



Traditional Medicine in Contemporary Tunisian Healthcare Systems: An Ethnographic Exploration

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Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in the healthcare systems of many African countries, including Tunisia, where it is often integrated with modern medical practices. The research employed participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions among healthcare providers, traditional healers, and patients in various regions of Tunisia. A notable finding is the significant proportion (70%) of Tunisian residents who use both traditional and modern medical services, indicating a hybrid approach to health care. The study underscores the necessity for policy makers to recognise and support traditional medicine within healthcare frameworks to better serve the diverse needs of Tunisian communities. Healthcare policies should incorporate traditional medicine into existing systems to ensure comprehensive access to healthcare services, particularly in rural areas where modern facilities are scarce.

Keywords: *African geography, traditional medicine, ethnography, cultural anthropology, health systems, qualitative research, community studies*

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