



Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Dynamics in West Africa: An Ethio-African Perspective

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Abstract

Religious pluralism is a defining feature of West Africa, with diverse religious communities coexisting in complex inter-faith dynamics. In Ethiopia, this phenomenon is particularly pronounced due to its multi-ethnic and multicultural society. A mixed-methods approach was employed, involving surveys with structured interviews to gather quantitative data from over 500 respondents across different regions of Ethiopia. Qualitative data were collected through focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with key informants representing diverse religious communities. The survey revealed that inter-faith dialogue initiatives have significantly increased public awareness and acceptance of other religious practices, leading to more inclusive social environments, but challenges persist related to minority rights and community integration. This research highlights the importance of structured interfaith dialogues in promoting mutual understanding and respect among different religious groups in Ethiopia. Recommendations focus on institutional support for these initiatives and greater legal protections for minority religions. The government should provide more funding and training for interfaith leaders, while civil society organizations should advocate for policies that safeguard the rights of all religious minorities and promote inclusive social development.

Keywords: *Geographic, Pluralism, Dynamics, Ethno-religious, Cross-cultural, Methodology, Community Engagement*

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