



# The Role of Traditional Medicine within Contemporary African Healthcare Systems in Gambia: A Mixed Methods Study

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## Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in healthcare systems across Africa, including Gambia where traditional practices have been integrated into modern health services. A mixed methods study combining qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys was conducted among traditional healers, patients, and healthcare providers. Data were collected from January to June . Traditional medicine consultations accounted for approximately 45% of total healthcare visits in Gambia's public health centers, indicating its substantial role alongside Western medical care. The study highlights the importance of traditional medicine within contemporary healthcare systems and underscores the need for policy integration to support both practices. Health policymakers should consider integrating traditional medicine into national health guidelines to ensure comprehensive healthcare access and efficacy.

**Keywords:** *African, geography, anthropology, ethnography, qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods*

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