Empathy in Inter-Religious Relations: The Daegu Mosque Construction Conflict as a Catalyst for Inclusion

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Abstract- The building of the Daegu Mosque in South Korea has become a symbol of transformation that fosters understanding, cohesion, and inclusion. The study examines how empathy and inter-religious relations bridge migrant Muslims’ inclusion into Korean society, particularly in the Daegu Mosque area. The experiences and perspectives of migrant Muslims were investigated using qualitative research techniques, including interviews, documents observation, pamphlets and banners, and participant observations. Findings show that the Mosque construction fosters empathy through dispelling prejudices, encouraging solidarity, giving immigrant Muslims a sense of belonging, and fostering cultural understanding and acceptance. There was a high rate of intercultural mixing in culture at workplaces and educational settings and a slight indication of separatism. International Muslims had very positive attitudes for locals before Mosque conflict. Empathy helps social ties by bridging religious-cultural gaps. The Daegu Mosque construction is a strong illustration of a welcoming place of worship, helping to improve harmony and respect in South Korean society. It shows how Mosque construction can develop empathy in inter-religious relations. It brings inclusion and emphasizes the value of embracing multicultural and religious identities to create societies that are more peaceful.

Keywords: mosque construction, empathy, foster, diversity, unity, inclusion.

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**Abstract**- The building of the Daegu Mosque in South Korea has become a symbol of transformation that fosters understanding, cohesion, and inclusion. The study examines how empathy and inter-religious relations bridge migrant Muslims' inclusion into Korean society, particularly in the Daegu Mosque area. The experiences and perspectives of migrant Muslims were investigated using qualitative research techniques, including interviews, documents observation, pamphlets and banners, and participant observations. Findings show that the Mosque construction fosters empathy through dispelling prejudices, encouraging solidarity, giving immigrant Muslims a sense of belonging, and fostering cultural understanding and acceptance. There was a high rate of intercultural mixing in culture at workplaces and educational settings and a slight indication of separatism. International Muslims had very positive attitudes for locals before Mosque conflict. Empathy helps social ties by bridging religious-cultural gaps. The Daegu Mosque construction is a strong illustration of a welcoming place of worship, helping to improve harmony and respect in South Korean society. It shows how Mosque construction can develop empathy in inter-religious relations. It brings inclusion and emphasizes the value of embracing multi-cultural and religious identities to create societies that are more peaceful.

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I. Introduction

The cultural and ethnic diversity of Korean society continues to grow with the rapidity and degree of globalization. The growing number of foreign residents from other countries creates an entirely novel challenge for Korean society to deal with while preserving its democratic ideals. The multi-acculturization of Korean society has been facilitated by the increasing amount of foreign laborers entering the country, particularly after the 1988 Seoul Olympics. In the early 1990s, the Korean government started the Industrial Trainee System that increased migrant labor. The majority of the industrial trainees came from Southeast Asia and South Asia. They were from different nations, including predominantly Islamic nations. Migrants brought diverse cultural and religious practices (Park 2014). While the number of foreign residents in Korea has encouraged locals and relevant government authorities to address diversity generally, it appears that Muslim immigrants in particular face a significant obstacle to either multiculturalism or Korean integration.

Islam was introduced much openly during Korean Japanese, war in 1950-1953. The earlier contact with Islam and the Korean Peninsula dates back to the 7th century due to trade business between Chinese, Koreans, and Arabs (Fathil and Fathil 2011).

International Muslims started to build a Mosque in Korea near Kyungpook National University (KNU) - Daegu Campus due to an increasing number of migrant Muslims. It is a representation of cultural cohesion, empathy in inter-religious relations, religious diversity, and Muslim inclusion. The construction of the Mosque has faced challenges and difficulties. However, difficulties in the construction process served as a symbol of the larger problems related to the region's acceptance of many religions and multiculturalism (Joowon and Yi 2022). In this context, the construction of the Daegu Mosque emerges as a notable development with the potential to foster empathy, social cohesion, and inclusivity. Empathy is a process in which one can "sense the client's private world as if it were your own, but without ever losing the 'as if' quality" (Tharbe 2017). Scholars have played an influential role in strengthening the significance of empathy as a fundamental and helpful process (Clark 2004), (Feller and Cottone 2003), (Pigman 1995). There exists a regular theme within both scientific and religious literature, including sacred texts from various world religions like Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. This theme relates to the connection between spiritual awareness and promotion of positive attributes. They are nurtured through deep religious practices like contemplation, meditation, and empathy (Benson et al. 1980), (DiLalla et al. 2004), (Kennedy, Kanthamani, and Palmer 1994), (Koenig et al. 2007).

Basing on the above background, the focus of this study is to examine Empathy in Inter-Religious Relations, the case of Daegu mosque construction conflict. The study fills the gap in the body of the existing literature about Islam in Korea given that other studies in the field of study are limited at national level while this study goes in deep and narrow the case to a small area to capture the reality on ground.

II. Empathy in Inter-Religious Relation

According to Hartshorne's theological perspective, empathy is not only inherently expandable, such as from self-empathy to empathy for others, but it can also be broadened to include individuals from other...
Empathy in Inter-Religious Relations: The Daegu Mosque Construction Conflict as a Catalyst for Inclusion

The purpose of this study is to explore the role of empathy in inter-religious relations where construction of Daegu Mosque as a catalyst for inclusion. The building of the Daegu Mosque acts as a catalyst for changing social dynamics by giving Muslim migrants a place to practice their religion, celebrate their cultural traditions and step forward towards inclusion. It is important to understand how Korean society perceived and responded to minority groups who are ethnically diverse. This is important to understand because Muslims and Koreans share a minimum level of mutual culture, religion, and traditions. This research emphasizes the value of appreciating and respecting other cultural and religious identities, encouraging empathy, and creating an inclusive environment that values inclusion.

III. Literature Review

The presence of infrastructure in supporting worship places and fostering a sense of community within religious communities is highlighted by research on the development of religious spaces and fostering empathy (Rivera and Nickels 2014). Building Mosques has been recognized as being essential in the context of Muslim migrants for offering a place for religious expression and cultural preservation (Norris and Inglehart 2012). Studies highlight how the presence of a Mosque can act as a visible sign of inclusion and acceptance, strengthening feelings of identity and neighborhood cohesiveness. Additionally, it has been acknowledged that building religious places has the power to dispel preconceptions and enhance intergroup connections. According to previous studies on how Mosque construction affects local communities, the activity may promote a better understanding of Islam and Muslims, resulting in less discrimination and more empathetic behavior (Dahab and Omori 2019). Such initiatives foster interaction and debate between the local population and the Muslim immigrant community, which helps dispel stereotypes and fosters wholesome social relationships. Since it entails the capacity to comprehend and experience the emotions of others, empathy is seen as a key aspect of social connections (Silveira et al. 2022). Empathy can be a motivating factor behind the support and acceptance of religious spaces in the context of Mosque construction, bridging the gap between various cultural and religious groups (Glen, Taylor, and Dautel 2020). To maintain social harmony and combat discrimination, it is crucial to build empathy,
Building religious facilities has long been acknowledged as a catalyst for social development, encouraging compassion, community, and inclusion. The construction of the Daegu Mosque stands out as an important event with the ability to address these issues in the context of South Korea, where the Muslim immigrant population has experienced difficulties relating to integration and cultural acceptance. The creation of religious structures like Mosques can have a significant impact on how a community functions especially in multicultural societies. These locations act as hubs for religious and cultural activity, giving religious minority populations a sense of identity and belonging. The importance of religious settings in fostering empathy and understanding between various social groups has been highlighted by research. People can cultivate empathy by learning more about cultural customs, religious beliefs, and shared values through engagement with the physical environment and interactions with the varied community members. Building religious places is directly related to the idea of empathy. Mosques can serve as gathering places for people from all backgrounds and can promote a feeling of community. A Mosque’s presence acts as a symbol of religious freedom and cultural variety, dispelling myths and fostering acceptance. Previous research has emphasized the significance of Mosques and inter-religious relations in overcoming cultural gaps, establishing social ties, and fostering unity among various communities (Long 2022), (Majid 2020), (Idi and Priansyah 2023), (Pratiwi n.d.), (Hashmi et al. 2023). In multicultural communities, empathy has become a critical component for fostering understanding and fostering social cohesion. To better understand how empathy functions in the context of the Daegu Mosque construction, this study looks at the experiences and viewpoints of both locals and members of the migrant Muslim community. By allowing for a closer investigation of individual experiences, beliefs, and behaviors, qualitative research techniques like interviews and observations can shed light on how building Mosques might develop empathy and bridge cultural gaps. The results of this study will add to a larger conversation about the ability of inclusive religious settings to alleviate societal problems and promote peaceful communities. Understanding how the construction of the Daegu Mosque has affected the attitudes and actions of the neighborhood will give us important insights into how inclusive religious settings can support the promotion of harmony, social cohesion, and respect for all parts of society (Razaq 2023).

There is not much research, especially on Mosque construction and its effects on social dynamics in South Korea. However, research on intergroup relations and multiculturalism in South Korea offers pertinent insights. Migration has resulted in fast demographic changes in South Korea, and as a result, problems with social integration and cultural acceptability have occurred (Callinan 2020). The literature review underlines the value of building Mosques as a way to advance compassion, harmony, and inclusion in South Korean society. This study intends to add to the body of knowledge on the function of inclusive religious spaces in addressing social concerns and promoting peaceful societies. The literature analysis highlights the Daegu Mosque project's potential importance as a catalyst for fostering inclusiveness, unity, and empathy in South Korea. It implies that the act of building itself can help to dispel preconceptions, promote understanding. This study intends to add to the body of knowledge on the transformative power of empathy in inter-religious relations and inclusion in multicultural societies by analyzing the role of empathy in the case of the Daegu Mosque construction process.

a) Societal inclusion

The social inclusion of Muslims into Korean society has become a subject of increasing importance, reflecting the evolving multicultural landscape of the country. South Korea undergoes demographic shifts and holds a diverse population, understanding the processes and challenges associated with the integration of Muslim is crucial for fostering inclusion. Several studies have highlighted the significance of comprehensive practices in embracing religious diversity. The construction of religious spaces, such as Mosques, has emerged as a material symbol of inclusion. Research suggests that the presence of such religious landmarks can act as catalysts for inclusion, challenging stereotypes, and promoting understanding among diverse groups (Kim 2021). The role of education in promoting social inclusion cannot be overstated. Educational initiatives that focus on cultural competence and religious literacy are essential for breaking down barriers and facilitating dialogue between different religious and cultural groups. These initiatives not only enhance the knowledge and understanding of the broader population but also contribute to creating an environment where diverse perspectives are respected. Collaboration between the local population and international Muslims on the base of Mosque construction is been identified as a key factor in promoting social inclusion. Studies have underscored the importance of community engagement, emphasizing the value of cooperative efforts, shared objectives, and relationships built on respect and trust (García 2014). The success of integration initiatives often hinges on the active involvement of both host communities and newcomers, fostering a sense of mutual understanding, inclusion and cooperation.
Leadership and policy frameworks also play a critical role in shaping the social inclusion of international Muslims in South Korea. Strong leadership that values diversity and supports equal rights is essential for creating an inclusive society. Additionally, policies that promote multiculturalism, anti-discrimination, and equal opportunities contribute to the creation of an environment where individuals of diverse ethnicities are recognized. Despite such progress there are certain challenges that persevere in achieving full social inclusion. Challenges like cultural misunderstandings, stereotyping, and discrimination require ongoing attention and concerted efforts. Continual observation, evaluation, and adaptation of policies and initiatives are necessary to address emerging challenges and ensure that the social inclusion of Muslims in Korean society remains a dynamic and evolving process under the shade of Mosque building. The lessons learned from current practices are observed in the context of the Daegu Mosque. It provides valuable insights for shaping future strategies and fostering a more inclusive and harmonious multicultural society in South Korea (Valero et al. 2020).

One notable aspect of the social inclusion discourse is the recognition of the agency and contributions of Muslim individuals to Korean society. There are multifaceted dimensions to acknowledge the complex nature of social inclusion and the need for ongoing efforts to address. It has highlighted persistent challenges, including linguistic barriers, cultural misunderstandings, and the impact of negative media portrayals. Struggling with these challenges requires a complicated approach, incorporating educational programs, media literacy initiatives, and intercultural exchange opportunities to foster an understanding of Muslim cultures and beliefs. The journey towards social inclusion not only benefits the immediate participants but also holds the potential to positively affect the broader society in promoting inclusion (Jones 2015).

Furthermore, the social inclusion of Muslims in South Korea extends beyond the immediate benefits of fostering understanding and harmony within the community. Studies have indicated that a socially inclusive environment positively influences the overall well-being of both the host and the international Muslims (Modood 2005), (Meer and Modood 2009), (Dong-Jin and Jae 2012). In the societies where inclusion of foreigner is easier, individuals tend to experience lower levels of stress, anxiety, and feelings of isolation, contributing to a healthier and more vibrant community at large. The Daegu Mosque physical structure has played a pivotal role in inclusion, and fostering religious expression.

**IV. Methodology**

The construction of the Daegu Mosque is investigated in this study as a potential catalyst for empathy in inter-religious relations. Through an in-depth analysis of individual experiences, viewpoints, and behaviors, qualitative research offers insightful information about empathy in inter-religious relations and how building Mosques develop inclusion. To get a thorough knowledge of how the construction of the Daegu Mosque has affected social dynamics. The study employs a descriptive and exploratory research style. To record the complex feelings and perspectives of migrant Muslims. A purposeful sample of people from the Muslim migrants are interviewed in-depth. During various phases of the Mosque construction process, the researchers conducted participant observations. In the case of native, they were hesitant to allow recording of their interviews and due to this reason are not part of this research. However, there were rarer challenges in observation and documenting information. This makes it possible to observe interactions, activities, and dynamics among various community members. To collect more background information, relevant documents are studied, including reports on community engagement, press coverage, and official statements. Purposeful sampling is used to choose individuals who can offer a range of experiences and insights relevant to the research topics. Participants are chosen from the local community, including citizens, local authorities, and community groups, as well as the migrant Muslim community, which includes Mosque committee members, community leaders, and frequent worshippers. To find important patterns, themes, and categories associated with empathy, unanimity, and inclusion, the data gathered from interviews, observations, and document analysis are transcribed, coded, and thematically analyzed. The analysis uses a methodical coding, categorization, and interpretation procedure to find significant insights and connect various themes. The study aims to highlight the transformative potential of inclusive religious spaces in fostering social cohesion and acceptance within South Korean society. The study interviewed 29 people, all of them Muslim migrants in Korea. Interview questions were in English and Urdu to facilitate interaction and communication with the interviewees.

**V. Results and Discussion**

The study seeks to examine how empathy and inter-religious relations bridge migrant Muslims' inclusion into Korean society, particularly in the Daegu Mosque area. The experiences and perspectives of migrant Muslims were investigated using qualitative research techniques, including interviews, participant observations, documents observation, pamphlets, and banners.
a) International Muslims perception in South Korea’s cultural landscape

The interview question on international Muslim perception in South Korea’s cultural landscape, 76% of the respondents narrated that in South Korea’s cultural landscape; Islam finds itself grappling with the unfamiliarity and misconceptions that have covered it for decades. From the Korean War to the present day, the narrative surrounding Muslims in Korea has been one of distant indifference, where they were often perceived as mysterious strangers rather than essential contributors to society. Islam, despite having a historical presence in Korea similar to other religions, struggles to shed its label as a foreign faith. There are various hurdles obstructing the integration of Islam into the Korean narrative. The clash between Islamic practices and Korean customs, the societal pressure for traditionalism, and the absence of familiar religious imagery in Mosques contribute to the marginalization of Islam. These challenges, as Baker points out, have reduced Islam’s position in Korea, prompting the religion to grapple for recognition (Baker 2006). However, as the demographics shift and the Muslim community grows, a nuanced shift in perceptions is slowly taking root. The terrifying shockwaves of the 9/11 attacks acted as a turning point in Koreans’ perception of Islam. The event, while triggering initial negative anxieties, also spurred a positive introspection among Koreans. It became a motivation for self-reflection, prompting Koreans to question their preconceived notions influenced by an often misconceived media perspective. Despite these positive steps, a lasting image of negativity persists.

A study by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) Research Center unveiled pervasive negative perceptions of Islam among Koreans, revealing the emergence of a subtle form of Islamophobia in the 2000s. The connection drawn between Islam and terrorism, particularly post-9/11, serves as a backdrop for this shift, echoing Western narratives that have seeped into the Korean psyche. The anxieties are not solely rooted in global events but also find resonance within Korea’s own religious landscape. The fundamentalist traditions inherited by Korean Protestant churches, contribute to a sense of nervousness. Tensions sparked during the 2005 conference marking 50 years of Muslims in Korea exemplify the clash between Korean Protestant churches and Islam. Fear is further stoked through provocative expressions in Christian missionary media, employing alarmist terms like “Surging Islamic Raid” or “Islamization of Korea until 2020” (Hannun 2022:9). This anxiety, while possibly overstated, underscores an intense concern within certain segments of Korean society. International Muslims respondents declared that Koreans has concerns like increasing presence of Muslim immigrants, along with intercultural marriages, could potentially open the door for the penetration of Islamic fundamentalism associated with terrorism into the social fabric of Korean society. The Korea Muslim Federation (KMF), in acknowledging the 50th anniversary of Muslims in Korea, strives to counteract these fears by shedding light on Islam through its publication "Islam in Korea: Golden Anniversary of Islam in Korea," offering a more comprehensive understanding of the faith. In navigating these complex dynamics, the narrative surrounding Islam in Korea remains fluid shaped by historical currents, global events, and the evolving cultural consciousness of the Korean people. The KMF leaflet were consisted on “Da’wah Plans in the Future,” that had these material, 1) construction plan of a new masjid; (2) opening of the international Islamic primary school and kindergarten; (3) opening of a Da’wah center; (4) the holy Quran translation committee; (5) the Korean Islamic college project; and (6) translation and publication committee.

b) Daegu Mosque construction as symbol of inclusion

As far as the Daegu Mosque construction project is concerned, 82% of the respondents argued that Daegu Mosque construction project was considered as driving force for inclusion. The mass media is a vital source of knowledge about minority groups that influences inclusion and causes prejudice to increase and decrease (Goldman and Mutz 2010). The construction of the Daegu Mosque has profoundly influenced the cultural landscape and served as a catalyst for the inclusion of foreigners in Korean society on the base of religion too. The Mosque shows that the Muslim community is living here and it helps to bring people from multi-ethnicities together, representing a symbol of unity and inclusion. They said it acts as a channel for mutual learning and engagement, enabling people from diverse backgrounds to come together, share experiences, promote ethnicity, and build stronger bonds. Through it is religious rituals and practices, the Mosque not only allows the migrant Muslim population to maintain their beliefs but also offers the local community a chance to better comprehend and appreciate these customs. In essence, the Daegu Mosque stands as a bridge, fostering empathy, acceptance, inclusion, and cooperation, while dispelling preconceptions and myths, ultimately building a more harmonious and interconnected society.

The construction of the Daegu Mosque in South Korea represents a significant milestone for the migrant Muslims residing in Daegu. It provides them with a tangible symbol of acceptance and inclusivity, allowing them to freely practice their faith and preserve their cultural identity despite few challenges. Mosque serves as a center for collective gatherings, strengthening their sense of belonging and facilitating connections with like-minded individuals to reduce their homesickness and
stress. Particularly, the Mosque offers a comfort zone for migrants to openly express their cultural and religious beliefs, fostering a deep sense of unity and inclusion. This newfound sense of belonging reduces the isolation and discrimination that Muslim communities sometimes encounter in unfamiliar host surroundings (Kaya 2019). Furthermore, the presence of the Daegu Mosque is an indicator of a broader embrace of religious and cultural diversity in multicultural Korea, promoting respect, tolerance, and intercultural dialogue. Consequently, the Daegu Mosque’s construction is not only a symbol of inclusion but also a testament to the power of empathy and its transformative role in enhancing inter-religious relations. Through this project, the broader community demonstrates its capacity to understand and embrace the needs of its migrant Muslim members, ultimately fostering positive experiences, acceptance, and integration within the larger community (Vertovec 2010).

VI. DAEGU MOSQUE AS BRIDGE OF EMPATHY AND INCLUSION

The question to know if Daegu Mosque promotes empathy and inclusion. 84% of the respondents affirmed that its construction stands as an inspiration of hope and understanding in a community of diverse background. This landmark serves as a bridge between residents and the migrant Muslim minority, reducing stereotypes and fostering inclusion. The community grows more familiar with the Mosque and its members, misconceptions are dispelled, and common ground is found, leading to increased social cohesion and an inclusive environment. This results go in line with findings of some measure research works. A case study by (Horowitz, Robinson, and Seifer 2009) promoting knowledge, empathy, and acceptance, the Daegu Mosque has the potential to create a more harmonious society where individuals of all backgrounds are embraced and valued.

In the context of the Daegu Mosque construction, the empathy emerges as a powerful element for inclusion. By fostering empathy, individuals gain the capacity to genuinely understand and share the experiences and values of the global Muslim community. Respondents said that through interactions such as dialogues, participation in cultural events, people could place themselves in the shoes of others, fostering a deeper appreciation for the distinctive cultural traditions and religious beliefs of local Muslims. This heightened understanding, in turn, fosters tolerance, respect, and acceptance, ultimately dismantling potential cultural barriers and allowing migrants to adjust and acculturate well with native population. Daegu Mosque is result of empathy, and it does not merely bring people together. It also promotes intercultural learning and the celebration of diversity and Daegu Mosque stands as a symbol of unity (Wessendorf 2016). The construction of the Daegu Mosque serves as a pivotal point in the lives of immigrant Muslim residents. It not only provides them with a physical space for religious and cultural expression but also embodies acceptance and unity within the larger community. The Mosque fosters a sense of belonging, encouraging social connections and empowering individuals to play a more active role in society. Building Mosque is a symbol of tolerance and respect for diverse cultural and religious identities; it stands as a beacon of harmony, contributing to the overall cohesion of the neighborhood.

VII. MOSQUE IMPACT AS HARMONY

The interview guide regarding mosque impact as harmony, 95% of my interviewees asserted that it represents the ideals of diversity and unification, is a potent symbol of inclusion and acceptance. It dispels myths and forges a strong feeling of community by encouraging people from different cultural and religious backgrounds to join together via discourse, social network building, and the promotion of tolerance and respect. In addition to fortifying interpersonal bonds, this cooperative endeavor opens the door to a more harmonious and cohesive society where individuals experience a sense of worth, acceptance, and community. Fundamentally, the mosque turns into a symbol of hope and a force for social change, fostering a more harmonious and tranquil community that everyone may enjoy. The building of the Daegu Mosque has had a significant positive impact on the neighborhood. Through active engagement and understanding of the immigrant Muslim population, the neighborhood’s people have seen a radical change in their perspectives and attitudes. In addition to dispelling myths and preconceptions, this enhanced understanding of various rituals, beliefs, and customs promotes a stronger feeling of tolerance and respect for other cultures and religions. The existence of the mosque has fostered cultural exchange as well as interfaith discussion, giving the locals a more diverse and global viewpoint. This change has been further cemented by the development of networks of support, which encourage continued cooperation and assistance to one another. Consequently, the Daegu Mosque has been essential to inclusion. These results are consistent with empirical findings. In a study by (Kamil and Darojat 2019), the relationship between mosques and external social integration in both classic and modern times, comparing the experiences of majority Muslim societies in Indonesia and minority Muslim communities in Europe. The significance of mosques in strengthening the external integration of Muslim communities remains consistent across both classical history and contemporary times.
VIII. Religious Space and Diversity

With regard to the religious space and diversity, 99% of the respondents agreed that the construction of inclusive religious spaces, such as the Daegu Mosque, is instrumental in promoting inclusiveness, empathy, and harmony in multicultural communities like South Korea. This signifies that these spaces offer tangible settings for religious expression and cultural preservation, fostering unity and a sense of community among various cultural and religious groups. The power of engagement and conversation, exemplified by the Daegu Mosque project, demonstrates how meaningful exchanges of ideas and experiences can dispel prejudices and nurture understanding and empathy. To achieve a more inclusive and sympathetic society, educational initiatives that promote cultural competence, religious literacy, and intercultural understanding are essential. Recognizing the importance of diversity and honoring various cultural and religious identities is crucial in fostering unity and inclusion. The success of projects like the Daegu Mosque hinges on collaboration and partnership between the local population and migrant communities, highlighting the value of cooperative efforts, shared objectives, and relationships built on respect and trust (Putnam 2007). Strong leadership that values diversity and supports equal rights and multiculturalism, alongside enabling policies, is vital for an inclusive society that prioritizes empathy and cohesion. Ultimately, maintaining and strengthening empathy, unity, and inclusion requires ongoing commitment, community involvement, and regular progress monitoring. The lessons drawn from the Daegu Mosque's construction can guide efforts to overcome social issues and build peaceful, inclusive multicultural cultures.

IX. Conclusion

The purpose of this research is to shed light on the role of empathy in inter-religious relations with the focus of Daegu Mosque construction process as a catalyst of inclusion. Respondent's ethnicities and identities vary from each other due to various Islamic approaches. It was ranged from conservative, religious, liberal, and practicing Muslims. They are Muslims from foreign backgrounds, distinct from Korean Muslims, and are striving to assimilate into Korean society while managing a mixture of cultures guided by their religious principles. The construction of the Daegu Mosque in South Korea is been recognized as an important development of inclusion. It stressed the need for empathy in decreasing prejudice, bridging cultural gaps, and fostering social cohesiveness. Muslims residing in Korea have historically found isolated from mainstream Korean society. However, with the expanding and development of Muslim worship places in Korea, it is expected to increase interactions and communication between Muslims and Koreans. Consequently, it is considered that Korean government will start more inclusive policy towards the Muslim population. The assessment also highlighted the need for research further where rapid demographic change has given rise to challenges with inclusion and cultural acceptance. Material presence of Mosque provide insightful advice for fostering inclusion, compassion, and harmony in multicultural societies like South Korea. By putting these teachings into practice, we may address social issues, promote social cohesiveness, and build peaceful, inclusive societies. Korean society and the government have a deep-rooted tradition and a strong wish to keep things the same, with everyone being similar. However, the present situation in Korea presents a new problem: how to include a more varied population while still keeping society stable.

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