



# Methodological Evaluation of District Hospitals Systems in South Africa: A Randomized Field Trial for Efficiency Measurement

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## Abstract

District hospitals in South Africa play a crucial role in healthcare delivery but often face challenges related to inefficiency. A mixed-method approach combining quantitative data analysis with qualitative interviews was employed. The study utilised an input-output model to measure efficiency gains in terms of cost-effectiveness ratios ( $CER = \frac{Cost}{Output} \times Efficiency$ ). District hospitals showed a significant improvement in output by 25%

after the intervention, although cost-efficiency remained relatively stable. The randomized field trial demonstrated that targeted interventions can lead to measurable efficiency gains without substantial financial investments. Further research should focus on sustainability and scalability of these interventions across different districts.

**Keywords:** *African geography, randomized field trial, efficiency measurement, mixed methods, health system evaluation, quantitative analysis, qualitative research*

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