Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Dynamics in West Africa: A Policy Perspective on Tunisia

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Abstract

The Sahel region of West Africa is marked by significant religious diversity, with multiple faiths coexisting in complex interplay. In Tunisia, this diversity has led to both challenges and opportunities for social cohesion. The analysis draws on qualitative insights from interviews with local community leaders, government officials, and religious scholars. A thematic framework is employed to categorize discussions around inter-faith relations and their impact on societal cohesion. Interviews revealed a nuanced understanding of the role of religion in social cohesion, where traditional practices often serve as bridges between different faith communities. However, there are tensions over modernization efforts that challenge these traditions. Tunisia's Sahel region demonstrates how religious pluralism can be leveraged to enhance societal integration when supported by inclusive policies and community engagement initiatives. The paper recommends the development of inter-faith dialogue platforms, education programmes on cultural respect, and support for traditional practices that foster social cohesion.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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