Legal pluralism in contemporary societies: Dynamics of interaction between Islamic law and secular civil law

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Abstract: Legal pluralism refers to the simultaneous existence of different legal systems in a single community. This presents intricate challenges and opportunities for governance, justice, and social cohesion in many socio-cultural settings. This study examines the interplay between Islamic law (Sharia) and secular civil law in modern nations, specifically aiming to comprehend the intricacies, conflicts, and consequences of legal pluralism. This study does a thorough literature analysis to analyze existing scholarship on legal pluralism. It synthesizes important findings and perspectives from many geographical places that have significant Muslim populations. The review emphasizes the complex and diverse nature of legal pluralism, which involves the coexistence, competition, and accommodation of various legal traditions. Furthermore, it recognizes the difficulties that arise from conflicts between Islamic law and secular civil law, such as differences in rights and safeguards, tensions based on religion and cultural differences, and obstacles to efficient government and societal unity. Moreover, the review examines the wider consequences of legal pluralism on academic research, policy-making, and practical implementation. It proposes potential areas for future research to enhance our comprehension of the dynamics of legal pluralism and to guide efforts in fostering inclusivity, fairness, and appreciation for diversity within legal systems. This research adds to the continuous efforts of building inclusive and equitable legal systems that defend human rights, develop social cohesion, and promote justice for all individuals by recognizing the diversity of legal traditions and viewpoints within modern cultures.

Research Highlights:
• Complex Dynamics of Legal Pluralism: The research elucidates the multifaceted nature of legal pluralism, examining the coexistence, competition, and accommodation between Islamic law and secular civil law in diverse socio-cultural contexts. By synthesizing existing scholarship, the study provides a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and tensions inherent in legal pluralism dynamics.
• Challenges and Implications: The study identifies key challenges arising from conflicts between Islamic law and secular civil law, including disparities in rights and protections, tensions along religious and cultural lines, and impediments to effective governance and social cohesion. These insights shed light on the broader implications of legal pluralism for governance, justice, and social cohesion within contemporary societies.
• Policy and Practice Recommendations: By exploring the broader implications of legal pluralism for scholarship, policy, and practice, the research offers valuable recommendations for promoting inclusivity, equity, and respect for diversity within legal frameworks. These recommendations inform strategies for addressing challenges and fostering inclusive legal systems that uphold human rights and equality for all individuals.
INTRODUCTION

Legal pluralism is a notion that refers to the presence of several legal systems inside a same societal framework, which is becoming more relevant in modern countries (Benda-Beckmann & Turner, 2018; Swenson, 2018; Yilmaz, 2019). The statement recognizes that legal norms and practices are derived not only from state laws, but also from a variety of sources including religious laws, customary practices, and indigenous traditions (Thirlway, 2019). This phenomena has become more important and widely recognized because of globalization, migration, and the acknowledgement of cultural variety (Pieterse, 2019) (Cvetkovich, 2018). Legal pluralism emphasizes the dynamic interactions and sometimes conflicts between diverse legal systems, which pose difficulties and opportunities for governance and the administration of justice (Sanı, 2020; Tamanaha, 2021). The statement recognizes the significance of customary and informal justice systems in addition to formal state institutions (Rumkels et al., 2019; Thontowi et al., 2023). It provides opportunities for safeguarding the rights of minority groups, facilitating the availability of legal remedies, and nurturing social unity (Jinping, 2022; Nampewo et al., 2022). Nevertheless, it presents challenges in governance, necessitating meticulous deliberation and equilibrium between conflicting legal norms and authority (Lessing & Willis, 2019). Contemporary countries must endeavor to protect fundamental human rights concepts while also respecting and accommodating varied legal systems and cultural practices in order to navigate these challenges (Fraser, 2020; Howard-Hassmann, 2018; Ife et al., 2022; McDougall et al., 2018).

Legal pluralism is a prominent feature in modern cultures, where Islamic law, sometimes known as Sharia, and secular civil law coexist and interact (Ayoub, 2022; Tamanaha, 2021; Yilmaz, 2023). Sharia is a comprehensive legal framework that governs numerous elements of personal and public life for Muslims (Asasriwarnia & Jandra, 2018) (Ramaioi, 2024). It is drawn from the Quran, Hadith (Prophet Muhammad's teachings), and Islamic jurisprudence (GENÇ & Hassan, 2019; Lukianov et al., 2020; Purkon, 2022). Secular civil law, in contrast, is based on legislative procedures and legal precedents, embodying concepts of fairness, impartiality, and human rights that are sometimes unrelated to religious teachings (DE PASQUAL, 2022; Durham Jr & Scharfs, 2019). The interaction between these two legal systems is most noticeable in areas with substantial Muslim populations (Boukhatem & Moussa, 2018), where discussions about the suitable equilibrium between Islamic principles and secular administration often occur (Mukhammadolim, 2019; Sahin, 2018). This interplay is evident in various areas, such as family law, criminal justice, and human rights (Yanto et al., 2020). In these fields, conflicting interpretations of Sharia and secular legal concepts can result in tensions, negotiations, and compromises (Nasir, 2022; Ramdani et al., 2024). Comprehending the intricacies of this interplay is crucial for policymakers, legal scholars, and society as a whole as they traverse the challenges of legal pluralism and work towards maintaining principles of justice, equality, and social cohesiveness in culturally diverse situations (Berman, 2018).

The research seeks to examine the complex and diverse processes of legal pluralism in modern cultures, with a specific focus on the interplay between Islamic law (Sharia) and secular civil law (Ayoub, 2022; Yilmaz, 2023). The main goal is to examine the coexistence, intersection, and occasional conflicts between these two legal systems in various cultural, political, and legal settings, especially in areas with substantial Muslim populations (Gómez et al., 2021; Sunstein, 2018). The research aims to investigate the intricacies that arise when religious-based legal frameworks and state-driven civil law systems operate simultaneously (Hirschl & Shachar, 2018). It will focus on important topics such as family law, criminal justice, and human rights (Fredman, 2018; Sullivan, 2018). The study seeks to reveal the fundamental processes that influence legal pluralism by examining the socio-political elements that shape the application and interpretation of Islamic law and secular civil law (Levni & Çelik, 2023; Sarib & Mokodenseho, 2023). Moreover, the research aims to evaluate the consequences of legal pluralism on individual rights, gender equality, religious freedom, and minority rights in present-day cultures (Ferrari et al., 2021; Mukaddam, 2024; Ruffin, 2019). This thorough investigation aims to provide detailed insights that help guide policy-making, encourage cross-cultural communication, and enhance social unity in varied and multicultural environments (Salam, 2023).

Gaining a comprehensive comprehension of legal diversity, particularly in relation to Islamic law and secular civil law, is crucial in modern communities because of its significant consequences for governance, human rights, and social cohesion (Alkubaisy, 2023; Fraser, 2020; Saeed, 2018). Due to globalization and the growing cultural diversity, societies are becoming more pluralistic (Schachner, 2019; Zhang, 2019). This requires a detailed comprehension of the relationships between various legal
Understanding the intricacies of legal pluralism is essential for policymakers, legal scholars, and practitioners in nations with Muslim-majority populations, where Islamic law and secular civil law coexist (Alidadi et al., 2022; Muhajir et al., 2023; Powell, 2022). It empowers individuals to navigate intricate legal terrains, harmonize contradictory norms and concepts, and establish comprehensive legal structures that safeguard fundamental rights and values. Furthermore, comprehending legal plurality provides insight into matters of fairness, parity, and religious liberty, specifically with disenfranchised groups and minority populations. By recognizing the simultaneous existence and interplay of Islamic law and secular civil law, society can work towards achieving enhanced concord, inclusiveness, and reverence for varied legal customs within a structure of universal human rights and principles of fairness.

**METHOD**

When conducting a systematic literature review on legal pluralism in contemporary societies, it is crucial to focus specifically on the interaction between Islamic law and secular civil law (Sarib & Mokodenseho, 2023). To ensure accuracy and thoroughness, it is essential to carefully select databases, identify relevant keywords, and establish criteria for selecting literature (Bramer et al., 2018; Snyder, 2019). Firstly, it is advisable to make use of a wide range of academic databases, such as well-known platforms like PubMed, JSTOR, Scopus, and Web of Science. These databases provide access to scholarly publications, journals, and conference proceedings from different fields of study. Moreover, specialized literature relevant to Islamic law can be found in legal databases such as LexisNexis and Westlaw, as well as in religious studies resources like ATLA Religion Database and Index Islamicus. Sociological resources, like Sociological Abstracts, offer valuable insights into the sociological aspects of legal pluralism. Keyword identification is of similar importance, requiring a careful selection that includes terms such as "legal pluralism," "Islamic law," "Sharia," "civil law," and "interaction." These keywords should succinctly represent the main area of inquiry and guarantee inclusiveness in the retrieval of relevant literature. The selection criteria for literature should prioritize relevance, quality, publication date, language, and geographical coverage (Bajaj & Sangwan, 2019). Emphasis should be placed on peer-reviewed papers, scholarly books, and current publications in order to assure the reliability and contemporary relevance of the literature. Moreover, the incorporation of literature in English and other pertinent languages, together with the promotion of inclusivity in language choices, facilitates a thorough and all-encompassing evaluation. Including a wide range of geographical locations in the selection of literature guarantees a comprehensive view of legal pluralism and the interplay between different legal systems on a global scale. The comprehensive literature review employs a careful and detailed methodology to thoroughly examine the complex processes of legal pluralism in modern nations. It focuses on the interaction between Islamic law and secular civil law, providing valuable insights for academic research, policy development, and public discussions.

When conducting a systematic literature study on legal pluralism in contemporary nations, with a specific emphasis on the interplay between Islamic law and secular civil law, it is important to apply many criteria to achieve a thorough and robust analysis (Greco et al., 2019). First and foremost, when it comes to publication dates, it is crucial to prioritize recent literature in order to encompass the latest research and advancements in the subject. Although the exact duration may differ depending on the extent of the examination, concentrating on research published in the past ten years can guarantee the pertinence and up-to-dateness of the literature. Furthermore, it may be necessary to incorporate older influential works to offer historical background and fundamental perspectives on the subject matter.

When it comes to languages, although English-language literature is frequently given more importance because it is easy to understand and widely available, it is crucial to prioritize inclusion in language selection for a thorough examination. In order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, it is important to incorporate pertinent research conducted in languages other than English, especially in areas where Islamic law has a substantial impact, as this will allow for the inclusion of a wide range of perspectives and valuable insights. Utilizing translation services or working with researchers who are fluent in multiple languages can help incorporate non-English literature.

When it comes to study designs, it is important to investigate a wide variety of approaches in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of legal pluralism and its dynamics. This may encompass qualitative research methods such as case studies, ethnographic research, and qualitative content analysis, as well as quantitative research methods utilizing surveys, statistical analysis, and comparative approaches.
Combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies in mixed-methods research can provide in-depth insights into intricate phenomena and enhance our understanding of legal diversity.

Moreover, when selecting literature, it is important to highlight its relevance to the research question and aims (Booth et al., 2018; Fink, 2019; Snyder, 2019). This means that the chosen studies should directly focus on the connection between Islamic law and secular civil law in modern cultures (Arabi, 2021). It is important to emphasize peer-reviewed papers, scholarly publications, and recognized conference proceedings in order to guarantee the legitimacy and credibility of the literature. Furthermore, it is crucial to incorporate a wide range of geographical views in order to accurately represent the various global differences in legal pluralism and how it is expressed.

Through the methodical use of these criteria, the literature study may offer a thorough understanding of legal pluralism, revealing the intricate dynamics of the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law in modern cultures.

When conducting a comprehensive literature study on legal pluralism in contemporary nations, it is crucial to focus on the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law. A rigorous approach is necessary to collect and synthesize data from selected research (Booth et al., 2018; H. Cooper et al., 2019; Noyes et al., 2018). At first, we gather important material from each selected study in a methodical manner. This includes major findings, techniques, theoretical frameworks, participant demographics, and contextual aspects that are relevant to legal pluralism and the interaction between Islamic law and secular civil law. Afterwards, the data that has been retrieved is encoded and organized according to predetermined themes or categories that are in line with the research goals, which helps to facilitate a systematic analysis. This procedure allows scholars to discern patterns, trends, and significant insights across multiple studies, so formulating comprehensive conclusions regarding the dynamics and implications of legal pluralism. During the synthesis, there is a deliberate attempt to incorporate various perspectives and viewpoints, taking into account studies undertaken in different geographical areas and academic fields. Quality evaluation criteria are utilized to guarantee the thoroughness and credibility of the chosen studies, with studies of high quality being given more importance in the synthesis process. Crucially, the process of extracting and combining data is done in a repetitive manner, which allows for continuous improvement and adaptation as new insights arise and more research are included. The literature review employs a systematic approach to thoroughly analyze legal pluralism, offering a comprehensive understanding of the intricate interplay between Islamic law and secular civil law in modern cultures.

When assessing the quality and dependability of material included in a systematic study of legal pluralism in modern cultures, particularly the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law, many methodologies are used to assure strength and trustworthiness. The peer-review process is a crucial measure of quality, as works published in peer-reviewed journals undergo thorough examination by experts in the area. This process is essential for ensuring the systematic and precise approach, the correctness of the results, and the compliance with academic criteria (Gusenbauer & Haddaway, 2020; Schoen et al., 2019). In addition, well-established publishers and academic organizations frequently uphold rigorous criteria for publication, so bolstering the reputation of the literature.

In addition, researchers evaluate the methodological rigor of the studies included by analyzing the research design, sample methodologies, data gathering methods, and analytical approaches used (Badu et al., 2019; Harrison et al., 2020; Maher et al., 2018; Sovacool et al., 2018; Tobi & Kampen, 2018). Research conducted using explicit and easily understandable procedures, suitable sample techniques, and meticulous data analysis are regarded as more dependable. On the other hand, studies that have flaws in their methodology, such as having a small number of participants, using biased sampling methods, or having inadequate data analysis, may be considered less reliable and given less importance in the process of combining information.

Assessing quality and dependability also involves evaluating the pertinence and importance of the findings in relation to the study topic and aims (Mokkink et al., 2020; Sun et al., 2019; Terwee et al., 2018). Studies that specifically examine the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law in modern cultures, employ suitable theoretical frameworks, and offer original insights or empirical data are considered more important. Furthermore, the credibility of the authors and their connections can impact the perceived dependability of the literature. Scholars who possess competence in the topic and are affiliated with prestigious academic institutions are more inclined to create research of superior quality.
Researchers evaluate the transparency and lucidity of reporting in the studies that are included, seeking thorough documentation of the research process, unambiguous presentation of findings, and accurate interpretation of outcomes (H. Cooper et al., 2019; Michelon et al., 2020; Tracy, 2019). Comprehensive studies that offer thorough explanations of the procedures, outcomes, and constraints improve clarity and simplify the process of reproducing and confirming the results by other scientists.

An all-encompassing strategy for evaluating the quality and dependability of the literature being analyzed entails taking into account several aspects, such as the peer-review status, methodological rigor, relevance to the study issue, credibility of the authors, and transparency of reporting (Haghani, 2023; Woulfe et al., 2021). By utilizing these techniques, researchers may guarantee the strength and reliability of the synthesis conclusions in the systematic analysis of legal plurality in modern cultures.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Historical Development of Legal Pluralism

Evolution of Islamic Law

Sharia, Islamic law, has evolved over a period of fourteen centuries, impacted by many socio-political, cultural, and intellectual factors. Sharia, which gradually evolved via the interpretation and consent of Muslim scholars, originated from the Quran, the holy book of Islam, and the Hadith, the sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad. Initially, Sharia focused mostly on religious ceremonies and ethical principles, but it later broadened its scope to govern different elements of individual and societal existence, such as family law, business, and governance. Sharia reached its peak as a comprehensive legal system during the medieval Islamic period, with influential jurists formally organizing its concepts and techniques. Nevertheless, the evolution of Sharia over history has also seen the emergence of several schools of thought and interpretations, resulting in variations in doctrine and legal diversity within the Muslim world.

Sharia has been extensively modified and reinterpreted in order to effectively tackle present-day obstacles and circumstances. While several countries with a predominantly Muslim population adhere to traditional interpretations of Sharia as the foundation of their legal systems, others have introduced changes to harmonize Islamic precepts with contemporary legal structures, such as secular civil law. These reforms frequently entail the inclusion of Sharia into contemporary legal systems, the construction of constitutional principles that protect individual rights and freedoms, and the integration of international human rights norms. In addition, Muslim scholars and reformists persist in participating in analytical discussions and reevaluation of Sharia in order to advance concepts of fairness, parity, and fundamental human rights within the framework of Islamic legal customs. The process of adapting Sharia to modern situations involves continual discussions and compromises between traditional and modern values, as well as between religious and secular perspectives. This emphasizes the ever-changing nature of Islamic law in present-day society.

Emergence of Secular Civil Law

The progression of secular legal systems has undergone a gradual transformation over several centuries, shaped by a multitude of historical, philosophical, and political influences. The origins of secular legal systems can be traced back to ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. In these societies, secular laws were established to govern societal matters without being influenced by religious authorities. Nevertheless, the process of organizing and standardizing non-religious legal systems gained speed throughout the European Enlightenment era, characterized by the rise of rational thinking, emphasis on individual rights, and the division between religious and governmental institutions. Enlightenment philosophers like John Locke, Montesquieu, and Voltaire supported the creation of non-religious legal systems that were grounded on rationality, natural law, and the idea of social contract. Their ideas formed the basis for contemporary legal systems.

Following the Enlightenment, Europe witnessed the emergence of secular legal systems that were distinguished by the formalization of laws, the creation of autonomous judicial systems, and the acknowledgment of individual rights and freedoms. The French Revolution of 1789 was essential in the process of secularizing legislation. It resulted in the elimination of feudal privileges, the establishment of the Napoleonic Code, and the formal separation of the church and the state. In a similar vein, other European nations implemented legislative changes that progressively reduced the impact of religious rules in the realms of administration and jurisprudence.
The interface between secular legal systems and religious legislation has been an intricate and frequently contentious process throughout history. Secular legal systems have, at times, aimed to establish their autonomy and independence from religious authority, leading to the marginalization or destruction of religious legislation. This phenomena is especially evident in countries that adhere to the principle of secularism, or laïcité, which is legally established and results in a strong division between religious and governmental organizations.

Nevertheless, religious rules still maintain their impact in numerous nations, either through official acknowledgment within the legal framework or via informal social conventions and behaviors. In nations that have a background of religious pluralism, like the United States, religious laws exist alongside secular legal systems. These systems have established mechanisms to accommodate religious difference while maintaining the principles of the rule of law and individual rights.

The historical interplay between secular legal systems and religious legislation exemplifies the intricacies of governance, culture, and identity in heterogeneous cultures. Although secular legal systems have mostly replaced religious legislation in many regions, the influence of religious traditions still plays a role in shaping legal norms, values, and discussions related to topics like morality, ethics, and justice.

Conceptual Framework of Legal Pluralism

Definitions and Concepts
Within the framework of legal pluralism, certain essential words are pivotal in comprehending the dynamic interplay of numerous legal systems within a unified society. Coexistence, in essence, entails the concurrent existence and acknowledgment of many legal systems, including religious laws, customary practices, and state laws, inside a specific territory. Coexistence entails recognizing and accepting the existence of diverse legal systems and adapting to various legal standards and principles, which frequently mirror the multicultural and multi-religious characteristics of modern communities.

Furthermore, "competition" occurs when contradictory norms and principles from several legal systems compete for power and dominance in governing societal matters. This competition can arise in several forms, such as clashes between religious laws and secular civil laws, differing interpretations of legal standards by distinct religious or cultural communities, or confrontations between official state institutions and unofficial justice systems. Competition highlights the intricate and difficult nature of dealing with legal pluralism, necessitating methods for resolving disputes and managing conflicting interests.

Lastly, "accommodation" pertains to the act of harmonizing discrepancies and accommodating various legal traditions within a more comprehensive legal structure. Accommodation can encompass formal legal procedures, such as enacting new laws or making court rulings that acknowledge the legitimacy of religious rules in specific areas. It can also involve informal practices of bargaining and finding middle ground among legal participants and interested parties. The objective of accommodation is to promote social unity, acknowledge cultural and religious variety, and maintain fundamental rights and values within a system of legal difference.

The terms "coexistence," "competition," and "accommodation" encapsulate the intricate nature of legal pluralism and the dynamic interaction among diverse legal systems in modern nations. To establish legal frameworks that support the rule of law and respect multiple cultural and religious traditions, politicians, legal experts, and practitioners need to comprehend and navigate these dynamics.

Theoretical Perspectives
The study of legal pluralism is enhanced by a range of theoretical frameworks, each providing distinct viewpoints on the intricacies of several legal systems coexisting within a single community. Legal anthropology explores the cultural and social aspects of law, investigating how cultural beliefs, rituals, and social interactions influence legal norms and practices. Legal anthropologists employ ethnographic study and participant observation to examine the actual experiences of persons in various legal settings. This investigation reveals how legal pluralism is evident in everyday life.

Socio-legal studies employ an interdisciplinary methodology to comprehend law, utilizing sociology, political science, anthropology, and other social disciplines to examine the convergence of law and society. Socio-legal researchers analyze the construction, enforcement, and contestation of legal norms within social and institutional contexts. They investigate matters of power, inequality, and social change. Within the framework of legal pluralism, socio-legal studies shed light on the dynamic interplay of various legal norms.
legal systems, the involvement of both state institutions and non-state actors in legal governance, and the consequences of legal diversity for the principles of social justice and human rights.

Postcolonial theory provides a critical understanding of how colonialism and imperialism have influenced the legal systems and structures of governance in countries that have experienced colonization. Postcolonial theorists emphasize the ongoing inequities and power dynamics within legal pluralism by examining the colonial origins of legal institutions and the imposition of Western legal norms. The researchers analyze the ongoing impact of colonial legacies on legal systems, which result in the marginalization of indigenous and minority legal traditions and the perpetuation of patterns of dominance and resistance. Postcolonial theory advocates for the acknowledgment and empowerment of alternative legal systems and ways of knowing from decolonial perspectives. It aims to challenge prevailing myths of legal universality and impartiality.

The theoretical frameworks of legal anthropology, socio-legal studies, and postcolonial theory provide valuable perspectives for analyzing legal pluralism. They allow us to explore its social, cultural, and historical aspects and emphasize its impact on governance, justice, and human rights in modern societies.

Dynamics of Interaction Between Islamic Law and Secular Civil Law

Family Law

The coexistence of Islamic law with secular civil law in regions poses intricate obstacles and opportunities, especially in subjects of marriage, divorce, custody, and inheritance. Islamic law, which is based on the Quran, Hadith, and Islamic jurisprudence, offers a comprehensive system for governing family affairs, such as marriage agreements, divorce procedures, child custody, and inheritance entitlements. Secular civil law can differ significantly based on the jurisdiction, typically embodying concepts of equality, individual rights, and state control over family matters.

Islamic law governs family relations in numerous Muslim-majority nations, where it acknowledges marriage as a contractual agreement between two willing individuals. It also sets forth precise guidelines and requirements for divorce and custody. Secular legal systems can also have a role in governing family relationships, especially in areas like registering marriages, determining marital property rights, and ensuring the welfare of children. Secular laws can sometimes enhance or alter Islamic legal provisions to conform to current standards and principles, such as forbidding underage marriage or ensuring gender equality in divorce cases.

The convergence of Islamic law and secular civil law in areas like marriage, divorce, custody, and inheritance frequently entails discussions, conflicts, and compromises between religious and governmental authorities, as well as between individual liberties and societal customs. Islamic law acknowledges religiously sanctioned activities like polygamy and unilateral divorce, although secular laws may set limitations or conditions to protect individual rights, especially those of women and children. Islamic and secular legal systems may have different inheritance laws. Islamic law follows specific rules of succession based on familial links and religious ideas, while secular laws highlight concepts of equality and testamentary freedom.

Effectively addressing the junction of Islamic law and secular civil law in family affairs necessitates meticulous examination of legal pluralism, cultural values, and human rights principles. In order to ensure justice, equity, and human dignity for all individuals in modern communities, it is crucial to make attempts to reconcile opposing norms and accommodate varied perspectives, allowing both legal systems to coexist and interact in regulating family interactions. The analysis of the intersection between Islamic law and secular civil law in family problems reveals the intricate nature and difficulties associated with legal diversity. It also emphasizes the possibility of engaging in conversation, making adjustments, and promoting social transformation to achieve enhanced justice and equality.

Criminal Justice

The juxtaposition of Sharia and secular law in criminal cases, such as blasphemy, apostasy, and theft, underscores the intricacies and conflicts inherent in legal pluralism, particularly in areas where both legal frameworks are present. Sharia, which is based on Islamic scripture and law, offers a comprehensive system for governing criminal behavior. It covers both crimes against God (known as hadd crimes) and crimes against individuals and society (known as ta’zir crimes). Blasphemy and apostasy, which are classified as hadd offenses according to Sharia law, are commonly viewed as violations against the Islamic
religion and can result in harsh consequences, such as the death penalty, in certain regions. Theft, a serious crime, is subject to punishment by amputating the hand of the perpetrator, as mandated by Islamic law. Secular legal systems, on the other hand, tend to give priority to values such as individual rights, due process, and proportionate punishment when dealing with criminal actions. Blasphemy and apostasy are commonly seen as acts of freedom of speech and belief, safeguarded by secular legal principles and global human rights norms. Enacting laws to make certain behaviors illegal may be seen as violating basic rights, such as the ability to practice one's religion and hold personal beliefs. Similarly, theft is dealt with by secular criminal laws, which prioritize rehabilitation, deterrence, and restitution instead of corporal punishment.

The implementation of Sharia and secular law in criminal cases involving blasphemy, apostasy, and theft gives rise to intricate ethical, legal, and human rights deliberations. Although Sharia law is implemented in certain regions as a component of the legal framework, attempts to impose hadd punishments for crimes such as blasphemy and apostasy may contradict international human rights standards, especially those that forbid harsh, inhumane, or humiliating treatment. Furthermore, the implementation of physical penalties such as amputation for theft may give rise to issues regarding the compatibility of Sharia law with modern concepts of justice and human dignity.

To address these conflicts, certain regions have implemented hybrid legal frameworks that combine aspects of Sharia law and secular law, aiming to reconcile religious precepts with contemporary legal standards and human rights norms. Some individuals have enacted changes to restrict the use of hadd punishments or completely eliminate them, choosing instead to employ alternative methods of punishment or rehabilitation. However, there are ongoing discussions regarding the implementation of Sharia and secular law in criminal cases, which are still controversial. These debates mirror larger conflicts concerning the influence of religion, law, and human rights on the development of legal systems and society norms. In conclusion, the examination of these matters highlights the intricacies of legal pluralism and the continuous pursuit of fairness, equality, and human worth in varied and heterogeneous cultures.

**Human Rights**

Legal pluralism refers to the simultaneous existence of numerous legal systems in a single community. This has significant consequences for individual rights, gender equality, religious freedom, and minority rights. Legal pluralism recognizes the multitude of cultural, religious, and customary standards that influence legal systems, presenting both possibilities for adaptation and difficulties in maintaining uniformity and consistency. Legal pluralism allows individuals to express their rights in accordance with their cultural or religious views. However, it also raises issues about the potential unequal treatment of persons depending on their association with specific legal systems.

Legal pluralism provides individuals with the autonomy to select legal frameworks that correspond to their personal beliefs and identities, thereby safeguarding their individual rights. Nevertheless, variations in legal frameworks can lead to inequitable safeguards and entitlements for certain segments of the population. Instances of discrimination or uneven treatment may be experienced by women, religious minorities, and marginalized people under specific legal frameworks, thereby compromising their fundamental rights and freedoms. Gender equality can be undermined in situations where religious laws or rituals enforce unequal rights or responsibilities for men and women.

Religious freedom is a significant issue within the framework of legal pluralism, as individuals may encounter limitations or oppression due to their religious convictions or associations. Legal pluralism allows for the coexistence of many legal systems, including religious ones, which can promote religious variety and accommodation. However, this can also result in clashes between religion and secular legal principles, especially in areas such as family law, religious expression, and religious conversion. To safeguard religious freedom, it is necessary to skillfully handle these disputes, guaranteeing that individuals can freely exercise their religious beliefs without facing any form of bias or oppression.

Moreover, legal pluralism has consequences for minority rights, as minority communities may encounter marginalization or exclusion within legal systems that are predominantly influenced by majority norms and beliefs. It is crucial to protect the rights of minority groups, such as those related to language, culture, and religion, within legal systems that recognize many sources of law. This is necessary to guarantee the involvement and engagement of all individuals in society. Efforts to advance minority rights may entail acknowledging and accommodating various legal customs, as well as implementing strategies to combat systematic disparities and prejudice.
Legal plurality in modern cultures brings forth both advantages and difficulties concerning individual rights, gender equality, religious freedom, and minority rights. Legal pluralism can facilitate cultural variety, accommodation, and autonomy. However, it necessitates careful attention to the rights and freedoms of all individuals, especially those who may face marginalization or disadvantage in specific legal systems. Societies can sustain ideals of justice, equality, and human rights within varied and multicultural legal frameworks by carefully considering and managing conflicting interests and values.

Case Studies and Empirical Findings

Regional Perspectives

Case studies conducted in various geographical regions with substantial Muslim populations provide unique insights into the many ways legal systems interact, shedding light on the intricacies of legal pluralism in real-world scenarios. Malaysia, as an example, is a country where the legal system consists of both Sharia (Islamic law) and secular civil law. The connection between both legal systems is marked by an intricate interplay of official power, Islamic religious organizations, and customary customs. Sharia oversees family affairs for Muslims, while secular civil law is applicable to non-Muslims. This results in jurisdictional concerns and occasional disputes between religious and governmental authorities.

In Nigeria, a country with a significant Muslim population, there is a clear example of legal pluralism as Sharia law coexists with secular legal systems at both the state and federal levels. The implementation of Sharia in many northern states has resulted in conflicts between Muslim and non-Muslim communities, as well as discussions regarding the congruence of Islamic law with constitutional concepts of equality and human rights. The interplay between Sharia and secular law in Nigeria exemplifies wider conflicts about identity, governance, and religious pluralism within a heterogeneous and cosmopolitan society.

Indonesia, the most populous Muslim-majority country globally, demonstrates a distinct approach to legal pluralism. Here, Islamic law coexists alongside a secular legal system that is based on Pancasila, the official philosophy. Although Sharia law has a substantial influence on family problems and specific aspects of public morality, secular legal norms are the prevailing standards in most areas of governance and jurisprudence. The dynamic relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law in Indonesia exemplifies a pragmatic stance towards legal pluralism, effectively harmonizing religious tenets with democratic ideals and cultural heterogeneity.

These case studies exemplify the various ways in which legal systems interrelate in places with substantial Muslim populations, showcasing differences in historical, cultural, and political circumstances. Through an analysis of the intricate nature of legal pluralism in various geographical areas, researchers and decision-makers can acquire more profound understanding of the difficulties and advantages of incorporating multiple legal systems in modern societies. This can promote the exchange of ideas, acceptance, and appreciation for diversity.

Empirical Research

Empirical studies that examine the actual experiences and perspectives of different groups involved in legal pluralism offer vital insights into how legal systems work and how they affect people and communities. These studies frequently include qualitative methodologies such as interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic observations to capture the many viewpoints of judges, lawyers, religious leaders, and community people.

Empirical research shows that judges and lawyers have different attitudes towards legal pluralism. Some support the coexistence of multiple legal systems to accommodate cultural and religious diversity, while others are worried about conflicts between jurisdictions and inconsistencies in legal decision-making. The way religious leaders perceive legal pluralism can be influenced by how they interpret religious teachings and how they interact with secular legal systems. Certain religious leaders may promote the supremacy of religious rules in governing societal matters, while others may acknowledge the significance of secular legal standards in guaranteeing fairness and equality for all individuals in society.

Community members, especially those from marginalized or minority groups, may have varying experiences of legal pluralism depending on their ability to access legal services, their socio-economic situation, and their cultural background. Empirical studies emphasize the difficulties encountered by individuals who must navigate through numerous legal systems. These challenges include dealing with legal intricacies, facing procedural obstacles, and experiencing unequal treatment within the legal
framework. Furthermore, the way community members view legal pluralism can be shaped by larger socio-political factors, including government policies, media portrayals, and relationships between different communities.

Empirical research on the actual experiences and beliefs regarding legal pluralism provides insights into the challenges of navigating multiple legal systems in modern society. These studies enhance our understanding of legal pluralism and its impact on governance, justice, and social cohesion by highlighting the perspectives of stakeholders and incorporating their different viewpoints. Additionally, empirical research has the potential to guide policy and practice by pinpointing specific areas that require change and intervention in order to foster inclusion, fairness, and reverence for other legal traditions within legal systems.

Challenges and Opportunities

Jurisdictional Conflict

The conflicts arising from the clash between Islamic law and secular civil law present substantial issues that have wide-ranging ramifications for governance and social cohesion in varied communities. A significant obstacle occurs due to the conflict between distinct normative frameworks, wherein Islamic law and secular civil law may dictate contrasting concepts, rights, and obligations. These factors might result in a lack of clarity in legal matters, discrepancies in court rulings, and difficulties in ensuring equal application of laws to all individuals. Moreover, clashes between legal frameworks can weaken the principles of justice and diminish the confidence that the public, especially marginalized or minority communities, have in the fairness of the legal system, since they may view judicial institutions as favoring certain groups or being prejudiced.

Conflicts arising from the clash between Islamic law and secular civil law can intensify tensions based on religious, ethnic, or cultural differences, leading to the escalation of societal divisions and conflicts between different groups. Disagreements about legal pluralism can exacerbate pre-existing divisions in society, causing communities to become more divided and impeding progress towards social harmony and national solidarity. Furthermore, the politicization of matters related to legal pluralism can intensify societal tensions, since political figures may manipulate religious or cultural distinctions for electoral advantage or to promote particular objectives.

Conflicts arising from divergent legal systems can hinder the efficient functioning of governance by adding complexity to the processes of policy-making, legislative reform, and the enforcement of laws and regulations. In situations where legal pluralism is widespread, governments may face difficulties in reconciling conflicting demands from various religious or cultural groups, resulting in policy stagnation or inconsistent implementation of laws. This has the potential to weaken the authority of the government and impede attempts to tackle urgent social, economic, and developmental issues.

The clashes between Islamic law and secular civil law provide complex obstacles for administration and societal unity, necessitating strategic navigation and proactive actions to alleviate tensions and foster inclusiveness. Possible approaches to tackling these difficulties could involve facilitating discussions and reconciliation between various parties involved, improving the understanding of legal matters and ensuring marginalized groups have fair access to legal resources, and cultivating a societal environment that values and appreciates different legal customs. In order to effectively handle conflicts between legal systems, it is essential to base our efforts on concepts of justice, fairness, and human rights. This will contribute to the development of a society that is more inclusive and unified.

Human Rights Concerns

Legal pluralism presents substantial human rights dilemmas, especially in situations where religion or customary rules coexist with secular legal systems. An urgent issue is the violation of women's rights, as legal pluralism can lead to discriminatory behaviors and unequal treatment within the legal system. Within numerous jurisdictions regulated by Islamic law, women may encounter limitations on their entitlements to divorce, inheritance, and child custody, along with constraints on their movement and engagement in public affairs. Secular legal systems may provide enhanced safeguards for women's rights, but discrepancies in legal systems might sustain gender inequality and undermine endeavors to attain gender justice and empowerment.

Legal plurality can present difficulties for the exercise of freedom of speech, especially in situations that concern blasphemy, apostasy, or religious disagreement. In civilizations that uphold both religious
rules or norms and secular legal systems, individuals may be subject to prosecution or persecution for expressing opinions that are considered offensive or heretical. This can potentially inhibit free expression and intellectual exploration, suppressing disagreement and a wide range of perspectives within society. Furthermore, clashes between religious and secular legal standards can result in the suppression of religious minority or dissenting opinions through censorship, self-censorship, or official oppression. This undermines the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and belief.

Religious minorities sometimes experience discrimination and marginalization in legal systems that recognize several sources of law, where the religious beliefs and practices of the majority often have a strong influence on legal decisions and public discussions. Religious minorities may face discriminatory legislation, harassment, or violence due to insufficient protection or recognition of their rights and freedoms by the government. Legal pluralism can intensify social tensions and intergroup conflicts, resulting in infringements on minority rights and compromising societal unity and stability.

To effectively tackle the human rights issues arising from legal pluralism, it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive strategy that fosters equality, fairness, and appreciation for the variety of legal systems. The primary focus of efforts to change laws and legal institutions should be on safeguarding women's rights, upholding freedom of expression, and protecting religious minorities. This entails ensuring that all individuals are treated with respect and get equal legal protection. Furthermore, it is crucial to promote open communication, acceptance, and reverence for the fundamental liberties of individuals in order to construct all-encompassing and unified societies that support the values of human rights and democratic governance.

Hybrid Legal Systems

Hybrid legal systems, which combine aspects of many legal traditions, have arisen as a possible method of encouraging legal pluralism and accommodating varied legal traditions in modern communities. Hybrid legal systems aim to achieve a balance between different religious, customary, and secular legal norms. They strive to promote inclusion and cultural diversity by merging these many norms. Nevertheless, the degree to which hybrid legal systems are successful in attaining these goals differs based on the specific circumstances, execution, and commitment to principles of fairness and human rights.

Hybrid legal systems excel in their capacity to acknowledge and adapt to many legal customs, enabling individuals to seek justice in accordance with their cultural or religious convictions. Hybrid systems can enhance the legitimacy and accessibility of the legal system for diverse populations by integrating customary or religious laws into the official legal framework, thereby promoting legal pluralism and cultural autonomy. Furthermore, hybrid legal systems can promote communication and cooperation amongst various legal participants, thereby enhancing shared comprehension and collaboration in tackling legal obstacles.

The efficacy of hybrid legal systems in fostering legal plurality relies on their adherence to values of equality, justice, and human rights. Hybrid systems can sometimes reinforce or solidify pre-existing disparities and bias, especially towards underprivileged or minority communities. For instance, when religious or customary laws are implemented in a biased or contradictory manner, some groups may be deprived of equal rights or legal protections, thereby compromising the fundamental values of justice and fairness.

Hybrid legal systems may encounter difficulties associated with legal intricacy, procedural obstacles, and institutional capability. To ensure the proper operation of hybrid systems, it is crucial to maintain coherence and consistency in legal decision-making, as well as provide sufficient resources and support for legal institutions. In addition, it is crucial to implement policies that protect fundamental rights and freedoms, such as gender equality, freedom of expression, and minority rights, alongside initiatives to foster legal pluralism.

The potential of hybrid legal systems to foster legal pluralism and accommodate various legal traditions is contingent upon their commitment to ideals of justice, fairness, and human rights. Hybrid systems can promote the creation of fair and inclusive legal frameworks that respect the rule of law and encourage social cohesion in varied societies by effectively balancing the acknowledgment of cultural diversity with the safeguarding of fundamental rights.

Future Directions and Policy Implications

Emerging Trends
The evolving dynamics of the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law are transforming legal systems and governance structures in various countries, under the influence of globalization, democratization, and technological progress. Globalization has enabled more interconnectivity and cultural interchange, resulting in the spread of legal standards and the development of global legal discussions. Globalization has sparked discussions and deliberations on legal pluralism within the framework of Islamic law and secular civil law. This arises as societies confront the difficulties of incorporating several legal systems in a globalized society.

The democratization processes in numerous countries with Muslim-majority populations have resulted in demands for increased openness, accountability, and inclusivity within legal systems. These demands have prompted reforms that attempt to strengthen the rule of law and safeguard human rights. Consequently, there has been heightened examination of the compatibility between Islamic law and democratic ideals as well as international human rights standards. This has resulted in attempts to reconcile religious values with secular legal systems. Furthermore, the process of democracy has granted authority and influence to members of civil society, such as advocates for women's rights, defenders of human rights, and proponents of religious reform. These individuals are now able to actively support changes in legislation that advance principles of gender equality, freedom of speech, and the protection of minority rights within legal frameworks.

The progress in technology, namely in information and communication technologies (ICTs), is also impacting the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law. This is affecting legal procedures, the availability of justice, and legal education. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have enabled the widespread distribution of legal information, the conversion of legal documents into digital format, and the mechanization of legal processes, hence enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of legal systems. In addition, online platforms and social media have created new opportunities for legal advocacy, public involvement, and legal education, allowing citizens to remotely participate in legal procedures and discussions.

The current trends and advances in the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law demonstrate the challenges of managing legal plurality in modern nations. Given the ongoing influence of globalization, democracy, and technological progress on legal systems and governance structures, it is crucial to prioritize the promotion of discourse, tolerance, and respect for variety within legal frameworks. Societies may effectively address the complexities and possibilities of legal pluralism and establish fair and impartial legal systems that respect the rule of law and promote social unity by adopting the ideals of justice, equality, and human rights.

Policy Recommendations

In order to tackle the difficulties and promote legal systems that embrace human rights and equality, a number of policy suggestions and practical approaches might be put forward. First and first, legal reforms should give top priority to safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms, such as gender equality, freedom of expression, and minority rights, in both secular and religious legal systems. This involves aligning legal regulations with international human rights principles and establishing uniformity in legal judgments to eliminate any form of discrimination and inequality.

It is imperative to prioritize initiatives aimed at improving the understanding of laws and ensuring equal opportunities for underrepresented or vulnerable populations, such as women, religious minorities, and socio-economically disadvantaged individuals. Legal education initiatives, community legal aid agencies, and awareness campaigns have the potential to empower individuals to express their rights, traverse legal systems, and seek redress for grievances. This, in turn, promotes inclusivity and equity within legal frameworks.

It is crucial to foster conversation, acceptance, and appreciation for differences among legal professionals, such as judges, lawyers, religious leaders, and civil society organizations, in order to establish legal systems that are inclusive. Interfaith conversation forums, legal training workshops, and collaborative efforts can promote mutual comprehension and collaboration, cultivating a culture of reverence for varied legal traditions and perspectives throughout society.

It is necessary to implement institutional reforms in order to enhance the autonomy, clarity, and responsibility of legal institutions, such as courts, law enforcement agencies, and regulatory authorities. It is essential to maintain the fairness and honesty of legal procedures and establish systems for monitoring and responsibility in order to safeguard the principle of law and foster public confidence in the legal system.
Utilizing technology and innovation to bolster legal services, facilitate access to information, and promote openness in legal processes can enhance the efficiency and efficacy of legal systems. Utilizing digital platforms for legal information, implementing online dispute resolution methods, and implementing e-government projects have the potential to enhance accessibility to justice, simplify legal procedures, and encourage citizen participation in legal decision-making.

By enacting these policy suggestions and practical approaches, countries can strive to cultivate inclusive legal systems that promote the rights and equality of all individuals. Through the facilitation of conversation, granting authority to marginalized groups, and improving the openness and responsibility of legal organizations, governments and interested parties can aid in the creation of just, accessible, and fair legal systems that cater to the requirements of various communities and uphold the principles of justice and human dignity.

CONCLUSION

The thorough literature review on legal diversity in contemporary cultures has yielded useful insights into the intricacies and dynamics of legal systems in many situations, with a specific focus on the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law. The review emphasized the complex and diverse nature of legal pluralism, which involves the coexistence, competition, and accommodation of various legal traditions. The report highlighted significant issues that arise from conflicts between Islamic law and secular civil law, such as discrepancies in rights and safeguards, tensions based on religion and cultural differences, and obstacles to efficient governance and societal unity. The review illuminated the consequences of legal plurality on individual rights, gender equality, religious freedom, and minority rights, emphasizing the necessity for comprehensive and fair legal systems that maintain principles of human rights. The study also analyzed the emerging patterns and advancements that influence the relationship between Islamic law and secular civil law, such as globalization, democratization, and technological progress. It put forward policy suggestions and practical approaches to tackle challenges and promote inclusive legal systems. The thorough literature study enhances comprehension of legal pluralism and its ramifications for governance, justice, and social cohesion in modern nations. The review establishes a basis for future academic research and policy discussions focused on fostering inclusion, fairness, and appreciation for diversity within legal systems by combining existing studies and highlighting areas where more understanding is needed. Comprehending legal plurality in modern countries has significant ramifications for academia, policy-making, and practical implementation, influencing our methods of governing, delivering justice, and fostering social unity. The scholarly investigation of legal pluralism enhances our comprehension of the intricacies of legal systems in other countries, providing insight into the mechanisms of cohabitation, competition, and accommodation among various legal traditions. Scholars contribute to a more comprehensive knowledge of legal pluralism and its implications for human rights, equality, and democracy by examining the experiences and perspectives of stakeholders and detecting emerging trends and changes. The literature on legal pluralism offers valuable insights that can guide policy and practice. It provides evidence-based recommendations for effectively dealing with the complexities and advantages of having many legal systems. Policy-makers and practitioners can utilize this knowledge to create legal frameworks that are inclusive and fair, while also upholding human rights principles, fostering social cohesion, and accommodating many cultural and religious traditions. By incorporating legal pluralism perspectives into the process of creating policies, governments can promote open discussion, acceptance, and appreciation for the variety of legal systems. This, in turn, will improve the credibility and efficiency of legal institutions. Comprehending legal diversity is crucial for professionals in the legal and social justice sectors, as it empowers them to traverse intricate legal environments and champion the rights and interests of marginalized or vulnerable groups. Legal practitioners, including lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals, can utilize knowledge gained from legal pluralism research to formulate effective approaches in tackling legal obstacles, enhancing the availability of justice, and pushing for legal changes that promote human rights and equality. Similarly, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and community organizers can utilize their understanding of legal pluralism to facilitate discussions, enhance the agency of marginalized people, and advance social transformation within their specific environments. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of legal diversity in modern countries has substantial consequences for academic research, policy-making, and practical implementation, influencing our methods of governance, administration of justice, and promotion of social harmony. By accepting the
multitude of legal traditions and viewpoints present in society, we can strive to construct inclusive and fair legal systems that safeguard human rights, honor cultural and religious diversity, and promote unity and mutual comprehension among all individuals in society. In order to enhance our comprehension of legal pluralism and its mechanisms of interaction in various socio-cultural settings, future study might investigate multiple paths that provide useful perspectives on the intricacies of legal systems in modern countries. Comparative studies that investigate the implementation and effects of legal pluralism in various geographical regions and cultural situations might enhance our comprehension of the differences and similarities in the interplay between Islamic law, secular civil law, and other legal systems. Through the examination of case studies from various civilizations, scholars can discern contextual elements that influence the dynamics of legal pluralism and provide insights for developing measures to foster inclusion and fairness within legal systems. Interdisciplinary research that incorporates knowledge from anthropology, sociology, political science, and other social sciences can provide valuable insights into the social, cultural, and political aspects of legal pluralism. This research can examine how power dynamics, social identities, and historical influences shape legal norms and practices. Through the analysis of stakeholders' lived experiences and views, academics can reveal the fundamental dynamics of legal pluralism and discover strategies for tackling difficulties and promoting social cohesion in heterogeneous societies. Subsequent studies can explore the function of legal institutions, such as courts, law enforcement agencies, and regulatory bodies, in facilitating resolution of conflicts and fostering collaboration among diverse legal systems. Researchers can evaluate the efficiency of current methods for resolving conflicting legal norms and discover possibilities for improvement and advancement within legal institutions by analyzing legal decision-making processes, institutional practices, and governmental responses to legal pluralism challenges. Research examining the effects of globalization, democracy, and technology breakthroughs on the dynamics of legal pluralism can offer useful insights into the changing character of legal systems and governance structures in modern nations. Through the examination of how these overarching patterns influence legal standards, procedures, and exchanges among diverse legal systems, scholars can predict forthcoming obstacles and prospects for advancing comprehensive and fair legal structures that safeguard human rights and honor diversity. Future study on legal pluralism should employ a multidisciplinary and comparative approach, utilizing many approaches and perspectives to enhance our comprehension of the intricacies of legal systems in modern cultures. Researchers can enhance our understanding of legal pluralism and guide policy and practice initiatives by filling knowledge gaps and researching new areas of study. This can help promote justice, equality, and social cohesion within many legal systems..

AUTHORS’ DECLARATION

Authors’ Contributions and Responsibilities

All authors were involved in their respective tasks, starting from collecting related literature, discussing, concluding, processing, analysing to drafting the article.

Competing Interests

All authors worked well together to complete this research, we emphasize that we have no conflict of interest between the authors and the publisher.

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