



Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Relations in Tanzania: An Action Research Study in West Africa,

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Abstract

Religious pluralism in Tanzania is a complex interplay of diverse religious beliefs coexisting within a secular framework. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for fostering harmonious social relations and effective community development. The study employed a participatory action research approach, involving community consultations, focus group discussions, and semi-structured interviews with religious leaders, community members, and local authorities. Data were analysed using thematic analysis to uncover patterns of interaction and conflict resolution mechanisms. Community engagement revealed that inter-faith dialogue groups play a pivotal role in promoting understanding and cooperation among different religious communities. However, challenges such as social stigma and inadequate resources hinder the effectiveness of these initiatives. The findings suggest that while there are signs of positive interaction between faith-based organizations and secular authorities, more structured support is needed to sustain these efforts and address underlying societal issues. Policy recommendations include strengthening inter-faith dialogue platforms, allocating resources for community education programmes, and encouraging inclusive governance structures that value multiple religious perspectives.

Keywords: *Geographical* *Terms:* *African* *Geography,* *West* *Africa*
Methodological *Terms:* *Action* *Research,* *Participatory* *Action* *Research*
Theoretical *Concepts:* *Pluralism,* *Syncretism,* *Religious* *Diversity*

Conceptual Frameworks: Faith Communities, Cultural Integration

Ethical Considerations: Community Engagement, Ethnographic Methods

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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