



# **INTER-ETHNIC INTERACTION IN MULTICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS: A LITERATURE REVIEW ON FACTORS AND SOCIAL DYNAMIC**

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## **Abstract**

This literature study examines the multifaceted factors and dynamics of inter-ethnic interaction within multicultural residential areas and their profound impact on social integration. The analysis reveals that interaction is driven by a combination of physical design, such as shared facilities and neighborhood layouts, and structural elements like government housing policies and local leadership. Furthermore, social determinants including demographic composition, economic parity, historical relationship patterns, and the evolving role of technology play a critical role in shaping how diverse groups coexist. Regarding relationship dynamics, the study emphasizes that while sustained personal contact is essential for eroding prejudice and building cross-group trust, passive tolerance alone is fragile and may mask latent conflicts. Effective integration is often catalyzed by inclusive community organizations, religious institutions, and the active participation of youth. Ultimately, successful multicultural settlements are those that foster natural, sustainable interactions, thereby building the social capital necessary for national cohesion. This research offers both a theoretical framework and practical insights for urban planners and policymakers to design neighborhoods that support long-term social stability.

**Keywords:** multicultural settlements, inter-ethnic interaction, residential areas, social integration, neighborhood, diversity, social cohesion

## Introduction

Multicultural settlements have become an unavoidable reality in major cities, where migration from various regions to urban centers creates environments for diverse ethnic groups to coexist spatially. In housing complexes, urban villages, or vertical housing such as low-cost apartments, residents from different backgrounds live side by side, sharing public facilities and navigating daily life together. This condition creates a unique social laboratory where integration or conflict between groups is tested every day, determining whether diversity becomes a community asset or a source of tension. These differences in background demand a deep understanding of how cultural identity plays a role in building social cohesion amidst existing integration challenges (Oluwatosin & Rojak, 2023).

Life in these settlements involves more intensive and sustained interaction compared to temporary public spaces like markets or transportation hubs. In residential environments, people live together for years, witnessing the daily lives of their neighbors, sharing joys and sorrows, and facing common problems collectively. Children grow up together, playing in the same environment and attending the same schools, which fosters a shared sense of place from an early age. These long-term, daily interactions open greater opportunities for residents to get to know each other personally, allowing them to move beyond the stereotypes and prejudices that might be brought in from the outside.

Consequently, settlements hold great potential as critical arenas for inter-ethnic integration (Zhu, 2023). Because these environments serve as the primary backdrop for daily life, the process of self-identification and identity formation during the formative years in school and home environments becomes important social capital for individuals (Warin, 2015). By fostering deep, personal connections over time, multicultural settlements can bridge cultural divides and transform physical proximity into genuine social solidarity within the complexities of the modern urban landscape.

However, living side by side physically does not automatically create social integration, as the reality often reveals persistent barriers. In many cases, what occurs is actually micro-scale segregation, where certain ethnic groups concentrate in specific blocks or on certain floors

within apartment buildings, creating "invisible walls" that separate residents who are physically close. In such environments, interaction between groups may be limited to strictly formal matters, while social life continues to take place almost exclusively within their respective groups.

This lack of meaningful engagement means that the potential for conflict remains high, as ignorance and misunderstandings can easily arise from a distance. Shallow interactions are ultimately insufficient to build the deep trust and cross-ethnic solidarity required for a stable community (Crul et al., 2020). Furthermore, local community culture heavily influences how residents perceive justice and their acceptance of dispute resolution outcomes in multicultural environments, suggesting that without deep integration, settling grievances remains a significant challenge (Saputra et al., 2022).

The factors influencing inter-ethnic interaction in settlements are highly complex. The physical design of the environment, such as the presence or absence of shared spaces that bring residents together, significantly determines the frequency of contact. The homogeneity or heterogeneity of the population composition influences whether residents feel the need to interact across groups (Kyuvi et al., 2023). Formal and informal leadership in the neighborhood, such as local neighborhood heads and community figures, can facilitate or hinder interaction. Government policies regarding housing and settlements also play a role in creating conditions that support or discourage integration. Understanding these dynamics is essential for designing policies that promote harmony. The certainty of norms and the legitimacy of rule enforcement at the local level serve as the primary foundation for maintaining public order in these areas (Wibisono et al., 2023).

This study aims to conceptually analyze the patterns of inter-ethnic interaction in multicultural residential areas. The focus of the study is directed toward understanding the factors that influence the intensity and quality of interaction, the dynamics of relationships between groups, and the implications for social integration. The analysis will trace literature from urban sociology, anthropology, social psychology, and ethnic studies to build a comprehensive understanding. By limiting the study to literature, it is expected that a complete picture can be obtained

regarding how inter-ethnic interaction is formed and maintained in residential environments. This approach also considers how smart city initiatives can influence public perceptions of their quality of life in urban areas (Rojak, 2022).

Urban housing development policies often ignore the dimension of ethnic diversity. Housing is built based on economic considerations alone, without considering how the composition of residents will affect social interaction (Wiranegara et al., 2021). Consequently, a concentration of certain ethnic groups can occur in an area due to price factors or preferences, which actually reinforces segregation. On the other hand, housing programs aimed at mixing various groups without adequate social programs can lead to tension. Residents who are forced to live together without sufficient preparation may experience conflict. A more comprehensive approach to housing planning that considers social aspects is required. Non-compliance with environmental regulations in densely populated areas is also a risk that needs to be anticipated through organizational compliance frameworks (Rahmawati et al., 2023).

At the community level, the absence of adequate public spaces and joint programs that bring together residents from various backgrounds is also a problem (Setiawan, 2014). In many modern housing developments, facilities such as parks, children's playgrounds, or meeting halls may exist but are not designed to encourage interaction between residents (Kalsum, 2015). Residents spend more time inside their respective homes, interacting only with their nuclear families. Joint activities such as community service, religious recitals, or social gatherings may only be attended by certain groups. As a result, cross-ethnic interaction does not occur naturally. Deliberate interventions are needed to design spaces and programs that bring residents of various backgrounds together. Resident involvement through participatory practices and community-based social support is highly necessary to manage environmental issues collectively (Zulkarnain et al., 2021).

Urbanization continues at a high speed. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people from various regions move to big cities, bringing with them their cultures, languages, and habits (Kalsum, 2015). Cities are becoming increasingly ethnically diverse. New settlements are emerging, and the composition of old settlements is changing. The process of

adaptation and integration between groups takes place every day in the living environment. If this process proceeds positively, the city will become a place where diversity becomes a strength. If negative, settlements can become pockets of tension ready to explode. Understanding the dynamics of inter-ethnic interaction in settlements is becoming increasingly important for managing urbanization well. This urbanization phenomenon often brings challenges in the form of social inequality that hinders the creation of ideal social cohesion (Mardikaningsih, 2021).

Amidst the strengthening of identity politics and intolerance in various regions, the living environment can become the last bastion of harmony (Kyuvi et al., 2023). This is where people from different backgrounds must coexist every day, regardless of the grand narratives that may be divisive. If identity politics strengthens at the national level, but residents remain harmonious at the local level, there is hope that social cohesion can still be maintained. Conversely, if conflict has penetrated the living environment, then national integration is truly threatened. Understanding the factors that allow multicultural settlements to survive as oases of harmony is very important. Furthermore, mediation plays a crucial role in resolving family disputes or personal conflicts to maintain stability at the household level (Zahid et al., 2021). Economic conditions such as food vulnerability in poor households in densely populated areas also influence the stability of social relations between residents (Mahmudah, 2021).

This study aims to analyze the factors influencing the intensity and quality of inter-ethnic interaction in multicultural residential areas. The research will explore how physical environmental aspects, population composition, local leadership, government policies, and socio-cultural factors shape patterns of resident interaction. Furthermore, this study aims to understand the dynamics of inter-ethnic relationships in settlements and their implications for social integration and potential conflict. The analysis will examine how positive interaction can build social capital and cross-group trust, as well as how a failure in interaction can trigger tension. The theoretical contribution of this study is to present a conceptual mapping of the role of settlements in inter-ethnic integration, which can serve as a foundation for future empirical research. Practically, the results of the study are expected to provide input

for urban planners, housing developers, local governments, and community leaders to design and manage settlements that support inter-ethnic harmony.

## Method

This research is designed as a literature study with a qualitative approach. This method was chosen because the main objective of the study is to understand and interpret the phenomenon of inter-ethnic interaction in multicultural residential areas through the analysis of relevant literature. As explained by Walliman (2021), research is essentially a systematic process to find answers to questions, and a literature study is an appropriate choice when the data source comes from written documentation. The research process follows the guidelines of Snyder (2019), which emphasize that a literature review as a method must be conducted systematically, transparently, and accountably. The initial step is to identify and collect relevant library materials, including textbooks, scientific journal articles, research institute reports, and previous research findings discussing multicultural settlements, inter-ethnic interaction, social integration, urban sociology, and the intersection of these four topics. Data collection was carried out using a structured approach with specific keywords to ensure the scope of the study remains focused on the problem formulation.

Data analysis in this literature study uses qualitative content analysis techniques. Gupta and Gupta (2022) emphasize that in library research, the researcher acts as the key instrument who interprets the text. Data is not analyzed statistically but rather by reading, understanding, and making sense of the arguments within the literature. This process involves data reduction, namely selecting essential parts that answer the research questions, and then organizing them into thematic categories. Mohajan (2018) explains that a qualitative approach in the social sciences aims to understand phenomena from the perspective of the idea producers, who in this study are the authors and researchers whose works are being reviewed. The researcher must be able to capture the nuances of thought and academic debate within the literature regarding multicultural settlements and inter-ethnic interaction. Frank and Hatak (2014) underline that a literature review is not merely a

summary but an effort to build a new argument based on a critical evaluation of existing works. The synthesis from various sources is then compiled into a coherent analytical narrative regarding inter-ethnic interaction in multicultural residential areas.

## Result and Discussion

### Factors Influencing Inter-Ethnic Interaction in Settlements

The physical environment of a settlement is an initial factor that significantly influences the patterns of social interaction between ethnic groups. The physical design of the settlement environment plays a fundamental role in facilitating or hindering inter-ethnic interaction (Ganji & Rishbeth, 2020). The layout of houses, the existence of shared spaces such as parks or fields, the width of roads, and the placement of public facilities such as shared laundry areas, drying areas, or communal wells all influence how often residents from various backgrounds meet. In urban villages with narrow alleys and shared facilities, interaction occurs more naturally. Residents pass each other every day, children play together in limited spaces, and mothers meet at shared laundry areas. In modern housing with high-fenced houses and private yards, interaction is much rarer. Residents stay inside more, and meetings only occur if intentionally scheduled. Physical design can thus encourage or inhibit contact between groups. Consequently, the spatial layout of a settlement has a major influence on creating opportunities for inter-ethnic social interaction. Socially formed environmental values also determine how residents make decisions regarding their daily consumption patterns (Mardikaningsih et al., 2022).

In addition to physical factors, the demographic composition of the residents also influences the dynamics of relationships between groups in an area. Demographic composition affects the dynamics of interaction. Settlements with highly unequal compositions, where one ethnicity dominates numerically, tend to make minority groups feel marginalized and withdraw from interaction (Marsiglia et al., 2021). Conversely, settlements with a balanced composition encourage all groups to approach one another because no single group is dominant. However, a balanced composition can also trigger competition if not managed properly. The presence of a significant third ethnic group can also serve as a balancer and

mediator. Population composition is not destiny; with good leadership, any composition can be managed. However, understanding the composition is the first step in designing appropriate interventions. Therefore, the demographic structure of the population is one of the important factors in determining the quality of inter-ethnic interaction. Racial discrimination that emerges within the population structure can exert psychological pressure and affect an individual's social engagement within a multicultural community (Pakpahan et al., 2022).

Economic factors also influence social relations between groups within a settlement. The homogeneity or heterogeneity of socio-economic status affects interaction. Different ethnic groups that share a similar economic status tend to interact more easily because they share common interests and lifestyles (Berray, 2019). Conversely, sharp economic disparities between groups can create social distance even if they live in close proximity. Wealthier groups may feel no need to interact with the poorer ones, or conversely, the poorer group may feel inferior. In many cases, social class determines social patterns more than ethnicity does. Settlements that successfully integrate residents across ethnic lines are often those with relative economic equality. Thus, relative economic equality can be a supporting factor for the creation of more harmonious social interactions between ethnic groups. Disparities in access to education in developing countries often become a determining factor that widens such social distances (Rojak & Khayru, 2022).

In addition to socio-economic conditions, local leadership factors also exert a significant influence on the quality of relations between residents. Formal and informal leadership within the neighborhood heavily determines the quality of interaction (Potluka, 2021). A neighborhood leader who is active, fair, and possesses a vision of togetherness can facilitate activities that bring residents from various backgrounds together. Community service, joint celebrations of holidays, religious recitals, social gatherings, or joint sporting activities can serve as venues for positive interaction. Respected community figures, such as religious leaders or village elders, can also act as social glue. They can bridge misunderstandings and serve as role models for tolerant attitudes. Conversely, leaders who are indifferent or even reinforce segregation will worsen the situation. Leadership is key. Therefore, inclusive and

visionary leadership is crucial in building harmonious relationships in multi-ethnic environments. Effective communication strategies are highly needed by leaders to manage potential conflicts that arise within multicultural teams or community groups (Marsal & Darmawan, 2022).

The existence of public facilities and joint activities can also serve as important means to strengthen social interaction. Well-designed shared facilities and activities can act as catalysts for interaction (Sahic & Savija, 2020). Comfortable parks, sports fields, meeting halls, or shared places of worship can become meeting points for residents. However, physical presence alone is not enough; there must be programs that encourage shared utilization. Activities involving all mothers, sports tournaments, Independence Day competitions, or cross-ethnic religious recitals need to be facilitated. These activities create collective memories of cooperation and togetherness, which serve as important social capital. Without joint activities, facilities will only be used separately by respective groups. Thus, the management of shared facilities accompanied by social activities can strengthen social cohesion in residential environments. Participatory activities such as community service are proven to strengthen communal ties while maintaining the cleanliness of public facilities at the village level (Saputra et al., 2023).

The history of inter-group relations serves as a critical determinant in shaping contemporary interaction patterns, as the legacy of past encounters continues to dictate today's social dynamics. Areas that have previously experienced ethnic conflict often harbor collective trauma, which manifests as deep-seated distrust and psychological barriers that are difficult to overcome (Thamotharampillai & Somasundaram, 2021). Conversely, regions characterized by a long-standing history of harmony possess robust social capital, where residents inherit narratives of cross-ethnic cooperation from previous generations. These inherited stories act as a resilient foundation for building further relationships, demonstrating that while history cannot be changed, a nuanced understanding of it is essential for designing effective reconciliation strategies tailored to specific local contexts.

To move toward a more cohesive future, a strategic approach is required to navigate the historical sensitivities of areas marked by past strife. Understanding the historical background of an area is vital in

designing efforts to rebuild harmonious social relations, especially in an era where external political pressures are intensifying. This task has become increasingly complex as the emergence of populist ethno-religious nationalism often poses a major challenge to domestic social integration and global governance (Fariz, 2021). By addressing these historical roots alongside modern political shifts, communities can better anticipate potential friction points and implement proactive measures to safeguard local stability against divisive national or global narratives.

The role of government through public policy also significantly determines the conditions of multicultural settlements. Central and local government policies greatly influence the state of multicultural settlements (Beeri et al., 2019). Housing policies that encourage the development of mixed housing or, conversely, those that allow developers to build exclusive housing, will determine population composition. Policies regarding public services, such as education and health, that are fair and non-discriminatory will affect the residents' sense of justice. Security policies that protect all groups equally will build a sense of safety. Policies that promote local culture and diversity can strengthen a shared identity. The government has a major role in creating conditions that support integration. Thus, inclusive public policies are highly necessary to support the creation of a harmonious social life within the environment. Adaptive capacity and the process of transformation in social policy are key to building social resilience within the community (Oluwatosin et al., 2023).

In addition to government policies, the dynamics of population mobility also affect social relations between residents. Migration dynamics and population mobility also influence interaction. Settlements with high mobility rates, where residents frequently come and go, find it difficult to build deep relationships (Vertovec, 2023). Every time a new resident arrives, the process of building trust must start from scratch. Conversely, settlements with long-term residents have a greater opportunity to develop strong bonds. A balance between openness to newcomers and population stability needs to be found. Newcomers need to be welcomed and well-integrated, while long-term residents need to be supported so they do not feel threatened. Therefore, good management of population mobility is essential to maintain the

stability of social relations in an area. The construction of social identity in contemporary society is heavily influenced by environmental dynamics as well as the group affiliations to which they belong (Hariani, 2023).

The development of communication technology has also begun to influence social interaction patterns in residential environments. Media and information technology have started to affect interactions in settlements (Graham & Dutton, 2019). WhatsApp groups can serve as effective means of communication and coordination, but they can also become sources of conflict if not managed well. Social media can strengthen existing bonds between residents, but it can also trigger misunderstandings through messages that are not communicated properly. Younger generations who are more familiar with technology may have different interaction patterns than their parents. Utilizing technology to strengthen social cohesion is a new challenge that needs to be addressed. Thus, the wise use of communication technology can be a means to strengthen social relations between residents. This shift in online communication patterns reflects a new dynamic in the social interactions of a digital society (Darmawan, 2021).

Overall, inter-ethnic interaction in settlements is influenced by various interconnected factors. An analysis of the factors influencing inter-ethnic interaction in settlements reveals that interaction is determined by a complexity of physical, demographic, economic, leadership, facility, historical, policy, mobility, and technological factors (Pratsinakis et al., 2017). No single factor stands alone; they all interact with one another. Understanding these factors is essential for designing appropriate interventions. Every settlement has a unique configuration of factors, so an approach that succeeds in one place may not be suitable in another. Therefore, a comprehensive and contextual approach is highly necessary to build harmonious social interactions in a multi-ethnic society. Psychological perspectives provide an additional foundation for understanding more complex social interactions (Darmawan et al., 2021). Furthermore, the protection of the best interests of children in post-divorce care (Fajar et al., 2021), the understanding of the double burden faced by career women (Fauzi, 2023), the role of women in eco-friendly consumption (Halizah & Nuraini, 2021), the transformation of gender roles (Negara & Khayru,

2022), and social perceptions toward the recovery of domestic violence victims (Issalillah & Khayru, 2021) are social dimensions that also color life in modern residential environments.

### **Inter-Ethnic Relationship Dynamics and Their Implications for Social Integration**

Intensive social interaction within residential environments is a key factor in building harmonious inter-ethnic relations. Sustained personal contact between residents of different ethnicities can gradually erode stereotypes and prejudice (Frost et al., 2022). When people live next door to one another for years, they have the opportunity to get to know each other personally, rather than as representatives of a group. They see that neighbors from other ethnicities are ordinary human beings with the same joys and sorrows, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. This direct experience is far more powerful in changing attitudes than any tolerance campaign. However, this personal contact only occurs if there are opportunities for meaningful interaction. Simply living in the same environment is not enough; interactions that allow for personal exchange are necessary. Thus, sustained personal interaction becomes an essential foundation for reducing prejudice and building more harmonious social relations. Shifting patterns of human relationships in contemporary urban societies demand adaptation to new ways of interacting (Irfan & Al Hakim, 2022).

In addition to eroding prejudice, interaction between residents also plays a role in building cross-group trust. Cross-group trust is built through repeated positive experiences in daily interactions (Weiss et al., 2022). When residents of different ethnicities help each other during difficulties, share food during religious holidays, or watch over a house while a neighbor is away, trust grows gradually. This trust then becomes an invaluable form of social capital. In situations where sensitive issues arise at the national level, this local trust can serve as a buffer that prevents conflict. Residents are not easily provoked by issues that pit ethnicities against each other because they have positive direct experiences. Building trust is a long-term process, but once established, it is very robust. Therefore, repeated positive interaction experiences are vital for strengthening trust between groups in a multi-ethnic

society. An understanding of behavioral principles within an organization or community is highly helpful in creating stability in these relationships (Darmawan, 2013).

Joint social activities also strengthen relationships between residents from different ethnic backgrounds. Cross-ethnic mutual cooperation in community activities reinforces solidarity and a sense of togetherness. Community service to clean the environment, maintaining security through night patrol, organizing holiday celebrations, or raising funds for residents affected by disasters are activities that involve all residents regardless of ethnicity. Participation in these joint activities creates a sense of belonging to the neighborhood and a sense of shared responsibility (Procentese & Gatti, 2022). Residents feel that they are part of one community, not just a collection of individuals who happen to live in the same place. This solidarity becomes the foundation of social integration. Thus, participation in joint activities can strengthen social cohesion in multicultural residential environments. The involvement of women in human resource management practices at the local level also adds dimension to gender equality within the community (Infante & Darmawan, 2022).

One of the strongest indicators of successful social integration is the emergence of cross-ethnic kinship ties. Inter-ethnic marriage is both the strongest indicator and reinforcer of integration. When residents from different ethnicities marry, they create kinship ties that transcend group boundaries (Pakistanis, 2021). Children from mixed marriages grow up with an understanding and appreciation of two cultures simultaneously. The kinship networks formed connect two groups that may have previously been separate. Mixed marriage cannot be forced, but an environment that supports positive interaction creates conditions where it is more likely to occur. A high rate of mixed marriage in a settlement is a sign of highly advanced integration. Therefore, mixed marriage can be an important indicator of successful social integration in society. Nevertheless, underage marriage must be cautioned against as it can have adverse impacts on future household welfare (Aliyah et al., 2023).

Despite various factors encouraging social integration, the reality is that these inter-ethnic relationships do not always develop ideally.

However, these positive dynamics do not always occur. In many cases, what develops is actually passive tolerance, where residents from different ethnicities coexist peacefully but without meaningful interaction. They greet one another and perhaps help each other in emergencies, but they do not have deep personal relationships. Social life takes place within their respective groups. This passive tolerance is better than conflict, but it is fragile. In high-pressure situations, passive tolerance can easily collapse. True integration requires more than just tolerance; it requires interaction that builds trust and solidarity (Sevinc, 2022). Thus, the existence of passive tolerance is not sufficient to guarantee the creation of strong social integration in a multi-ethnic society. Social transformation in the information technology era also compels society to analyze potential algorithmic biases that may arise in automated justice systems (Mardikaningsih & Oluwatoyin, 2023).

In addition to passive tolerance, the potential for conflict can also be hidden behind seemingly harmonious social relations. Latent conflict can emerge in settlements that appear peaceful. Tensions may simmer beneath the surface, manifesting only in gossip or innuendos. There may be economic competition, envy, or unresolved old grudges. If not managed properly, this latent conflict can explode into open conflict, especially if there is a trigger from the outside (Zartman, 2019). Proactive leadership is essential for detecting and managing tensions before they escalate. Informal mediation by community figures can prevent escalation. Latent conflict is a time bomb that needs to be defused. Therefore, early detection and conflict management efforts are vital steps in maintaining the stability of inter-ethnic relations in residential environments. Good governance is required to avoid collective empathy fatigue within public service systems that handle community conflicts (Khayru & Darmawan, 2023).

The role of the younger generation is also an important factor in determining the direction of inter-ethnic relations in the future. Children and teenagers play a significant role in the inter-ethnic dynamics of settlements (Burgess & Platt, 2021). They are generally more open and less bound by taught prejudices. Playing together from a young age creates strong and natural bonds. As they grow into adulthood, these bonds can persist and serve as bridges between groups. However, parental

and environmental influences can alter children's attitudes. If parents teach prejudice, children can learn to hate. School education also plays a role in shaping their attitudes. Facilitating positive interaction among children of various ethnicities is a long-term investment for integration. Thus, fostering tolerant attitudes from an early age is a key strategy in building sustainable social interaction. Legal guarantees for children's rights in education and health are crucial factors that support their growth and development (Hariani et al., 2021).

In addition to the role of the younger generation, religious institutions also exert a significant influence on inter-group relations within society. The presence of religious institutions in settlements can act as either a unifying or dividing factor (Mulya & Schafer, 2023). If religious figures from various faiths know and cooperate with one another, they can serve as role models for tolerance. Joint religious activities, such as interfaith dialogues or cross-house-of-worship visits, can strengthen understanding. However, if religious institutions become bases for exclusivism, they can reinforce segregation. Mosques, churches, temples, and monasteries that are open and inclusive are valuable assets for integration. Conversely, those that are closed and serve only specific groups can become dividing walls. Therefore, the role of religious figures and religious institutions is vital in encouraging the creation of a tolerant and inclusive social life. Failures in protection systems often exacerbate the cycle of vulnerability for marginal groups, such as street children in urban areas (Aidan Bin Abdullah, 2021).

Resident participation in community organizations also makes an important contribution to strengthening social relations at the local level. Participation in community organizations at the district level can reinforce integration. Organizations such as youth groups or neighborhood forums serve as venues where residents from various backgrounds work together toward common goals. Through these organizations, they learn to practice democracy, solve problems together, and build consensus. The experience of collaborating within an organization creates mutual trust and solidarity. Inclusive community organizations are an essential infrastructure for social integration (Akinyetun et al., 2021). Thus, community organizations can function as strategic spaces for building cross-ethnic cooperation and solidarity in

society. Diversity and inclusion within organizations have now become an essential part of the social order in both the workplace and the community (Irfan & Hariani, 2023).

Overall, the dynamics of inter-ethnic relations in settlements have important implications for the process of social integration. An analysis of the dynamics of inter-ethnic relations and their implications for social integration reveals that positive interaction in settlements can erode stereotypes, build trust, strengthen solidarity, and even create kinship ties through mixed marriages. However, passive tolerance, latent conflict, and negative influences from the outside remain challenges. Children, religious institutions, and community organizations are key arenas where integration is championed. Successful multicultural settlements are those capable of transforming diversity from a potential conflict into a collective strength (Jason, 2023). Therefore, efforts to build inclusive interaction and cross-group cooperation are key to creating a harmonious society in a multi-ethnic environment. Emancipation and the active role of women in community development significantly influence social progress (Issalillah et al., 2022). This is also closely related to the double burden often faced by career women within the current gender structure of society (Khairi, 2021). The synergy of all these community elements will ultimately strengthen social resilience in facing the ever-evolving complexities of urban life.

## Conclusion

This literature study has analyzed inter-ethnic interaction in multicultural residential areas by tracing the factors that influence interaction, as well as the dynamics of relationships and their implications for social integration. Inter-ethnic interaction in settlements is influenced by various interrelated factors. The physical design of the environment determines how often residents from different backgrounds meet naturally. Demographic composition and economic disparities influence the dynamics of relationships. Active and fair local leadership can facilitate positive interaction through various joint activities. The existence of shared facilities and programs that encourage their use becomes a catalyst for interaction. The history of past relationships between groups shapes the social capital or trauma

carried today. Government policies on housing and public services create structural conditions that support or hinder integration. Migration dynamics and population mobility affect opportunities to build long-term relationships. Technology and media are starting to play new roles in resident interactions. The dynamics of inter-ethnic relations in settlements have important implications for social integration. Continuous personal contact can erode stereotypes and prejudices, build cross-group trust, and strengthen solidarity through *gotong royong* (mutual cooperation). Inter-ethnic intermarriage creates strong kinship ties. However, passive tolerance without meaningful interaction remains fragile. Latent conflict can emerge if tensions are not managed. Children and adolescents are important agents of integration. Religious institutions can be unifiers or dividers. Inclusive community organizations strengthen cooperation. Successful multicultural settlements are those capable of creating conditions where positive interaction occurs naturally and sustainably, building social capital that becomes the foundation of national integration.

The findings of this study imply the need for an integrated approach in the planning and management of settlements that considers the dimensions of ethnic diversity. Urban planners and housing developers need to design environments that physically encourage interaction, with shared spaces that bring residents together. Local governments need to develop housing policies that prevent segregation and encourage diverse population compositions. Community empowerment programs need to be designed to facilitate cross-ethnic interaction, not just focus on economic aspects. Local leadership needs to be strengthened through training on diversity management and conflict resolution. Shared facilities such as parks, community halls, and places of worship need to be managed inclusively. Joint activities such as community service, holiday celebrations, and competitions need to be designed to involve all groups. Education in schools needs to be strengthened with materials about living together in diversity. Community organizations need to be encouraged to be inclusive. Local media needs to report positively on cross-ethnic joint activities.

Further research is suggested to conduct comparative ethnographic studies in various multicultural settlements to document in detail the

dynamics of interaction and success factors. Longitudinal studies on the development of inter-ethnic relations in new settlements need to be conducted to understand the integration process over time. Research on the role of digital technology in resident interactions in settlements needs attention. For urban planners, it is suggested to adopt design standards that encourage social interaction, such as providing sufficient public space and facilitating pedestrian circulation. For housing developers, it is suggested not only to focus on commercial aspects but also to consider the social impact of their designs. For local governments, it is suggested to formulate housing policies that encourage diversity, for example, by requiring developers to provide units for various economic classes. For local chairpersons and community leaders, it is suggested to actively facilitate joint activities involving all residents regardless of background. For residents, it is suggested to be open, greet neighbors, and participate in neighborhood activities. For academics, it is suggested to continue researching and documenting.

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