



Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Business Paradigms within Democratic Republic of Congo's Context

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Abstract

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Democratic Republic of Congo's business context remain underexplored, despite their potential to inform modern management practices. A mixed-methods approach combining semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and secondary data analysis was employed. Data collection took place in urban and rural settings, covering both formal and informal economic activities. Quantitative aspects used survey responses to gauge the prevalence of IKS practices among business entities. Findings indicate a significant proportion (45%) of surveyed businesses incorporate traditional wisdom into their decision-making processes, particularly in agriculture and healthcare sectors where IKs are deeply embedded in daily operations. The study concludes that while IKS contribute to sustainable practices in DRC's business environment, integrating these knowledge systems more systematically could enhance the sector's competitiveness and resilience. Recommendation for policymakers includes fostering collaboration between traditional knowledge holders and modern business practitioners to leverage IKs for economic development. Suggested educational initiatives should include training on IKS applications in management education. Democratic Republic of Congo, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Business Practices, Mixed Methods Study

Keywords: *Congo, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), Mixed Methods, Qualitative Research, Quantitative Analysis, Business Practices, Cultural Studies*

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