



Indigenous Knowledge Systems as Foundational Frameworks in Ethiopian Legal Practice: A Theoretical Exploration

Indigenous Knowledge
Systems as Foundational
Frameworks

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Abstract

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Ethiopia are deeply embedded within cultural practices, particularly among pastoral communities such as the Oromo and Somali peoples. These systems encompass a rich tapestry of beliefs, customs, and traditional remedies that have been passed down through generations. The study employs a qualitative approach, drawing upon existing literature and case studies from Ethiopia's diverse cultural contexts. It seeks to understand how local communities perceive and utilise IKS within their legal systems. The integration of IKS into Ethiopian law not only respects cultural diversity but also enhances legal efficacy and social cohesion among communities. Further research is needed to explore the scalability and effectiveness of such practices. Policy makers should consider incorporating traditional healing as a complementary practice in their legal reforms, alongside formal judicial procedures. Community leaders are encouraged to facilitate dialogue between IKS practitioners and legal authorities.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Cultural Relativism, Legal Pluralism, Anthropology of Law, Critical Race Theory, Jurisprudence of Culture*

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This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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