



Traditional Medicine in Contemporary Niger: Insights into Its Role within Healthcare Systems

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Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in healthcare systems across Africa, including Niger, where it is often integrated with formal health services. A qualitative approach was employed through semi-structured interviews with healthcare providers, traditional healers, and patients. Data were analysed using thematic analysis. Traditional healers reported a significant proportion (85%) of patients seeking their services for chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, indicating its relevance in treating non-communicable conditions. The integration of traditional medicine with formal healthcare systems is crucial for improving access to health care in rural areas where it remains the primary source of medical treatment. Policy makers should consider integrating traditional medicine into national healthcare policies and funding mechanisms to enhance overall healthcare provision in Niger.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Africanization, CulturalRelativism, Socio-culturalStudies, QualitativeResearch, IndigenousHealthCare, MultidisciplinaryApproach*

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