



The Role of Traditional Medicine in Gabonese Healthcare Systems: A Qualitative Study

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Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in healthcare systems across Africa, including Gabon, where it often serves as an essential complement to formal health services. The research employs a qualitative approach, utilising semi-structured interviews with healthcare providers, traditional healers, and community members to gather insights into the role and status of traditional medicine. A key finding is that approximately 60% of respondents reported using traditional remedies alongside formal medical treatments, highlighting its widespread acceptance within the population. The study concludes by emphasising the importance of integrating traditional medicine into national healthcare strategies to improve overall health outcomes and patient satisfaction. Recommendations include promoting educational programmes on traditional medicine in schools and training centers, as well as establishing a regulatory framework for both traditional and formal healthcare providers.

Keywords: *African geography, traditional medicine, qualitative study, cultural anthropology, healthcare systems, ethnography, indigenous knowledge systems*

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