



Traditional Dispute Resolution Mechanisms and Access to Justice in Côte d'Ivoire: A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract

In Côte d'Ivoire, traditional dispute resolution mechanisms (TDRMs) play a significant role in local conflict management and community cohesion. The study employed semi-structured interviews with traditional leaders, community members, and legal practitioners to understand the role of TDRMs in facilitating dispute resolution processes. Traditional mediators were effective in resolving disputes without formal legal intervention, particularly affecting rural areas where access to justice is limited. The study underscores the importance of integrating traditional practices into contemporary legal systems to enhance accessibility and effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms. Policy recommendations include fostering collaboration between traditional leaders and governmental bodies to ensure continuity and legitimacy in TDRM processes.

Keywords: *African geography, traditional justice systems, qualitative analysis, indigenous conflict resolution, community-based mechanisms, anthropological perspectives, legal anthropology*

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