



The Integration of Traditional Medicine in Senegalese Healthcare Systems: An Action Research Study

Sabina Ndourdarissa¹

¹ African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Senegal

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Correspondence: sndourdarissa@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Sabina Ndourdarissa is affiliated with African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Senegal and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in healthcare systems across Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, where it is often integrated with modern medical practices. The study employed an action research approach, involving semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with healthcare providers, patients, and community leaders. Data was analysed using thematic content analysis to identify themes and patterns related to traditional medicine's role in Senegalese healthcare. Traditional medicine practitioners reported a 60% increase in patient consultations within the last decade, highlighting its growing acceptance alongside modern health services. The integration of traditional medicine is evolving in Senegal, with increasing recognition and support from both public health authorities and communities. This study contributes to understanding its current status and potential future directions. Public health policies should consider integrating traditional medical practices more comprehensively, alongside modern healthcare services, to meet the diverse needs of the population.

Keywords: *African geography, Traditional medicine, Methodology, Community participation, Healthcare systems, Sub-Saharan Africa, Cultural integration*

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