



The Integration of Traditional Medicine within Contemporary Healthcare Systems in Malawi: A Survey Study

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Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in healthcare systems across Africa, including Malawi where traditional practices are deeply ingrained in daily life and cultural contexts. A survey questionnaire was designed and distributed among healthcare professionals, community members, and traditional healers in selected districts across Malawi. The sample size included a diverse range of participants to ensure comprehensive data coverage. The findings indicate that approximately 60% of respondents reported using both traditional medicine and modern healthcare services, suggesting a significant overlap between these systems. This study highlights the necessity for policies that support and integrate traditional medical practices into formal healthcare systems to enhance overall health outcomes in Malawi. The recommendations include developing training programmes for healthcare providers on integrating traditional medicine effectively into their practices, alongside advocating for policy changes that recognise and value traditional healing methods.

Keywords: *African geography, traditional medicine, cultural anthropology, ethnography, qualitative research, healthcare integration, community participation*

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