



Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Dynamics in Nigerian West Africa: A Theoretical Framework

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Chinedu Okere is affiliated with Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

{ "background": "Religious pluralism in Nigeria's West Africa is characterized by a rich tapestry of diverse religious identities and practices, including Islam, Christianity, traditional Yoruba religions, and others. This diversity has led to complex inter-religious dynamics, which are crucial for understanding social cohesion and conflict within communities.", "purposeandobjectives": "This article aims to develop a theoretical framework that elucidates the nature of religious pluralism in Nigerian West Africa, focusing on inter-faith relations and their implications for societal integration and division. The objectives include identifying key themes in inter-religious dynamics and proposing analytical tools for future research.", "methodology": "Theoretical synthesis will be employed to review existing literature on religious diversity and inter-faith interactions in Nigeria's West Africa, synthesizing insights from anthropology, sociology, and political science perspectives. No empirical data collection is planned due to the theoretical nature of this work.", "keyinsights": "Inter-faith dynamics often manifest through ritual co-occurrence and conflict over sacred spaces, with traditional Yoruba religious practices playing a significant role in mediating inter-religious tensions. These themes are prevalent across different regions but vary in intensity and manifestation.", "conclusion": "A robust theoretical framework is established that highlights the multifaceted nature of religious pluralism and its impact on social cohesion and conflict resolution strategies in Nigerian West Africa. This framework can serve as a foundation for more empirical studies and policy recommendations.", "recommendations": "Future research should focus on longitudinal case studies to understand how inter-faith dynamics evolve over time, particularly in regions with pronounced traditional religious practices. Policy-makers could benefit from insights into conflict resolution mechanisms that are sensitive to cultural contexts.", "keywords": "Religious Pluralism, Inter-Faith Dynamics, Nigeria, West Africa, Yoruba Religion", "contribution_statement": "This article introduces a comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding inter-faith dynamics in Nigerian West Africa, offering new insights into the role of traditional religious practices in mediating inter-religious tensions." }

Keywords: *Geographical, West Africa, Pluralism, Religion, Ethnicity, Culture, Dynamics*

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