



Traditional Medicine in Contemporary Angola's Healthcare Systems: An Analysis

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Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in contemporary healthcare systems across Africa, including Angola. In Angola, traditional healers and practitioners continue to provide essential health services despite efforts towards modernization. The study employs a qualitative approach, analysing interviews with traditional healers and public health officials, survey data on traditional medical practices, and secondary sources detailing government policies related to traditional medicine. Traditional medicine is practiced by approximately 70% of the population in Angola. A notable finding is that traditional practitioners often treat conditions such as malaria and skin diseases with herbal remedies and spiritual healing. The integration of traditional medicine into contemporary healthcare systems in Angola presents both opportunities and challenges for public health policy and service delivery. Policy recommendations include recognising the role of traditional healers, integrating traditional practices into formal healthcare curricula, and ensuring equitable access to both traditional and modern medical services.

Keywords: *African geography, Traditional medicine, Cultural anthropology, Health systems analysis, Ethnobotany, Community health, Indigenous healing*

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