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A Meta-Analysis of Medicine Policy in Libya: A Critical East African Perspective

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Abstract

Medicine policy is a critical determinant of healthcare quality and access. Libya has faced significant challenges in this domain, with its policies often analysed in isolation from broader regional contexts. A critical examination from an East African perspective is lacking, despite shared challenges and potential for cross-regional learning. This meta-analysis aimed to critically synthesise and evaluate the existing literature on medicine policy in Libya through an East African analytical lens. Its objectives were to identify dominant policy themes, assess implementation outcomes, and draw comparative insights relevant to East African nations. A systematic search was conducted across multiple electronic databases for peer-reviewed articles, reports, and policy documents. Studies were screened against pre-defined inclusion criteria. Data were extracted using a standardised protocol and analysed thematically to synthesise qualitative and quantitative findings, with a focus on policy frameworks, access, and regulatory efficacy. The synthesis revealed that centralised procurement and distribution have been severely disrupted by political instability, leading to inconsistent medicine availability. A critical finding was that policies frequently lacked robust pharmacovigilance mechanisms. Comparative analysis indicated that Libya's challenges mirror those in several East African states, particularly regarding supply chain fragility and regulatory weaknesses. Medicine policy in Libya has been characterised by structural weaknesses exacerbated by protracted conflict, with significant gaps in monitoring and equity. The East African perspective underscores that these are not isolated issues but reflect common regional vulnerabilities in pharmaceutical governance. Future policy must prioritise decentralising logistics where feasible and integrating robust post-marketing surveillance. Regional collaboration between North and East African bodies should be strengthened to share best practices in medicine regulation and emergency supply management. Pharmaceutical policy, drug access, health systems, Libya, East Africa, meta-analysis This study provides a novel, regionally contextualised synthesis of medicine policy in Libya, offering comparative insights that may inform policy dialogue and strengthening efforts within both Libyan and East African health systems.

Keywords: *Medicines policy, Meta-analysis, East Africa, Health systems, Pharmaceutical sector, Critical review, Libya*

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