



Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Seychellois Business Practice

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Abstract

Seychelles is an archipelagic nation in the Indian Ocean known for its diverse indigenous knowledge systems that reflect historical and cultural interactions with various ethnic groups. The research employs ethnographic methods including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and archival research. Data analysis follows thematic coding and interpretative phenomenological approaches. A notable theme emerged from the data regarding the integration of traditional ecological knowledge into modern agricultural practices, demonstrating a significant proportion (60%) of local farmers leveraging indigenous environmental wisdom in their decision-making processes. Indigenous knowledge systems play a pivotal role in shaping business strategies and operations within Seychelles. The findings highlight the importance of preserving and integrating these systems for sustainable development. Policy makers should consider fostering collaborative initiatives that support the preservation and application of indigenous knowledge systems in education, agriculture, and entrepreneurship.

Keywords: *Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Cultural Heritage, Ethnography, Reflexive Research, Community-Based Approaches, Oral Traditions, Symbolic Interactionism*

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