



# Dynamics of Traditional Babaylan Healers in Visayas Region: An Alternative Healthcare Perspective in Côte d'Ivoire

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## Abstract

Traditional Babaylan healers play a significant role in alternative healthcare systems within Visayas Region of the Philippines. These practitioners are integral to local communities and offer holistic treatment methods that integrate spiritual, medicinal, and cultural practices. A qualitative research approach was employed to gather data through semi-structured interviews with Babaylan healers and focus group discussions among community members. Data were analysed using thematic analysis. Interviews revealed a dynamic ecosystem where Babaylan healers operate within a complex social fabric, often facing challenges in recognition by formal healthcare systems but maintaining strong community support networks. A notable finding was the significant proportion (65%) of respondents who reported collaborating with traditional and modern medical practitioners to provide comprehensive care. The study underscores the importance of Traditional Babaylan healers as essential components of alternative healthcare systems in Visayas Region, highlighting their role in bridging cultural gaps and community health needs. Their ability to integrate spiritual and medicinal practices has been observed across various socio-economic groups. Healthcare policies should acknowledge and support Traditional Babaylan healers by integrating their knowledge into formal curricula and incorporating traditional healing methods within public health initiatives. Additionally, research efforts should focus on documenting and validating traditional remedies for wider adoption. Traditional Babaylan, Alternative Healthcare, Visayas Region, Community Health, Holistic Treatment Treatment effect was estimated with  $\text{text}\{\text{logit}\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 p X_i$ , and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

**Keywords:** Côte d'Ivoire, Geographical, Cultural Anthropology, Traditional Medicine, Community Health, Ethnography, Indigenous Healthcare

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