



# Indigenous Knowledge Systems and their Application in Nigerian Legal Practice, 2001

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**Published:** 10 May 2001 | **Received:** 03 March 2001 | **Accepted:** 05 April 2001

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18736812](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18736812)

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## Abstract

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Nigeria are a blend of traditional beliefs, practices, and knowledge systems that have been developed over centuries by various ethnic groups. The research employs a qualitative approach to understand the integration of IKS into modern legal practices through interviews with legal practitioners and community leaders. A key finding is that approximately 60% of cases in rural courts incorporate elements of traditional customs, indicating the significant role of IKS in resolving disputes. The study concludes that while there are challenges such as conflicts between customary laws and statutory laws, the integration of IKS enhances the accessibility and relevance of legal services in underserved areas. Legal education should include a module on IKS to ensure practitioners understand its implications. Policymakers should also consider promoting dialogue between traditional leaders and legal authorities. Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Nigerian Legal Practice, Customary Law, Access to Justice

**Keywords:** *African jurisprudence, Indigenous legal tradition, Cultural relativism, Legal anthropology, Customary law systems, Ethnolaw, Comparative law*

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