



Social Support Networks and Maternal Mortality Reduction in Rwandan Rural Areas: A Survey Study

Kabuga Mukashe^{1,2}, Gaterwa Umutsima^{3,4}, Nyiramasaba Habimana³

¹ Department of Research, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)

² African Leadership University (ALU), Kigali

³ Department of Advanced Studies, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)

⁴ Department of Research, African Leadership University (ALU), Kigali

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Correspondence: kmukashe@outlook.com

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Author notes

Kabuga Mukashe is affiliated with Department of Research, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Gaterwa Umutsima is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Nyiramasaba Habimana is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Abstract

Rwanda has made significant progress in reducing maternal mortality rates (MMRs), but rural areas continue to experience higher MMRs compared to urban settings. The research employed a structured survey design involving face-to-face interviews with 500 women from selected rural areas. Data collection was conducted between April and June . Findings indicate that traditional healers play a crucial role in providing essential health information to mothers, thereby reducing MMRs by 15% compared to urban settings. While social support networks are vital, further interventions are needed to enhance their effectiveness and ensure equitable access across all communities. Community leaders should be trained on best practices for supporting traditional healers and integrating them into formal healthcare systems. Policies promoting gender equality should also be strengthened. Maternal Mortality Reduction, Social Support Networks, Traditional Healers, Rwandan Rural Areas

Keywords: *Rwanda, Geographic Distribution, Maternal Mortality, Social Support Networks, Rural Areas, Quantitative Analysis, Qualitative Research, Community Engagement*

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