




# Exploring the Role of Cultural Adaptation in Interfaith Marriages: A Qualitative Study

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"The objective of this study is to explore the role of cultural adaptation in interfaith marriages focusing on how couples navigate religious differences integrate cultural practices and manage identity negotiation."

Comment: This sentence is dense and could benefit from clearer punctuation. Consider rephrasing for clarity: "The objective of this study is to explore the role of cultural adaptation in interfaith marriages, focusing on how couples navigate religious differences, integrate cultural practices, and manage identity negotiation."

"The interview guide included open-ended questions that focused on the participants' experiences with cultural adaptation challenges faced strategies employed and the impact on their marital relationship."

Comment: Provide an example of the open-ended questions used in the interviews to give readers a better understanding of the data collection process.

"The study included 20 participants representing a diverse range of demographic characteristics."

Comment: Provide a table or chart to visually represent the demographic characteristics of the participants, including age, gender, cultural background, and length of marriage.

"Participants highlighted the importance of various communication strategies to navigate their interfaith marriages."

Comment: Elaborate on how these communication strategies were implemented in daily life. Include direct quotes from participants to illustrate these strategies.

"The practice of Joint Celebrations was a common subtheme with couples celebrating both holidays creating new traditions and engaging in joint prayers."

Comment: Discuss the challenges couples faced in creating new traditions and how they overcame these challenges.

"The subtheme of Adopting Traditions involved embracing the spouse's traditions learning cultural norms and attending cultural events."

Comment: Include specific examples of traditions that were adopted and describe any difficulties participants faced during this process.

"Effective communication emerged as a pivotal strategy for managing interfaith marriages."

Comment: Compare the communication strategies identified in this study with those from previous research. Highlight any unique findings.

"Joint religious practices and celebrations were found to be crucial in fostering mutual respect and understanding."

Comment: Discuss the potential long-term effects of joint religious practices on marital stability and satisfaction.

Authors revised the manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"The legal landscape in Indonesia further complicates these marriages with laws often reflecting a tension between universal human rights principles and cultural relativism (Firdaus 2023)."

Comment: Provide a more detailed explanation of the specific legal challenges faced by interfaith couples in Indonesia to give readers a better understanding of the context.

"Studies have shown that children in interfaith families may face unique challenges including identity confusion and social isolation (Hamdani 2023)."

Comment: Include specific examples or studies to support this statement, and discuss the methodologies used in these studies to enhance credibility.

"Participants were selected using purposive sampling to ensure diversity in cultural and religious backgrounds."

Comment: Specify the criteria used for purposive sampling and explain how these criteria ensured diversity among participants.

"Data were collected until theoretical saturation was achieved and were analyzed using NVivo software."

Comment: Describe the process of achieving theoretical saturation in more detail. How was it determined that no new themes were emerging?

"Cultural integration was another significant theme with couples adopting each other's traditions attire and social norms."

Comment: Explore how cultural integration impacts the couple's relationship with their extended families and community.

"Emotional support from spouses families and communities emerged as a crucial element for maintaining stability and well-being in interfaith marriages."

Comment: Provide more detail on the types of emotional support that were most effective and any differences observed based on cultural background.

Authors revised the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.