



# Traditional Medicine in Contemporary Ethiopian Healthcare Systems: An Analytical Survey

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## Abstract

Contemporary African healthcare systems often incorporate traditional medicine alongside modern medical practices to address a diverse range of health needs, reflecting cultural and socio-economic contexts. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative survey data from a representative sample ( $n=500$ )  $\wedge$  *qualitative interviews with key informants*  $\wedge$  *analyse practices*  $\wedge$  *stakeholders' perspectives*. Traditional medicine practitioners reported treating over 60% of patients in rural areas without formal referral pathways, highlighting its significant role in underserved regions. Public trust varied widely across different age groups (e.g., young adults vs. elderly). Traditional medicine plays a substantial and under-recognised role in Ethiopian healthcare systems, particularly beneficial for rural populations. Enhanced integration of traditional medicine into formal healthcare curricula could improve accessibility and efficacy while respecting cultural sensitivities.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Traditional medicine, Cultural studies, Ethnography, Anthropology, Public health, Indigenous knowledge systems*

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