



# Traditional Medicine's Role in Contemporary Ethiopian Healthcare Systems: A Survey Research

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## Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in the healthcare systems of many African countries, including Ethiopia. However, its integration into contemporary health care remains underexplored. A structured questionnaire was administered to a diverse sample of healthcare professionals in Ethiopia. The questionnaire covered areas such as the prevalence, acceptance, and integration of traditional medicine into modern healthcare settings. The survey revealed that approximately 70% of respondents perceived traditional medicine as complementary rather than alternative to Western medical practices, indicating a potential for harmonization within the healthcare system. Traditional medicine is viewed positively by many healthcare professionals in Ethiopia but faces challenges regarding formal recognition and integration into official health protocols. Further research is recommended to explore these issues more deeply. Healthcare policy makers should consider formalizing traditional medicine practices, ensuring they are recognised within the national health care system. Educational programmes for healthcare providers on traditional medicine should also be encouraged.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Traditional medicine, Heritage health systems, Anthropology of healing, Public health policy, Ethnography, Cultural relativism*

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