



Traditional Medicine in Contemporary Côte d'Ivoire: A Study of its Role within Healthcare Systems

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Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in healthcare systems across Africa, including Côte d'Ivoire, where it is often practiced alongside conventional Western medical practices. The study employed ethnographic methods to conduct participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with traditional healers and patients from various regions of the country. Traditional medicine is practiced by approximately 40% of the population in Côte d'Ivoire, with herbal remedies being the most commonly used form. Patients often seek complementary treatments alongside conventional healthcare, indicating a significant reliance on traditional practices. The study highlights the importance of integrating traditional medicine into formal healthcare systems to improve overall health outcomes and patient satisfaction. Healthcare providers should be encouraged to collaborate with traditional healers to offer more holistic care. Policy frameworks should also support the recognition and regulation of traditional practices.

Keywords: *African, Geography, Anthropology, Culture, Community, Health, Integration*

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