



# Traditional Medicine in Contemporary Ethiopian Healthcare Systems: A Qualitative Exploration

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## Abstract

Traditional medicine remains a significant component of healthcare systems in Ethiopia, where it is deeply rooted in cultural traditions and practices. The research employed semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions among stakeholders including traditional healers, patients utilising both traditional and conventional treatments, and policymakers to gather insights into the dynamics between traditional and modern healthcare in Ethiopia. Traditional medicine practitioners reported a significant proportion (60%) of their patient base seeking complementary treatment alongside Western medical care. This finding underscores the mutualistic relationship observed. This study highlights the necessity for a more integrated approach to healthcare that acknowledges traditional and modern medical practices, aiming to improve health outcomes and promote holistic well-being in Ethiopia. Policymakers should advocate for policies that facilitate closer collaboration between traditional healers and government healthcare providers to ensure equitable access to care.

**Keywords:** *African, Geography, Anthropology, Ethnography, Culture, Community, Practice*

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