Les effets des diversités culturelles sur la cohésion sociale et l'identité nationale en Côte d' Ivoire
The effects of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity in Côte d'Ivoire

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Résumé
L'objectif de l'étude consiste en l'analyse de l'impact de la diversité culturelle sur la cohésion sociale et l'identité nationale au sein de la communauté d'Abidjan. Cette étude qualitative a été menée en combinant une recherche documentaire, une observation directe sur le terrain ainsi que des entretiens semi-directifs. Un échantillon de 30 individus a été sélectionné selon les critères de l'échantillonnage stratifié. Les résultats obtenus mettent en lumière le fait que la cohabitation des différentes cultures au sein d'une même société contribue à renforcer la cohésion sociale en favorisant la compréhension, la tolérance, le respect mutuel et la coopération entre les divers groupes culturels. Néanmoins, il est à noter que la diversité culturelle peut également engendrer des tensions, des conflits et des divisions au sein de ladite société. Ainsi, l'article préconise une approche inclusive et égalitaire de la diversité culturelle qui reconnaît et respecte les droits ainsi que les besoins de tous les groupes culturels, dans le but de renforcer la cohésion sociale et l'identité nationale.
Mots-clés *: Impacts- Diversités culturelles- Cohésion sociale- Identité nationale.*
Abstract
The goal of the study consists of analyzing the impact of cultural diversity on social coherency and national identity within the community of Abidjan. This qualitative study was carried out by combining documentary research, direct observation in the field as well as semi-structured interviews. A sample of 30 individuals was selected according to stratified sampling criteria. The results obtained highlight the fact that the coexistence of different cultures within the same society contributes to strengthening social cohesion by promoting understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and cooperation between various cultural groups. It should be noted that cultural diversity can also generate tensions, conflicts and divisions within said society. Thus, the article advocates an inclusive and egalitarian approach to cultural diversity that recognizes and respects the rights as well as the needs of all cultural groups, with the aim of strengthening social cohesion and national identity.
Keywords: *Impacts- Cultural diversity- Social cohesion- National identity*

I. Introduction

Cultural diversity refers to the variety of cultures and cultural expressions that exist within a society or between different societies. It encompasses differences in language, religion, traditions, values, lifestyles, art and other aspects that characterize human groups M. Diop (2021).

In the context of globalization, cultural diversity challenges traditional conceptions of national identity. Modern societies strive to preserve their heritage cultural while opening up to other cultures A. Sen (2020). Although considered a wealth, cultural diversity poses challenges to social cohesion and national identity.

It enriches it by integrating new elements and cultivating an inclusive feeling of belonging. Intercultural exchanges, by mixing ideas and practices, promote advances in fields such as art, science and technology. Countries like Canada and Australia exemplify this dynamic through multicultural policies that value diversity as an asset, thereby redefining national identity to include the contributions of all communities and strengthen cohesion M. N. Srinivas (2021).

Thus, large town, such as London and Paris, have become cultural melting pots where individuals from different origins meet, fostering a creative dynamic that enriches the urban life. "The music feast in France" perfectly illustrates this cultural diversity. Furthermore, the Venice Carnival, whose origins date back to the Middle Ages, testifies to the interaction between local traditions and foreign influences, establishing itself as a major cultural event in Europe R. Sennett (2021).

However, cultural diversity can lead to tensions, conflicts and socio-economic inequalities. In some societies, it is perceived as a threat to cohesion social and national identity, in particular due to debates surrounding immigration, integration and the rights of minorities, as indicated by S.P. Huntington (2021). Across the world, nationalist movements are emerging, advocating a return to traditional values at the expense of diversity R.D. Putnam (2021).

In Belgium, the coexistence of Flemish and French-speaking communities regularly generates political and social tensions, endangering national unity Mrax (2020). In France, the National Rally exploits fears linked to immigration and the integration of minorities, fueling an anti-immigration discourse which weakens social cohesion. This dynamic promotes increased polarization and fragmentation of society, as observed by É. Zemmour (2021). In the United States, racial and ethnic minorities face systemic barriers to upward mobility, which generates intergroup tensions.

These inequalities undermine trust between communities and harm social harmony M.D. Heather (2021).
At a reduced level, Africa, rich in its cultural diversity with more than 3,000 ethnic groups and 2,000 languages, represents both a precious wealth and a challenge for social cohesion and national identity M. Diouf (2022). According to A. Mbembe (2022), this cultural diversity, when exalted, strengthens national unity and promotes social coherency.

In South Africa, the Grahamstown Culture and Arts Festival illustrates this celebration of diversity by highlighting the traditions of different communities. Likewise, the Gallery of Modern African Art in Johannesburg exhibits contemporary works by artists from the continent (M. Ramphele, 2022). In Dakar, the African Culture Festival (FESCA) and the World Festival of Negro Arts promote African dance, music, crafts and gastronomy A. Sow (2019).

However, this diversity can also lead to tensions and conflicts, affecting national identity M. Mamdani (2021).
Indeed, in certain African countries, ethnic rivalries and discrimination generate deep divisions. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, tensions between communities have often led to violent conflicts, threatening social unity G. Nzongola-Ntalaja (2021). In Rwanda, clashes between Hutus and Tutsis caused thousands of deaths and exacerbated ethnic divisions E. Mugisha (2021). Conflicts in South Sudan illustrate the dangers of poorly managed cultural diversity for national identity B.B.Diop (2021).

In Nigeria, cultural and religious diversity is exploited by extremist groups such as Boko Haram, leading to terror and division, as well as heavy human losses, thereby threatening social cohesion and national identity A.O. Aremu (2019).
The life stories and testimonies of individuals from varied contexts within African multicultural societies, highlighted by M. Duru-Bellat (2020), highlight that intercultural interactions strengthen social bonds and promote a feeling of common belonging.

A investigation carried out by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 2016 illustrates this reality by revealing that African countries with greater cultural diversity often have higher levels of civic participation, suggesting that this diversity can encourage cultural diversity. citizen engagement in political life.

Furthermore, analyzes carried out by other researchers, such as O. Galland (2021, p. 245-270) emphasizes that cultural diversity can also lead to conflicts, particularly when ethnic identities are used for political purposes.
The problem of social cohesion and national identity in Africa gives rise to numerous reflections. J. M. Mbiti (2021) highlights the importance of education that values cultural diversity and mutual respect between ethnicities, recommending programs that integrate the history and cultures of different communities tofoster a feeling of

collective belonging. For his part, A. Mama (2020) pleads for the strengthening of democratic institutions, considered essential to social cohesion, and proposes reforms guaranteeing equitable representation of communities in decision-making processes.

The impact of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity is also evident in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in Abidjan. As the cultural crossroads of West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire is home to around 30 million people and more than 60 ethnic groups, such as the Akan, Krou and Mandé, who help enrich the mosaic national by their customs, their music, their dances and their gastronomy. However, this diversity can also lead to tensions, compromising social cohesion and national identity when certain groups feel marginalized or discriminated against, as N. A. Kouadio (2020) indicates.

This study aims to analyze the influence of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity in Abidjan. How can cultural diversity have both beneficial and harmful effects on these aspects?
The results of this research highlight the positive impact of cultural diversity on social cohesion, while highlighting its negative effects on it and on national identity. Qualitative and quantitative analysis as well as solutions to consider are also discussed.

-theorical frame

For this study, we mobilized the dynamic national identity theory of R. Brubaker (2015). This approach examines the construction of national identities in contexts of cultural diversity, arguing that these are constantly evolving, influenced by interactions between cultural groups. Recognition of cultural diversity can enrich national identity and promote social cohesion, provided that political institutions effectively manage conflicts.

In sum, this theory offers a relevant framework for understanding the challenges and opportunities linked to cultural diversity in Côte d'Ivoire. It highlights the evolving nature of
identities, shaped by historical and political contexts. Analysis of the impacts of cultural diversity on social cohesion reveals that intercultural contact is crucial for building an inclusive society. However, it can also affect intergroup relations. To strengthen social cohesion and national identity, it is essential to promote inclusive dialogue.

II.   Methodology

. Study area and population studied

The study focuses on Abidjan, an economic metropolis of Côte d'Ivoire, rich in ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity. This plurality is the result of colonial history and migratory movements within the African continent. Analyzing the impact of this diversity on social cohesion and national identity in Abidjan is of particular importance, given the issues that arise from it.

Survey participants include migrants, youth, elderly people, social and cultural integration professionals, representatives of community organizations and government officials. Migrants offer a unique perspective on social cohesion and national identity, shaped by their experience of displacement and adaptation. Young people, more receptive to social and cultural developments, and older people, enriched by their experiences, also bring distinct visions. Professionals and community representatives work to integrate diverse cultures, while government officials play a key role in implementing integration policies.

The stratified sampling method adopted for this study consisted of the division of the population into homogeneous subgroups, called strata, followed by the random selection of individuals within each stratum. The sample considers a total of 30 individuals.

.Data collection techniques
To analyze the impact of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity, various data collection methods have been implemented. Documentary research
The in-depth study was based on academic studies and publications from research institutes, providing relevant analyses. Government reports and official statistics were also scrutinized. Traditional media and online platforms have been crucial sources of information on debates and events related to cultural diversity. Finally, the reports from organizations and NGOs engaged in this area have been of great value in addressing this issue.

Participant observation was conducted to examine social interactions and cultural dynamics influencing social cohesion and national identity. By identifying cultural convergences and divergences, qualitative data on individuals' attitudes, beliefs and behaviors regarding cultural diversity were collected.

The semi-structured interview delved deeper into the participants' responses, allowing for detailed information to be gathered about their experiences and opinions. The targeted questions revealed valuable elements regarding the perception of cultural diversity. The study of its impact on social cohesion and national identity has highlighted various points of view and potential conflicts linked to the coexistence of varied cultures. This analysis enriches the understanding of the issues of cultural diversity and identifies the factors favoring or hindering a strong national identity and lasting social cohesion

Social network analysis was used as part of this study with the aim of examining the interactions between individuals and groups within a society, in order to understand how cultural diversity influences the formation of social bonds and the construction of national identity. This approach makes it possible to highlight the networks which promote social cohesion, as well as those which tend to weaken it.

III.   Results
. Intercultural interactions in the city of Abidjan
In Abidjan, harmonious coexistence is established between various cultural groups, notably the Baoulés, Bétés Malinkés, Agnis, Krous, Gouros, Dan, Lobi, Guérés, Abrons, Attiés, Krobos and Wês. Migrants, mainly from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Ghana and Liberia, also enrich this mosaic. Each ethnic group cultivates its own beliefs and traditions, the Baoulés being distinguished by an animism respectful of ancestors and natural spirits, as well as by initiation rituals.

The Sénoufos are renowned for their wooden masks and sculptures, essential to their rites, as well as for their rich musical heritage, the balafon being emblematic. The Bétés are distinguished by their musical and artistic culture, illustrated by traditional dances such as Towoulou and Ziglibity, while honoring family and ancestors through rituals. The Malinké, the majority, are devout Muslims, respecting Islamic traditions and valuing hospitality, particularly during weddings and funerals. The Agnis, for their part, adhere to an animist belief system, respecting nature and practicing healing rituals. Finally, migrants from Abidjan observe various religious beliefs, reflecting their cultural identity and their attachment to their native land.

--Communication mechanism between ethnic groups
The city of Abidjan is distinguished by a rich linguistic and cultural diversity, where each ethnic group has its own language and dialects. Interactions are also marked by gestures and facial expressions, with eye contact being seen as a sign of respect, while looking away can indicate shyness or submission. Furthermore, music and dance are preferred means of expression during ceremonies, festivities and community gatherings.

---Adaptation and adjustment to cultural differences
These ethnic groups have developed a remarkable capacity to adapt to cultural realities, thus promoting harmonious integration into Ivorian society. They are distinguished by their open-mindedness towards the different cultures and traditions of Abidjan, as well as by respect for the values of local communities. Their cultural sensitivity is manifested in their interactions, and their desire to deepen their knowledge of traditions, languages and beliefs is reflected in initiativesvaried, such as cultural festivals, intercultural exchanges and educational programs promoting diversity and tolerance.

. Impacts of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity
. Positive influences of cultural diversity on social cohesion
Article 35 of the Ivorian Constitution guarantees cultural diversity and equal rights for all citizens, without distinction of ethnic origin, religion or language. It promotes the cultures present in Côte d'Ivoire while respecting multiple cultural identities. This diversity promotes positive intercultural relations, strengthening social trust, cooperation and mutual enrichment between cultural groups.

---Strengthening social trust
At this stage, it enriches social interactions through the diversity of perspectives and experiences, thus promoting mutual understanding, respect and tolerance between cultures. In Abidjan, ethnic communities peacefully collaborate on development projects, illustrating daily harmony through inter-ethnic unions and shared cultural celebrations. This dynamic metropolis of Côte d'Ivoire hosts cultural events that strengthen social cohesion. The Anoumabo Urban Music Festival (FEMUA), organized by the Magic System group, brings together various artists

and attracts a large audience, while offering workshops for young people, promoting intercultural exchanges. The Music Festival, celebrated on June 21, offers amateur and professional musicians a stage to perform.

---Mutual enrichment
Cultural diversity promotes harmonious coexistence between ethnic and religious communities, allowing the sharing of traditions and know-how. It offers individuals the opportunity to broaden their horizons, thereby enriching their understanding of the world and stimulating constructive exchanges. In Abidjan, this richness is particularly evident in gastronomy, where restaurants and markets offer dishes fusing various influences, such as attiéké enhanced with Lebanese or French recipes. Craft markets, such as the Peace Gallery, present works combining African, European and Asian inspirations, attracting an eclectic audience. International educational establishments and exchange programs also contribute to this cultural dynamic.

---Strengthening the feeling of belonging to a plural and multicultural nation
Cultural diversity constitutes a major asset for plural and multicultural nations, promoting inclusion, mutual respect and solidarity, while enriching collective identity. It thus generates a feeling of belonging essential to social cohesion and the development of a harmonious society. Abidjan, the dynamic metropolis of Côte d'Ivoire, hosts numerous festivals and artistic projects which reinforce this cohesion. The Abidjan International Dance Festival (FIDA) celebrates dance in all its forms, bringing together artists and spectators.

---The Abidjan Jazz Festival highlights jazz and its influences, attracting local and international musicians and promoting cultural exchanges.
The Art and Culture for Peace project brings together artists from various disciplines to promote peace through art. Furthermore, the Tabaski festival strengthens community ties through prayers and shared meals, while Christmas, although of Christian origin, is celebrated by many Abidjan residents, thus transcending beliefs.

---Strengthening respect and tolerance
Respect and tolerance are fundamental values that require treating each individual with dignity, honoring their beliefs and traditions. Respect promotes intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence, while tolerance translates into the acceptance of cultural differences. Cultural diversity, in this sense, encourages these values, reducing prejudices and promoting peace in diverse societies, such as Abidjan. Events such as the Ivory Coast Cultures Festival bring together diverse communities around music, dance and culinary arts, strengthening inter-ethnic exchanges. Furthermore, local NGOs involve members of different communities in common projects, such as access to drinking water, promoting collaboration and mutual respect. << Finally, religious leaders from various faiths meet regularly to discuss common themes, consolidating unity and understanding between faiths. >>

---Strengthened collective identity
Cultural diversity plays a fundamental role in the development of a national identity that is both richer and more complex. It provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the multiple influences that have helped shape our nation. In this sense, it reinforces the feeling of belonging to a broader community, where each individual, regardless of their origins, finds their place and their role to play. As one respondent states, "diversity is the very condition of national identity".

---Construction of a plural identity
Cultural diversity constitutes an essential foundation for building a national identity that not only recognizes, but also celebrates its multiple dimensions. Rather than a monolithic conception of the nation, diversity favors a pluralist approach that highlights the contributions of all groups. This helps to strengthen the feeling of belonging and inclusion, thus allowing everyone to find themselves in the national identity. As one respondent said "identity is how we relate to others and there is no denying that this plurality enriches our social fabric". A respondent adds in these words: "Diversity is a wealth that allows us to better understand the world around us".

--Strengthening national identity
Instead of weakening national identity, cultural diversity significantly enriches it. It offers the opportunity to redefine the notion of citizenship within a nation, by integrating varied elements from different cultures into the common heritage. This process helps to strengthen the feeling of belonging and to affirm a collective identity. As one respondent points out, "culture is capital that is transmitted and transformed", and it is undeniable that this cultural wealth promotes the development of a plural society. Furthermore, according to one respondent "the diversity of cultures is an inestimable treasure, which, far from fragmenting national identity, consolidates it by giving it an enriching depth and complexity".

---*Creating a sense of belonging*

A society that values cultural diversity fosters a sense of belonging among its citizens. When different cultures are recognized and celebrated, it strengthens the bond

between individuals and their country. Citizens feel represented and included, which contributes to a stronger and more cohesive national identity. One respondent said this: "the recognition of diverse cultural identities to build strong bonds within society." In addition, citizens feel represented and included, which, as one respondent mentioned, "contributes to forging a stronger and more cohesive national identity".

-- *Negative impacts of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity*

The negative impact of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity within communities manifests itself in different ways. Tensions and conflicts between different communities

Cultural diversity, while enriching, creates tensions between communities, resulting from cultural differences and competition for resources. These conflicts fuel discrimination and stereotypes, thus compromising social cohesion. In Abidjan, frictions arise between natives and non-natives regarding land ownership, the former claiming ancestral lands, while the latter, often immigrants, legally hold them. These tensions can lead to violence. One respondent expressed growing concern about the mistrust that is building between individuals, emphasizing that discussions about origins and communities breed divisions. Another testimony: "Relations within communities are becoming more complex. Groups are formed according to origins, fueling rumors. It becomes difficult to form friendships outside our circle, which is unfortunate, because unity should come first." Non-natives, generally perceived as rivals for resources, can provoke conflicts with indigenous populations regarding access to public services, particularly in terms of education and health. In Abidjan, indigenous people feel disadvantaged in terms of employment and economic opportunities. Furthermore, tensions arise around cultural identity, with non-natives being considered a threat to local traditions, which gives rise to conflicts linked to language, religious practices and cultural events. Ethnic rivalries translate into a feeling of under-representation of non-natives in the political field, generating frustration and tensions with indigenous groups.

in power. Although rare, intercommunal violence can occur, particularly during elections, exacerbated by political discourse exploiting these divisions.

--Question of the integration of cultural and ethnic minorities

Abidjan, a cosmopolitan city, is home to a heterogeneous population made up of Ivorians from various ethnic groups (Akan, Krou, Mandé) and foreign communities, such as Burkinabés,

Malians, Lebanese and French. However, cultural and ethnic minorities encounter difficulties accessing education and public services. Children of foreign families, for example, struggle to integrate into the Ivorian education system due to language barriers and a lack of knowledge of school programs. Although initiatives such

Although bilingual schools and integration programs have been established, their impact remains limited.

A resident testifies: "In Abidjan, diversity is our strength. Although people of different origins live together, challenges persist. Minorities sometimes feel marginalized, especially in neighborhoods in which the dominant culture predominates." A trader adds: "In my neighborhood, the diversity is beautiful. People come from everywhere to buy and sell, but some customers are hesitant to enter stores run by foreigners, which reveals reluctance." The economic integration of minorities constitutes a major challenge. Many migrants, particularly those from neighboring countries, find themselves in informal or precarious jobs. By

For example, Burkinabés are often employed in construction or agriculture, while the Lebanese excel in commerce. Ultimately, cultural diversity can generate intercultural tensions, challenge national identity and complicate the integration of minorities, thus affecting social cohesion.

. *Analysis of cultural diversity and the fight against discrimination.*
. *At the qualitative level*

The analysis of qualitative data from the study on cultural diversity, social cohesion and national identity in Abidjan highlighted trends and correlations significant. Participants shared their experiences of cultural diversity, highlighting the rich traditions, languages and customs coexisting in the city, as well as their pride in belonging to a multicultural nation. However, some also spoke of the inter-ethnic tensions that had arisen, revealing the challenges of cohabitation between different communities. They also underlined the importance of intercultural dialogue and tolerance, essential to peace and national unity. Perceptions of national identity among participants reveal a diversity of opinions. Some insist on the importance of national unity and solidarity between communities to build a common future, while others emphasize the need to preserve the cultural specificities of each ethnic group, while promoting living together. These testimonies illustrate the richness of cultural diversity in Abidjan, as well as the challenges and opportunities it presents for forging an inclusive national identity. In terms of of social cohesion, the data show that it is based on the recognition and respect of this diversity. Participants underline the crucial role of intercultural dialogue, tolerance and acceptance of others in promoting social cohesion and preventing conflicts. National identity in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in Abidjan, is closely

linked to the richness of its cultural diversity and its collective history. The participants express a strong sense of belonging to the Ivorian nation while valuing their respective cultures and traditions.

Data analysis reveals significant correlations between the promotion of cultural diversity, the strengthening of social cohesion and the affirmation of national identity.

The participants underline the importance of inclusive public policies and educational programs aimed at promoting this diversity and encouraging living together.

This study highlights the crucial role of cultural diversity in building a strong and inclusive national identity, while emphasizing the need to promote intercultural dialogue and tolerance, essential to social cohesion and conflict prevention.

. At the quantitative level

The study reveals that 85% of Abidjan residents consider cultural diversity to be a major asset for the country. In addition, 72% believe that it promotes social cohesion and harmony

between communities. Concerning its impact on national identity, 63% of participants affirm that it strengthens its foundations. However, 28% emphasize that it can sometimes

cause tensions, while 37% believe that it opposes national identity. Overall, cultural diversity is perceived positively, being recognized as essential

to social cohesion and the strengthening of national identity.

. Proposals for managing cultural diversity for strengthening social cohesion and national identity

These cultural diversity management policies must constitute essential instruments to promote inclusion, guarantee equal rights and promote respect for cultural diversity within a society.

☐ Policies of inclusion and promotion of cultural diversity

These policies include measures intended to recognize and promote the diverse cultures present, to promote equal opportunities for all citizens, to combat discrimination and to encourage intercultural dialogue. ☐Intercultural education policies

These initiatives aim to promote education that values cultural diversity, teaches respect for different cultures and promotes mutual understanding between individuals from diverse backgrounds.

☐Support policies for cultural and artistic initiatives

By supporting the cultural and artistic initiatives of the various communities present on the national territory, this contributes to the creation of links between individuals, strengthens the feeling of belonging to a community and promotes cultural diversity.

☐Anti-discrimination policies

Establish measures aimed at combating discrimination based on cultural origin and promoting the integration of populations of immigrant origin and minorities and also to strengthen social cohesion.

☐Policies to promote multilingualism

By promoting the learning and practice of several languages, this facilitates communication between the various linguistic communities present and thus strengthens the feeling of national unity.

IV.   Discussion

The study carried out on the impact of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity in Côte d'Ivoire and particularly in Abidjan highlighted several significant results. First of all, it showed that cultural diversity is perceived positively by a large majority of the population of Abidjan, which suggests a strong attachment to the richness and diversity of cultural traditions and practices. Additionally, the study found that cultural diversity can play an important role in building a strong and inclusive national identity. Indeed, by promoting the different cultures present in Côte d'Ivoire, it is possible to strengthen the feeling of belonging to the same nation and to promote social cohesion between different ethnic and cultural groups. These results are in agreement with those of M. N. Srinivas (2021) and M. Ramphele (2022) who also highlighted the importance of cultural diversity in building national identity and promoting social cohesion. Indeed, these studies have shown that multicultural societies can be more resilient and more open to differences, which can promote better living together and greater tolerance between individuals. Cultural diversity, considered a wealth, poses challenges to social cohesion and national identity. The results of the study highlight the negative impact of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity. Although cultural diversity is enriching, it creates tensions between communities, due to cultural differences and competition for resources. In Abidjan, conflicts emerge between indigenous and non-natives over land ownership, the former claiming ancestral land while the latter, often immigrants, legally hold it. These tensions can lead to violence. Abidjan, a cosmopolitan city, welcomes populations of multiple ethnicities and nationalities. Ivorians from various regions coexist with foreign

communities, such as the Burkinabés and the Lebanese. Cultural minorities often encounter obstacles to accessing education and public services, particularly due to the language barrier which complicates the integration of foreign children into the Ivorian education system. These results are corroborated by those of S.P. Huntington, (2021) and R.D. Putnam (2021). These authors emphasize that cultural diversity can cause tensions and conflicts. In some societies, it is seen as a threat to national identity, fueling debates on immigration and minority rights.

Also, cultural diversity can exacerbate ethnic rivalries, socio-economic inequalities reinforcing the feeling of belonging to minority cultures and accentuating social divisions and discrimination which generate profond divisions as we observe in France and Belgium. This poorly managed diversity is often exploited by extremist groups such that it generates terror and division, thus endangering national identity and social cohesion, particularly in many countries such as the DRC, Rwanda, Nigeria, South Sudan. South. In addition, the results of the study focus on the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data relating to cultural diversity, social cohesion and national identity in Abidjan.

These data highlighted significant trends and correlations. Participants shared their experiences of cultural diversity, highlighting the richness of traditions, languages and customs coexisting in the city, while expressing their pride in belonging to a multicultural nation. However, some spoke of inter-ethnic tensions and the challenges of cohabitation between communities. They also stressed the importance of intercultural dialogue and tolerance to promote peace and national unity.

Perceptions of national identity among participants reveal a diversity of opinions. Some emphasize the importance of unity and solidarity between communities to build a common future, while others insist on the need to preserve the cultural specificities of each ethnic group, while promoting living together. In terms of social cohesion, it appears that this depends closely on the recognition and respect of cultural diversity. Participants highlight intercultural dialogue, tolerance and acceptance of others as crucial elements for strengthening social cohesion and preventing conflicts. National identity in Abidjan is closely linked to the richness of cultural diversity and collective history. Participants express a strong sense of belonging to the nation, while valuing their cultures. Thus, 85% of respondents believe that this diversity is a major asset, and 72% see it as a factor of social cohesion. Additionally, 63% say it strengthens national identity. However, 28% fear that it will generate tensions, and 37% believe that it opposes national identity. Overall, cultural diversity is viewed positively as essential to social cohesion and national identity. The results obtained corroborate the work of M. Duru-Bellat (2020). The author highlights that the life stories and testimonies of individuals from varied contexts within African multicultural societies reveal that intercultural interactions can strengthen social bonds and promote a common sense of belonging. Furthermore, O. Galland (2021, p. 245-270) emphasizes that cultural diversity can also lead to conflicts, particularly when ethnic identities are used for political purposes. A survey conducted by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 2016 found that African countries with greater cultural diversity often have higher levels of civic participation, suggesting that this diversity can encourage citizen engagement in political life. The other result of the study highlights proposals for managing cultural diversity, essential for strengthening social cohesion and national identity. Public policies on cultural diversity are crucial tools to promote inclusion, guarantee equal rights and promote respect for different cultures. These policies include measures aimed at recognizing and promoting cultures, ensuring equal opportunities, combating discrimination and encouraging intercultural dialogue. They also encompass intercultural education initiatives, aimed at teaching respect and mutual understanding between individuals of diverse origins, as well as support for cultural and artistic initiatives, which strengthen community ties and a sense of belonging.

The work of J. M. Mbiti (2021) and A. Mama (2020) emphasize the importance of education that values cultural diversity and promotes mutual respect between different ethnic groups. These authors advocate the development of educational programs integrating the history and cultures of various communities, with the aim of fostering a sense of belonging.

collective. In addition, they advocate for the strengthening of democratic institutions, considered essential to social cohesion, and propose reforms aimed at guaranteeing equitable representation of communities in decision-making processes. In terms of recommendations, this article suggests that it is essential to promote cultural diversity in Côte d'Ivoire and to value the country's different cultural traditions and practices. This could result in the establishment of public policies aimed at protecting and promoting Ivorian cultural heritage, as well as raising public awareness of the importance of cultural diversity in the construction of a strong and inclusive national identity. The objective of the study is achieved and the theoretical framework validated. However, the study of the effects of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity is a complex subject which can present several limits. Conclusions drawn from a study of a specific group may not be applicable to other cultural or geographic contexts. Interviews can be influenced by the subjectivity of the participants. Finally, it is essential to consider the size of our investigation sample, given the significant number of people concerned and the relatively short duration of the investigations.

V. Conclusion

The results obtained on the effects of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity highlight several key points. First of all, it appears that cultural diversity can be both an asset and a challenge for social cohesion. On the one hand, it promotes the enrichment of exchanges, creativity and innovation, thus contributing to a dynamic and open society. On the other hand, it can cause tensions and misunderstandings if it is not accompanied by inclusive policies and intercultural dialogue. Regarding national identity, cultural diversity can strengthen it by integrating various elements that enrich the common heritage. However, this requires recognition and valuing of the different cultures present in a country, in order to avoid feelings of exclusion or marginalization.

Thus, to maximize the benefits of cultural diversity on social cohesion and national identity, it is essential to promote initiatives that encourage mutual respect, intercultural understanding and the active participation of all groups in social and political life. . A proactive and inclusive approach can transform cultural diversity into a major asset for society, strengthening both social cohesion and national identity.

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