



Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Dynamics in West Africa: A Mixed Methods Inquiry into Botswana

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Abstract

Religious diversity in West Africa is a significant aspect of cultural heritage, with Botswana serving as an interesting case study given its diverse religious landscape. A combination of quantitative surveys ($n=500$) \wedge qualitative interviews ($n=30$), conducted across different regions \in Botswana, aimed at gathering con- eliefs, practices, and inter-faith interactions. Data analysis employed thematic coding for qualitative insights and descriptive statistics for quantitative results. Quantitative surveys revealed a significant proportion of respondents (45%) participating in inter-faith activities, indicating the prevalence of such engagements despite potential challenges. Qualitative interviews highlighted themes of mutual respect and shared community events fostering unity. The findings suggest that while there are instances of religious conflict, predominantly driven by historical grievances, efforts towards education and dialogue have led to greater understanding and cooperation among different faith communities in Botswana. Recommendation for policymakers includes promoting inter-faith educational initiatives and community engagement programmes to further encourage mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. For social scientists, ongoing qualitative research into specific case studies is recommended. Religious Pluralism, Inter-Faith Dynamics, Botswana, Mixed Methods Study

Keywords: *Geographical, Pluralism, Methodology, Theory, Community, Anthropology, Intersectionality*

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