



Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Djibouti's Forensic Psychological Practices: A Policy Analysis

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Abstract

Forensic psychology in Djibouti is a relatively under-researched field, with limited data available on how indigenous knowledge systems influence psychological practices. A qualitative approach was employed through semi-structured interviews with forensic psychologists, legal professionals, and community leaders in Djibouti. Focus groups were also conducted to gather insights on the integration of indigenous knowledge systems into forensic psychological assessments and interventions. Indigenous healing practices and traditional beliefs play a significant role in how mental health issues are addressed in Djiboutian communities, with approximately 70% of participants reporting that these practices inform at least one aspect of their work. The integration of indigenous knowledge systems into forensic psychological practices could enhance cultural sensitivity and effectiveness in addressing mental health concerns, particularly among marginalized populations. However, there is a need for further research to validate current practices and develop standardised protocols. Establishment of interdisciplinary working groups, training programmes for forensic psychologists on integrating indigenous knowledge systems, and the development of culturally adapted assessment tools are recommended steps forward.

Keywords: *African geography, Indigenous knowledge systems, Qualitative analysis, Ethnopsychology, Cultural psychology, Forensic anthropology, Community-based practice*

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