and overall anxiety before (135 score) and after (97 score) the intervention., with a P value of 0.000. Therefore, it can be concluded that poetry therapy can decrease academic anxiety in counseled university students (Anna, 2023).

The correlation between congregational Fajr prayer in psychoneuroimmunology is mainly found in its positive effects on the immune body by reducing academic anxiety, including (1) lowering stress level as Salah praying also contain the act of contemplation, meditation, and relaxation that can assist an individual to release stress and improve mental health as well as body immune, and (2) reducing the risk of chronic disease. According to a previous study by Koenig (2011), spiritual practices can lower the risk of chronic disorders such as cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. Cognitive activity in the human brain during congregation praying is cognitively hypothetically different. Salah praying is a triad activity that shapes the brain plasticity due to repetitive cognitive action in the long term that can lead to mediation effects. When conducted consistently, congregational Fajr prayer will display beneficial effects. Furthermore, in neuroscience views, congregational Fajr prayer showed higher neurotransmitters. The neurotransmitter stimulates a reduction in cortisol hormone and gives the mind tranquility and calmness, compared to those who do not perform congregational Fajr Salah prayer.

D. Conclusion

This study employs the library research methodology to gather and analyze data from both national and international publications. Based on the comprehensive explanations in the reviewed ten journals, it can be inferred that the combination of *psychoneuroimmunology, psychospirituality*, and congregational morning prayers has the potential to alleviate academic anxiety in students. However, it is essential to note that this can only be achieved by consistent and frequent interventions.

Several recommendations for future study are:

1. University students can be the pillar of decision maker by conducting congregational Fajr prayer in the mosque and can also be the representative media to counter the assumption that teenagers rarely conduct congregational Fajr prayer,

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2. Further research that discusses the effect of congregational Fajr Salah praying in the mosque and its correlation with medical or applied psychology in the future and

3. The present study can serve as the basis for future studies and recommendations for their research. The findings in this study can also be used as an overall view of how to review the positive effects of Fajr prayer using different literature studies or perspectives.

E ISSN: 2828-3961 P ISSN: 2827-9794



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E ISSN: 2828-3961 P ISSN: 2827-9794



Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all participants for providing opportunities for data collection.

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Funding

The authors received no direct funding for this research.

Supplementary Material

Supplemental data for this article can be accessed here https://jicc.umy.ac.id/index.php/jicc.

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Citation Information

Cite this article as Journal of Islamic Communication and Counseling, Muhammad Hisyam Syafi'I, Adi Mulya. JICC Vol.3 Number 1 January 2024



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