The Role of Maitreya Buddhism in Fostering Harmony in Multicultural Societies: Doctrinal, Ritual, and Social Contributions

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the role of Maitreya Buddhism in fostering harmony within a multicultural society, focusing on Bandung, West Java. Through qualitative methods—including fieldwork, in-depth interviews with religious leaders and community members, and participant observation—this research explores how Maitreya doctrines, rituals, and social practices promote internal solidarity and address societal challenges. Key findings highlight doctrines like the Senyuman of Love and Ajita Spirit as frameworks for interpersonal harmony and resilience. Rituals such as Bhakti Puja foster collective identity, while social practices, including free medical services, Mandarin language training, and interfaith dialogue initiatives, extend the religion's societal impact. These results demonstrate Maitreya Buddhism's capacity to integrate spiritual teachings with social outreach, making it a potent tool for social cohesion. The study provides insights for policymakers and religious organizations aiming to promote tolerance in pluralistic societies, offering a novel perspective on religion's transformative role in managing cultural diversity.

ARTICLE INFO

Introduction

Buddhism, as one of the world's major religions, is inseparable from its founder, Siddharta Gautama, who passed away at the age of 80 in Kusinara (K. T. Dewi, Larashanti, & Putra, 2023)*.* After Siddharta's death, the *Sangha* (religious assembly) convened councils that gave rise to two major schools of Buddhism: *Hinayana* (Theravada) and *Mahayana*. Both schools adhere firmly to the teachings of the Buddha, albeit with differences in perspectives, ideals, and sources. *Hinayana* maintains the orthodox tradition of Buddhism, while *Mahayana* adopts a more liberal and moderate approach (Abdul Syukur, 2009). The development of these schools spread across various regions, including East Asia (Nepal, China, Tibet, Mongolia, Vietnam, Korea, and Japan), where *Mahayana* predominates, and South and Southeast Asia (Thailand, Sri Lanka, Laos, Cambodia, and Indonesia), which predominantly follows *Hinayana* (Theravada).

However, Indonesia is unique in that it encompasses a wide variety of Buddhist traditions, such as Theravada, Mahayana, *Tantrayana* (Vajrayana), *Tridharma* (three principles), *Nichiren* (a sect originating in Japan), *Buddhayana* (a syncretic Buddhist approach), and others. These traditions represent nearly all global Buddhist schools (A. Syukur, 2018). One of the more prominent schools in Indonesia is *Maitreya* Buddhism. This school has distinctive characteristics that set it apart from other Buddhist traditions, particularly in terms of doctrine, rituals, and membership structure. Despite being a minority religion in Indonesia, *Maitreya* Buddhism has maintained its existence, with an estimated following of over 300,000 people (Maitreya, 2023). Its presence spans major cities, including Jakarta, Medan, and Bandung, demonstrating its resilience in a pluralistic society with a Muslim majority. In the context of social dynamics, this resilience warrants academic attention, especially given the challenges of modernization and globalization faced by minority religions.

Previous research has explored various aspects of *Maitreya* Buddhist doctrines, such as vegetarianism, love, and emotional control (Chandra, Siu, Lisniasari, & Juli, 2023; Nathania & Hartanto, 2021). These studies highlight the personal benefits of these doctrines, including improved physical health, self-control, and emotional tranquillity (Fadhilah, 2015). However, such research primarily focuses on individual and normative practices, neglecting the social and strategic dimensions of maintaining the existence of *Maitreya* Buddhism in a pluralistic society. A strategic study of this nature is particularly relevant in the context of Indonesia's social transformation and cultural diversity, where minority religions face challenges in maintaining their relevance.

This research aims to analyze the role of *Maitreya* Buddhists in maintaining their existence by integrating their doctrines, rituals, and membership with the social context of modern society. By exploring their social strategies and religious practices, this study seeks to contribute to the development of models for sustaining minority religions in multicultural societies.

This study argues that the sustainability of *Maitreya* Buddhism in Indonesia is supported not only by its unique doctrines but also by its responsive social adaptation through rituals and community programs. The doctrines of love and universality allow the community to embrace various societal groups, thereby

strengthening internal solidarity and external acceptance. In other words, the sustainability of this religion depends on a combination of responsive social adaptation and the internal strengthening of the community through doctrines, rituals, and education. These organized social strategies enable *Maitreya* Buddhism to remain relevant amidst the dynamics of a multicultural and modern society.

Method

This study was conducted at the *Vihara Datu Maitreya* (Maitreya Buddhist Temple) in Bandung, West Java, selected as the research site due to its status as a central hub for the activities of the Maitreya Buddhist community in the region. This location represents the community's religious practices and social activities comprehensively, making it relevant for exploring how they sustain their existence within a pluralistic society. The unit of analysis in this research encompasses the religious practices and social activities of the Maitreya Buddhist community, including rituals, doctrines, and social interactions.

The researcher adopted a qualitative approach for this study to understand religious practices within their complex and dynamic social context. This approach facilitates holistic exploration, capturing nuances and relationships between various aspects of the community (Albi & Setiawan, 2018). Furthermore, the sociology of religion was used as the analytical framework to examine the relationship between religious doctrines and the social dynamics influencing their implementation. This framework provides theoretical grounding for exploring how religious practices are applied within broader social contexts (Connolly, 2002).

The data for this research were derived from two main sources: primary and secondary data (Siyoto & Sodik, 2015). The researcher collected primary data through in-depth interviews, direct observations, and documentation. The researcher conducted interviews with religious leaders and coordinators of Buddhist education to gain insights into their understanding of the community's role in maintaining the existence of Maitreya Buddhism. Observations were carried out during religious rituals and social activities, enabling the researcher to record detailed accounts of activities, social interactions, and the atmosphere during these events. Documentation, including photographs, videos, and written records, complemented the primary data by providing visual and textual evidence. Secondary data, meanwhile, were gathered from scholarly literature, including books, journals, and articles that discuss the doctrines and social practices of Maitreya Buddhism. These sources offered theoretical context to support the interpretation of the primary data (Sugiyono, 2018).

The researcher conducted the data collection process systematically. Semi-structured interviews were employed to gather in-depth information about doctrines, rituals, and community roles, offering flexibility to explore relevant topics while maintaining alignment with the research objectives. Direct observations during religious rituals provided opportunities to document activities and interactions in their natural context. Additionally, documentation, including photos, videos, and written materials, was used to validate and enhance the findings from interviews and observations (Yusuf, 2017).

Data analysis followed the model proposed by Miles and Huberman, comprising three main stages. The first stage, data reduction, involved filtering, categorizing, and organizing the information gathered from interviews, observations, and documentation in order to focus on key themes relevant to the research, such as doctrines of compassion, ritual structures, and community roles. In the second stage, data display, the reduced data were presented in a structured descriptive narrative format, facilitating in-depth analysis of patterns and relationships between themes. Finally, the conclusion drawing and verification stage entailed comparing the findings with the study's theoretical framework to ensure their relevance and validity. This process enabled the formulation of accurate conclusions regarding the role of Maitreya Buddhism in sustaining its existence in a pluralistic society.

Result and Discussion

Religious Doctrines as a Unifying Factor

Maitreya Buddhism presents a robust doctrinal framework that integrates spiritual teachings with practical applications in social life (Dahlia, Suherman, & Partono, 2022). Central to its philosophy are doctrines such as the *Darma of the Heart of Love*, *Senyuman of Love* (*Smile of Love*), *Soul of Love*, *Loving Behaviour*, and the *Ajita Spirit*. These teachings collectively form a foundation for compassion, self-discipline, and mutual respect, fostering both individual growth and communal harmony. Interviews with religious leaders and observations during rituals highlight how these doctrines are internalized and practiced by followers, becoming guiding principles for interactions within and beyond the community (Sani, Personal Communication, 2019).

The *Darma of the Heart of Love* emphasizes altruism and empathy, encouraging followers to act with kindness and to prioritize the well-being of others. This doctrine resonates deeply in interpersonal relationships, creating an ethical framework that aligns personal actions with communal values. Similarly, the *Smile of Love* acts as a catalyst for breaking down barriers of religion, ethnicity, and social class. Promoting a simple yet profound practice—a smile imbued with love—fosters inclusivity and builds trust across diverse social groups. This is particularly important in multicultural societies, where differences often serve as sources of tension.

The *Soul of Love* takes a more introspective approach, focusing on self-discipline and moral integrity. This doctrine teaches followers to refine their inner character through practices such as meditation (*Samadhi*) and wisdom (*Prajna*), thereby achieving a harmonious balance between personal ethics and communal expectations (Buddhagosacariya, 2004). These practices are not merely spiritual exercises but also tools for navigating complex social environments with grace and integrity.

Perhaps the most profound of these doctrines is the *Ajita Spirit*, which embodies resilience, humility, and unconditional love. This teaching urges followers to adopt a non-retaliatory approach in the face of adversity, exemplifying strength through compassion. As one religious leader stated, "The *Ajita Spirit*, which teaches

resilience in the face of adversity, underpins our actions. When we do not retaliate against harm, we exemplify the true strength of love" (Sani, Personal Communication, 2019). This ethos not only reinforces the moral fiber of individual practitioners but also sets a standard for peaceful coexistence in society.

Several key patterns emerge from these doctrines, reflecting their dual role in spiritual and social contexts. First, the integration of love as a central theme is evident across teachings like the *Darma of the Heart of Love* and *Soul of Love*. These doctrines encourage followers to embody empathy, self-control, and moral responsibility in their daily lives. This integration ensures that spiritual ideals are not confined to rituals but permeate everyday interactions, creating a ripple effect of positive behaviors within the community.

Second, the *Senyuman of Love* functions as a practical and accessible tool for overcoming societal divisions. Encouraging simple gestures of kindness mitigates prejudice and promotes a culture of cooperation and understanding. This practice has proven particularly effective in bridging divides in multicultural settings, where differences in beliefs and practices often pose challenges to unity.

Third, *Loving Behaviour* serves as a moral compass that instills patience, forgiveness, and altruism. These qualities are critical for sustaining harmonious relationships within a community. By encouraging individuals to prioritize the needs of others and to respond to conflict with understanding, this doctrine strengthens communal bonds and fosters a collective sense of responsibility.

Finally, the *Ajita Spirit* embodies the resilience and adaptability necessary for maintaining harmony in the face of challenges. It aligns personal actions with broader goals of peace and unity, reinforcing the idea that strength lies in love and humility rather than aggression or dominance.

These doctrines provide a cohesive framework for uniting followers internally while building bridges with external communities. By focusing on universal values such as compassion, gratitude, and non-retaliation, Maitreya Buddhism transcends cultural and religious boundaries, resonating with diverse audiences (Masruroh, 2008). This universality enables the faith to maintain relevance in a pluralistic context, fostering positive interactions between its followers and members of other communities.

Moreover, the incorporation of these teachings into daily life and rituals not only strengthens individual faith but also fortifies communal bonds. The doctrines' emphasis on ethical living, inclusivity, and resilience ensures that Maitreya Buddhism remains a dynamic and adaptive tradition capable of addressing both spiritual aspirations and social challenges. By addressing the dual needs of personal growth and societal harmony, these teachings contribute to a sustainable model of coexistence in increasingly diverse societies.

The religious doctrines of Maitreya Buddhism exemplify the integration of spiritual and social principles, creating a holistic approach to life that supports both individual fulfillment and communal well-being. By prioritizing love, respect, and resilience, these teachings enable followers to navigate the complexities of modern society with ethical clarity and a sense of purpose. In doing so, Maitreya Buddhism not only strengthens its internal community but also serves as a beacon of inclusivity and harmony in the broader social landscape (Pranata & Wijoyo, 2020).

These doctrines underscore the enduring relevance of faith as a unifying force in a world that often struggles with division and discord.

Ritual Practices and Their Role in Community Solidarity

Rituals in Maitreya Buddhism serve as a cornerstone for fostering community solidarity and spiritual growth (L. K. Dewi, 2016). These rituals, including the *Torture Pledge*, *Vegetarian Pledge*, and *Bhakti Puja*, embody the doctrines and values central to Maitreya Buddhism (Khosasih & Novianty, 2022). Through these practices, followers internalize sacred teachings, engage in moral reflection, and strengthen their bonds within the community. Each ritual carries symbolic meanings that contribute to both personal development and collective identity, ensuring the community's cohesiveness and adaptability in a pluralistic society.

The *Torture Pledge* represents the formal initiation of an individual into Maitreya Buddhism. This ritual parallels initiation rites in other religions, such as baptism in Christianity or the *shahada* in Islam, serving as a declaration of faith and commitment. During the ceremony, participants collectively pledge their dedication to the sacred doctrines of Maitreya Buddhism, known as the *Dasa Maha Pledge*. These pledges include commitments to loyalty, sincerity, and ethical conduct, laying the foundation for individual and communal responsibilities (Sani, Personal Communication, 2019).

The *Vegetarian Pledge*, also referred to as *Qing Kou* (purification of the mouth), signifies both spiritual and physical purification. Participants vow to abstain from consuming animal products and to avoid harmful speech, such as gossip or insults. This practice reinforces ethical living and self-discipline, aligning with the doctrine of compassion for all beings (Suwito, 2021).

The *Bhakti Puja* ritual exemplifies collective worship and introspection. Conducted three times daily—morning, noon, and evening—it symbolizes gratitude, repentance, and spiritual renewal. The ritual incorporates symbolic elements such as sacred lamps fruits, and specific physical movements like kneeling, standing, and prostration. Each action reflects humility, reverence, and unity with divine teachings (Sani, Personal Communication, 2019).

Table 1. Impact of Key Maitreya Buddhist Rituals on Community Cohesion

Ritual	Objective	Impact on Community
Torture Pledge	Initiation and acceptance	Strengthens individual commitment and collective identity
Vegetarian Pledge	Purification of body and soul	Promotes health, ethical living, and spiritual alignment
Bhakti Puja	Collective worship and self-reflection	Enhances group cohesion, gratitude, and spirituality

Ritual practices in Maitreya Buddhism provide a structured approach to spiritual and communal life. The *Torture Pledge* fosters a sense of belonging and formal acceptance into the community. The *Vegetarian Pledge* emphasizes ethical purity and compassion, integrating spiritual principles into daily life (Tjoa Holyenty,

2023). The *Bhakti Puja* ritual encourages shared worship and introspection, reinforcing communal bonds and a collective sense of purpose.

The rituals in Table 1 emphasize the dual focus of Maitreya Buddhism: personal spiritual growth and communal solidarity. By participating in these practices, followers internalize the core doctrines of this faith, transforming abstract teachings into concrete actions. The rituals' emphasis on compassion, humility, and collective worship strengthens the community's resilience, allowing it to thrive in a pluralistic society. Additionally, the structured nature of these rituals ensures their continuity across generations, preserving the religious identity and solidarity of the Maitreya community.

Moreover, these rituals also function as a bridge between individual and collective spirituality. For instance, the personal commitments made during the Torture Pledge or Vegetarian Pledge resonate within the collective worship environment of Bhakti Puja (Masruroh, 2008). The interaction between the personal and communal dimensions ensures that Maitreya Buddhism remains a relevant and adaptive religious tradition capable of addressing the spiritual and social needs of its followers.

Social Practices and Contributions to Broader Society

Maitreya Buddhism translates its core doctrines into impactful social practices that address societal challenges and build a harmonious community (Kuang, 2000). These practices are firmly rooted in the principles of the *Four Renewals*—loving nature, respecting human dignity, fostering a sense of one family, and promoting new life values. The inclusive nature of these initiatives allows individuals from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds to participate, reflecting the religion's commitment to unity and bridging divides in a pluralistic society. These social contributions extend beyond the internal community, positioning Maitreya Buddhism as an active agent of societal transformation.

One of the most significant contributions of Maitreya Buddhism lies in the field of education. Educational programs, such as Mandarin language training, provide participants with valuable skills that enhance both personal and professional development. These programs are designed to prepare individuals for global challenges while fostering a sense of moral integrity and intellectual empowerment. A participant in the program eloquently stated*, "Helping with education, rather than material, ensures a lasting impact on the community's future"* (Sani, Personal Communication, 2019). This highlights the forward-looking vision of Maitreya Buddhism, which prioritizes sustainable community development through education. By equipping individuals with knowledge and skills, these programs cultivate a generation capable of addressing future societal needs.

Healthcare is another critical area where Maitreya Buddhism demonstrates its compassion and commitment to societal welfare. Free medical services, including general check-ups, dental care, and acupuncture, are regularly offered to underserved communities. These healthcare initiatives alleviate suffering and address pressing medical needs, especially for marginalized groups who might otherwise lack access to adequate healthcare. The provision of such services not

only exemplifies the religion's commitment to compassion but also fosters a sense of solidarity and shared responsibility among community members.

The *Grateful Sunday* events further strengthen social bonding and interfaith dialogue. These gatherings create a platform for individuals from various backgrounds to come together and engage in meaningful discussions on topics such as health, spirituality, and family dynamics. The events foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding, allowing participants to build connections that transcend religious and cultural differences. By encouraging open dialogue and collaboration, *Grateful Sunday* initiatives actively reduce prejudice and promote a shared sense of humanity.

In addition to formal programs, symbolic acts of kindness, such as the distribution of necessities during social service activities, further demonstrate Maitreya Buddhism's dedication to unity in diversity. These efforts resonate deeply with Indonesia's national motto, *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity), reinforcing the practical application of Maitreya Buddhism's teachings in fostering mutual care and cooperation. Such acts of generosity embody the religion's values of love and compassion, creating a ripple effect of positivity that extends far beyond the immediate beneficiaries.

Maitreya Buddhism's social practices also encompass environmental stewardship and cultural preservation, which align with its principles of loving nature and respecting human dignity. Programs aimed at promoting ecological awareness, such as tree planting and waste management campaigns, are integral to the religion's efforts to nurture the planet. These initiatives not only address environmental challenges but also cultivate a sense of collective responsibility toward sustaining the earth for future generations.

Through its comprehensive approach to social engagement, Maitreya Buddhism demonstrates the seamless integration of spiritual values with societal needs. These initiatives highlight the religion's ability to adapt and remain relevant in a multicultural and rapidly changing world. The emphasis on inclusivity, education, healthcare, and environmental care illustrates its capacity to contribute positively to societal well-being while maintaining its spiritual integrity.

Moreover, these social practices strengthen the internal bonds within the Maitreya Buddhist community by fostering a culture of service and altruism. By engaging in acts of kindness and compassion, followers internalize the teachings of their faith, translating abstract doctrines into tangible actions. This dual focus on spiritual growth and social contribution ensures the sustained resonance and impact of Maitreya Buddhism in a pluralistic society.

The social practices of Maitreya Buddhism represent a harmonious blend of spiritual values and practical actions. By addressing critical societal needs and promoting inclusivity, these initiatives affirm the religion's role as a force for unity and transformation. The emphasis on education, healthcare, and community engagement not only enriches the lives of its followers but also extends the principles of love and compassion to the wider world. Through these practices, Maitreya Buddhism continues to be a beacon of hope and harmony, inspiring individuals and communities to work together toward a more inclusive and equitable society.

Analysis of the Role of Maitreya Buddhism in Building Harmony in Multicultural Societies

This study has revealed the crucial role of religious doctrines, ritual practices, and social contributions of Maitreya Buddhism as key elements in fostering community harmony within multicultural societies. Religious doctrines underscore the importance of love, self-control, and wisdom as foundational principles for spiritual and social life. Doctrines such as *Senyuman of Love* (*Smile of Love*, an ethic of expressing love through positive interactions) and *Ajita Spirit* (*Unmatched Spirit*, a principle encouraging resilience and self-control) guide individuals in their moral development while creating an ethical framework that promotes peaceful and inclusive interactions, regardless of religious, ethnic, or social differences (Chandra et al., 2023; Stark & Bainbridge, 1985).

Ritual practices, such as the *Torture Pledge* (*a ceremonial commitment to endure suffering with patience*), *Vegetarian Pledge* (*a vow of dietary and moral purification*), and *Bhakti Puja* (*devotional worship, involving prayers and offerings*), strengthen individual commitments to religious values while fostering solidarity through shared spiritual experiences (Pang, 2020; Suyaprom, 2023). For instance, the *Vegetarian Pledge* promotes collective ethical behaviour and creates a shared identity that reinforces mutual trust within the community (Nyoto, 2018). Studies on similar practices have shown that such rituals contribute to a sense of belonging and moral alignment in multicultural settings.

Maitreya Buddhism's social contributions extend its impact beyond its adherents through initiatives such as Mandarin language training, free medical services, and *Grateful Sunday* (*a weekly event focused on gratitude and reflection*) v. These programmes foster inclusivity and cooperation, offering tangible benefits that transcend religious boundaries.

The findings of this study demonstrate how Maitreya Buddhism's doctrines and practices establish mechanisms to mitigate potential social conflicts. The *Senyuman of Love* serves as a practical tool for fostering interpersonal harmony, while the *Ajita Spirit* instils resilience and self-control, even in the face of challenges. Participation in rituals like *Bhakti Puja* offers a shared space for spiritual reflection, significantly strengthening trust and togetherness among followers (Chandra et al., 2023; Pang, 2020).

This study aligns with prior research, such as Stark and Bainbridge (1985), which emphasised religion's role as a social adhesive. Similarly, Chandra et al. (2023) and Nathania & Hartanto (2021) highlighted the importance of religious doctrines in creating social harmony. However, this research expands the discourse by integrating the application of doctrines such as *Senyuman of Love* and programmes like *Grateful Sunday* within Indonesia's multicultural context.

The non-sectarian *rimé* principle (*a Tibetan Buddhist principle promoting inclusivity and interfaith cooperation*), which shares similarities with the interfaith dialogue initiatives described by Pang (2020) and Suyaprom (2023), provides a flexible framework for fostering harmony in diverse societies. Unlike traditional ritual-centric approaches, *rimé* offers a dynamic methodology for addressing modern multicultural challenges. This research highlights how Maitreya

Buddhism's doctrines align with these challenges, distinguishing it from prior studies focused solely on rituals (Suyaprom, 2023).

Maitreya Buddhism's universal values provide a framework that can be adopted in societies beyond its religious and geographic contexts. Teachings such as *Loving Behaviour* (*acts of love and kindness*) and social programmes like Mandarin language training offer a model of inclusivity that resonates in both religious and secular environments (Synuanchanh & Papoutsaki, 2021). For instance, the concept of *Senyuman of Love* aligns with broader values of compassion found in other religious traditions, such as *agape* in Christianity and *karuna* in Hinduism, suggesting its adaptability to diverse cultural settings. Historically, Buddhism's emphasis on love and non-violence has shaped societal values in multicultural societies such as Thailand and Sri Lanka. Maitreya Buddhism extends this legacy by integrating modern social initiatives that reflect these foundational values.

Policy recommendations for enhancing the role of Maitreya Buddhism in fostering harmony within multicultural societies emphasise the importance of interfaith collaboration, concrete implementation strategies, and measurable impact. Strengthening interfaith collaboration is pivotal, as it promotes dialogue and mutual understanding between religious communities. Policies that facilitate shared platforms, such as interfaith forums and community service projects, can foster cooperation and inclusivity. For example, the *Grateful Sunday* initiative could be expanded to involve participants from diverse religious backgrounds, encouraging broader engagement and shared experiences.

In terms of implementation, governments play a crucial role in providing financial and institutional support for initiatives such as Mandarin language training and free healthcare services. These programmes not only address immediate community needs but also serve as tools for bridging cultural and religious divides. Clear success indicators, including participation rates, metrics on interfaith engagement, and improvements in community trust, can guide the effective deployment and evaluation of these initiatives (Synuanchanh & Papoutsaki, 2021).

Measuring the impact of social programmes is equally important to ensure their long-term effectiveness and relevance. Longitudinal studies could be conducted to assess outcomes such as reduced intergroup conflict, enhanced community satisfaction, and greater social participation. These assessments would provide valuable insights into the programmes' contributions to social cohesion and offer evidence-based recommendations for future policy adjustments (Suksawas & Soithong, 2024). Together, these strategies create a comprehensive framework for leveraging the values of Maitreya Buddhism to strengthen harmony and inclusivity in multicultural contexts.

Conclusion

This study has shown that Maitreya Buddhism in Bandung demonstrates its existence and relevance through the integration of community interests into its doctrines, rituals, and membership practices. The religion's doctrines, such as the culture of loving nature, upholding the dignity of life, the morality of one family, and the value of a new life, provide a strong ethical framework that resonates with societal values. Rituals like *bhakti puja* and major religious ceremonies serve not only as spiritual practices but also as mechanisms for fostering solidarity and

maintaining religious identity. Membership structures, such as the levels of *Pandita*, *Pandita Madya*, and *Dhammaduta*, along with educational programs for various demographics, further strengthen the internal cohesion of the community.

The key contribution of this research lies in its demonstration of how Maitreya Buddhism integrates its spiritual and social dimensions to maintain relevance in a multicultural society. It highlights the religion's ability to adapt to societal changes while preserving its core values, offering insights into how religious communities can sustain their existence in diverse settings. This study also adds to the broader discourse on how religious doctrines and practices contribute to community solidarity and interfaith harmony.

However, the study has limitations. It primarily focuses on Maitreya Buddhism in Bandung, limiting the generalisability of its findings to other regions. Additionally, the study does not deeply explore interactions between Maitreya Buddhists and members of other religious communities, which could provide a richer understanding of interfaith dynamics. Future research could address these gaps by examining the role of Maitreya Buddhism in fostering interfaith collaboration and analyzing its impact in different sociocultural contexts. Moreover, comparative studies with other religious traditions could further elucidate the unique aspects of Maitreya Buddhism's approach to community building.

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