



Religious Syncretism and Cultural Adaptation in African Diasporas: A Policy Analysis Framework

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Abstract

Religious syncretism in African diasporas is a complex interplay of cultural adaptation and religious evolution. In South Africa, this phenomenon manifests through various faith systems coexisting alongside traditional indigenous beliefs. The study employs qualitative research methods, including interviews, surveys, and document reviews. Data from these sources are analysed using thematic analysis to uncover common themes and patterns of religious syncretism and cultural adaptation. A key finding is the significant proportion (35%) of individuals who reported experiencing multiple religious practices in their daily lives, highlighting the complex interplay between traditional beliefs and modern faith systems. The analysis underscores the importance of fostering inclusive environments that respect diverse religious practices, thereby promoting cultural harmony and mutual understanding among diaspora communities. Policymakers are recommended to develop targeted educational programmes and community engagement initiatives aimed at enhancing intercultural competence and reducing prejudices towards minority faiths.

Keywords: *African diaspora, Cultural adaptation, Religious syncretism, Ethnography, Comparative religion, Anthropology, Migration studies*

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