



A Research Protocol for the Empirical Analysis of Key Issues in African Medicine in Comoros: A Gynaecological and Obstetric Focus

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Abstract

African medicine, encompassing both traditional and biomedical systems, is significant in healthcare delivery in Comoros, particularly within gynaecology and obstetrics. A comprehensive empirical analysis of its key issues, integration challenges, and impact on maternal health outcomes is lacking. This protocol outlines a study to investigate this domain. The purpose is to empirically analyse key issues surrounding African medicine in Comoros, focusing on gynaecological and obstetric care. Objectives are to: 1) map utilisation patterns of traditional and biomedical services; 2) identify perceived strengths and limitations of each system; and 3) analyse barriers to effective integration and collaboration between healthcare providers. This will be a sequential mixed-methods study in selected districts. The quantitative phase will involve a cross-sectional survey with a representative sample of women of reproductive age. The qualitative phase will comprise in-depth interviews with key informants, including traditional birth attendants, biomedical practitioners, and health policymakers. Data will be analysed using statistical and thematic analysis techniques. As this is a protocol for future research, no empirical findings are presented. Anticipated results include quantitative data on the proportion of women utilising traditional medicine for gynaecological conditions and qualitative themes regarding trust, communication gaps, and regulatory challenges between practice systems. The study will synthesise evidence on the complex landscape of African medicine in Comorian gynaecology and obstetrics, highlighting its significance and the critical issues that require attention. Recommendations will target policy, practice, and research to foster safer, more collaborative healthcare models that respect cultural practices while upholding biomedical standards of care. African medicine, traditional medicine, gynaecology, obstetrics, Comoros, healthcare integration, maternal health,

mixed methods This protocol provides a structured framework for empirical research that aims to generate evidence to inform strategies for improving integrated maternal healthcare in Comoros.

Keywords: *African traditional medicine, gynaecology, obstetrics, Comoros, empirical analysis, healthcare delivery, medical pluralism*



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