



Traditional Medicine in Contemporary Ugandan Healthcare Systems: A Role and Integration Analysis

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Abstract

Traditional medicine has played a significant role in African healthcare systems for centuries, including Uganda. In contemporary times, this traditional practice coexists with modern medical services and is recognised by the government. Qualitative research methods were employed, including semi-structured interviews with traditional healers, government officials, and patients who utilise both traditional and modern medical services. Data was analysed to identify themes and patterns regarding the use of traditional medicine in contemporary healthcare settings. Traditional medicine is widely accepted by Ugandan society, especially among rural populations where access to conventional healthcare is limited. Approximately 80% of respondents indicated that they often or always seek traditional medical advice alongside modern treatments. This study reveals the significant role and integration potential of traditional medicine in contemporary Ugandan healthcare systems, underscoring its importance for public health policy and service delivery strategies. Government policies should support the development and regulation of traditional medicine sectors to ensure safety and efficacy, while also promoting their appropriate use alongside modern medical practices.

Keywords: *African geography, Traditional healing, Cultural integration, Anthropology, Ethnobotany, Community health, Ecological approaches*

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