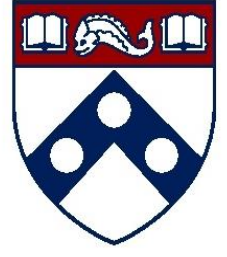


ASSESSING THE PERCEPTION OF COMMUNITIES TOWARDS TRADITIONAL HEALERS AND ANALYZING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH BIOMEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN ORTHOPEDIC CARE IN NORTHERN TANZANIA



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Conclusions

Traditional Healers do NOT significantly limit the effectiveness of care offered by KCMC doctors

TRADITIONAL HEALERS

1

Traditional healers are **significantly distrusted** and **considered largely ineffective** in Northern Tanzania

2

Traditional healers play an important role in **culture** and **low-cost and accessible treatment** in certain societies outside of Northern Tanzania

3

Traditional healers are known to treat orthopedic injuries but are **NOT trusted or considered more effective than medical doctors in orthopedic care**

BIOMEDICAL DOCTORS

1

Biomedical doctors in KCMC (and beyond) are **highly respected and trusted**, considered **very effective**, and received **very little criticism**

COMPARISON

1

There is **limited support for collaboration (<30%)** between healers and doctors due to large gap in knowledge, differing practices, and lack of trust in healers

2

Those who do support collaboration mainly see cooperation as a way for traditional healers to *learn from* doctors and share benefits of herbal medicine

Author Info, Funding, and Appendix



Achint Das is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania studying Health & Societies and Economics. He hopes to pursue a career in global healthcare policy and management and pursued this research to understand more about the issues and complexities within global healthcare systems.

Please email achintd@sas.upenn.edu with any questions or comments!

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Survey



Interview Guide



Consent Form



Introduction

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 1) Assessing role, impact, and perception of traditional healers with focus on orthopedic care and Northern Tanzania
- 2) Comparing perceptions of traditional healers and biomedical practitioners to qualify their relationship and identify barriers limiting care
- 3) Identify potential collaborations between healers & doctors

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Literature on the influence and scope of traditional healers in Tanzania is **very limited**
- Traditional healers are popular used among less-educated, lower-income, and rural groups in less developed areas
- Existing (but not definitive) evidence of bi-directional relationship and referrals between traditional healers and biomedical doctors, through no research into potential collaboration between the two groups

Methodology

Data Collection: Mixed Methods (Interviews & Survey)

Questions: Open-ended (short answer), multiple-choice, polar and Likert scales

Participants: Interviews: Orthopedic ward inpatient;

Survey: ward inpatients and orthopedic clinic outpatients

Setting: Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (Orthopedic Department), Moshi, Tanzania

Timeline: 06-15-2022 to 07-15-2022

Data Analysis: Interview: Thematic Analysis; **Survey:** Statistical (descriptive, regression), thematic, & graphical analysis using Excel, Analysis ToolPak, and Tableau

8 Interviews

111 Surveys

Hypothesis

If traditional healers are more trusted, popular, and culturally significant than orthopedic biomedical practitioners, then traditional healers limit the accessibility, effectiveness, and quality of care offered by orthopedic biomedical practitioners in Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre and northern Tanzania

Discussion

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

- Fills in existing gap in knowledge on traditional healer presence in Northern Tanzania
- Provides guidance on what community health initiatives and goals Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre should and should not focus on
- Demonstrate a change in the general population's mindset in Tanzania towards more scientific, verified, and empirical medicine
- Highlights merits of research into herbal & natural remedies
- Demonstrates value of using KCMC as model for all hospitals for high-quality care and patient satisfaction
- Reveals potential connection between increased tourism and exposure to international actors with increased modern medicine practices

FUTURE RESEARCH

- 1) Mixed methods study focusing on rural and household districts (in Moshi or regions with many traditional healers i.e. Manyara & Tanga)
- 2) Comparative analysis replicating the exact methodology of this study at KCMC at Muhimbili National Hospital or Bugando Medical Centre (hospitals of similar stature and caliber to KCMC)

Results

Most Common Uses of Traditional Healers

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 Failure of Medical Doctors | 2 Unexplained Illness (Incl. Supernatural) |
| 3 Broken Bones & Osteoporosis | 4 Cultural Tradition |

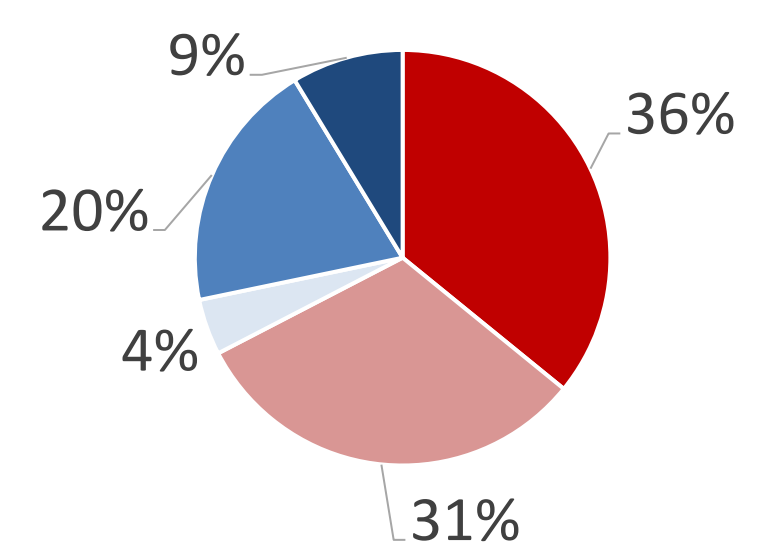
Reputation of Biomedical Doctors

- Hardworking
- Professional
- Well-educated / knowledgeable
- Accurate through "investigation"
- Scientific
- Consistently positive outcomes
- Trustworthy
- Caring

Reputation of Traditional Healers

- Extremely untrustworthy
- Unintelligible, not well-educated
- Liars, deceivers, self-interested
- "Treat by guessing"
- Create chaos in communities
- **Rare Mentions:**
 - Natural medicine experts, culturally significant, low-income treatment

Do you approve of the idea of traditional healers and biomedical doctors working together to provide care?



- Strongly Disapprove
- Slightly Disapprove
- Neither Approve nor Disapprove
- Slightly Approve
- Strongly Approve

| KEY | 1 - Strongly Disapprove | 2 - Slightly Disapprove | 3 - Neither Approve nor Disapprove | 4 - Slightly Approve | 5 - Strongly Approve |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Question | Mean | SD | | | |
| Trust in traditional healers for providing high-quality care? | 1.847 | 1.097 | | | |
| Trust in biomedical doctors (KCMC) for providing high-quality care? | 4.704 | 0.646 | | | |
| Trust in formal healthcare system? | 4.776 | 0.419 | | | |

- 98%** Of respondents visited a traditional healer 0 times in a week
- 20%** Of respondents know an individual who visited a traditional healer
- 40%** Believe traditional healers are important
- 96%** believe that biomedical doctors would be **more effective** in treating a surgical condition than traditional healers
- 90%** Of respondents believe the care they received at KCMC is superior to care offered by traditional healers