

PRESERVATION AND USE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE AMONG THE ALTERNATIVE HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The preservation of indigenous knowledge among the alternative healthcare practitioners is significant in primary healthcare where the use of traditional medicine is widely embraced by the society. Alternative healthcare practitioners play major roles in primary healthcare delivery in some societies like Nigeria and their roles in traditional medicine healthcare system are acknowledged. However, the volumes of existing studies were largely concentrated on examining the use of modern traditional medicinal plants, thus ignoring such valuable aspect concerning its preservation by alternative healthcare practitioners in primary healthcare. This study, therefore, investigated the preservation of indigenous knowledge among the alternative healthcare practitioners in Nigeria.

This paper employed the descriptive survey research design to examining related issues that many scholars are wont to ignore. Stratified random sampling technique was employed to select twenty (20) of the thirty-three (33) local government areas of Oyo State. Twenty(20) respondents were purposively selected from each of the twenty (20) local government areas making a total of four hundred (400) questionnaire, which was administered to them. Data collected was analysed using percentages and Pearson Product Moment Correlation and Multiple Regression statistics. The study covered only Oyo State to represent other parts of Nigeria.

The study argued that alternative healthcare practitioners need to adequately preserve indigenous knowledge in various formats that can make it accessible for future generations. It also established the fact that library and information professionals have not been actively involved in the preservation of indigenous knowledge in primary healthcare.

Keywords: Preservation, Indigenous Knowledge, Primary Healthcare, Alternative Healthcare Practitioners, Nigeria.