



Replicating the Review: A Critical Analysis of Tanzanian Medicine Policy from 2000 to 2026

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Abstract

Medicine policy is a critical determinant of healthcare access and quality. A seminal review of Tanzanian medicine policy provided a comprehensive analysis that influenced strategic planning. This replication study re-examines that foundational work to assess the robustness of its conclusions and their continued relevance. The primary purpose was to replicate the critical review of Tanzanian medicine policy to verify its analytical framework and key findings. Objectives included re-evaluating the policy's evolution, reassessing identified implementation challenges, and analysing the consistency of the original review's conclusions against the documented policy trajectory. This was a desk-based, analytical replication study. The methodology precisely mirrored the original review's approach, involving a systematic re-analysis of the same publicly available policy documents, official government reports, and strategic frameworks. The same thematic analysis framework was applied to the data. The replication largely corroborated the original review's central thesis regarding persistent systemic challenges, such as supply chain fragmentation. However, it identified a more pronounced theme of decentralisation-related inconsistencies in policy implementation than originally emphasised. The replication also found that the original's optimistic projections for private sector engagement have not materialised as anticipated. The core findings of the original review were substantiated, confirming its value as a reliable analysis. The replication highlights that certain predicted policy outcomes were overly optimistic, and it brings greater focus to the complexities of decentralised governance within the medicine sector. Future policy analyses should incorporate longer-term monitoring of implementation gaps, particularly at sub-national levels. Policymakers should prioritise resolving the identified inconsistencies in decentralised medicine management. Further research is needed to understand the barriers to deeper private sector involvement in the medicine supply system. Replication study, medicine policy, pharmaceutical policy, Tanzania, East Africa, health policy analysis, decentralisation. This study provides a formal verification of a key analysis in Tanzanian health policy, strengthening the evidence base for future decision-making. It offers a critical update by identifying evolving challenges in policy implementation.

Keywords: *Replication study, Medicine policy, East Africa, Critical analysis, Policy review, Tanzania*



ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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