
A Demographic Survey of the Reception of Damietta Peace Initiative as a method to resolve Interreligious Conflicts in Nairobi, Kenya

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Abstract

The Damietta Peace Initiative, DPI is a communal platform geared towards non-violence relationships, harmony, reconciliation and care for creation. This platform has successfully able to resolve conflicts and bring peace to different parts of the continent. In Kenya, there are many religious groups with Christianity and Islam being the two major ones. These religions had good and bad days since time immemorial. There has been a growing trend of terrorism globally which has worsened the relationship between these two religions. In Kenya, the militia groups have been attacking Kenyans with more bias toward non-Muslims. There have been complaints by some Muslims living in a Christian neighbourhood of being discriminated against and sidelined from essential services. This study aimed at evaluating the reception of a method to resolve interreligious conflicts amongst several residents of Nairobi, Kenya. A phenomenological method research approach was used integrating cross-sectional survey and phenomenological research designs. Questionnaires and an in-depth interview guide were used as research instruments. The findings indicated that more males (64%) were involved in the process compared to females. Most DPI recipients were also quite youthful. The study also found that there was a preference for DPI by Christians (70%) compared to Muslims. The profession of the respondents was not found to significantly affect their perception of DPI ($P < 0.05$). However, most of the recipients of DPI were business persons. In conclusion, DPI had not been fully acknowledged by the residents of Nairobi as an interreligious dialogue platform. Its popularity was still low. The study recommends more public awareness and facilitation of DPI in Kenya by the national government, Ministry of Internal Security and Co-ordination and Religious leaders. This will fasten the process of interreligious conflicts as well as enhance peace in the country.

Keywords - Damietta Peace Initiative, Demographic survey, Interreligious conflicts, Religion.



