



Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Relations in Burundi: A Mixed Methods Inquiry

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Abstract

Religious pluralism in Burundi is a complex interplay of historical, cultural, and political factors, with significant implications for inter-faith relations. The research employs mixed methods including semi-structured interviews with religious leaders, community members, and government officials, complemented by a comprehensive survey of the general public to gauge awareness and attitudes towards different religions. Data analysis involves thematic coding for qualitative data and statistical testing for quantitative data. Survey responses indicate that while approximately 45% of respondents express positive views on inter-faith dialogue, significant proportions (30%) still harbor negative perceptions or feel uncomfortable in mixed religious contexts. The findings suggest a need for targeted educational programmes and community engagement initiatives to bridge the gaps in understanding and foster greater inclusivity among different faith communities in Burundi. Recommendation for policy makers include implementing inter-faith training programmes, promoting inclusive public spaces, and encouraging media outlets to report on diverse religious practices with sensitivity and accuracy.

Keywords: *Religious Pluralism, Cultural Studies, Ethnography, Quantitative Research, Mixed Methods, Anthropology, Social Theory*

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