


Tanzania Health Innovation System: The Interface Between the Modern and Traditional System


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Outline of the Presentation

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Background

- ▶ The study is part of the larger study on the Sectoral Systems of Innovation
 - ▶ Two other sectors are agriculture and manufacturing
 - ▶ It builds on the Phase I which focused on the supply side factor of innovation
 - ▶ The focus in Phase II has been on the factors facilitating or constraining integration of the two systems: modern and traditional
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Rationale

- ▶ Access to affordable quality healthcare is important for national development
 - ▶ Modern health system is failing to meet the needs of majority of the people in the society
 - ▶ Traditional health system plays important role in the society and has the potential for doing more
 - ▶ The need to explore the potential for integration
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Conceptual framework

- ▶ An *integrative system* of healthcare is the one where TM is officially recognized and incorporated into all areas of healthcare provision
 - ▶ *Inclusive system* where TM is recognized but not yet fully embraced into all aspects of healthcare
 - ▶ *Tolerant system* where national health system is entirely on MM but some traditional practices are tolerated by law
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Objectives of the Study

- ▶ Examine the relation between modern and traditional health practitioners
 - ▶ Find out the extent to which traditional health practices are incorporated into national health system
 - ▶ Find out the extent to which innovativeness in TM is a factor in integration
 - ▶ Examine factors constraining integration of the two systems
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Methodological framework

- ▶ The first step involved identification of actors in TM to be involved
 - ▶ The following actors were identified:
 - TM Practitioners
 - Owners/Operators of TM Shops
 - Owners/Operators of TM Clinics
 - TM Researchers
 - TM Associations
 - Medical Doctors
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Methodological framework, cont.,

Study Areas and Sample Size

	DSM	B/Moyo	Moro
TM Practitioners	25	17	28
TM Shops	4	4	4
TM Clinics	10	2	2
TM Researchers	4	1	1
TM Associations	2	1	1
Medical Doctors	5	7	6
Total	50	32	42


Methodological framework, cont.,

▶ Instruments

- **Questionnaires:** During this phase of the study extensive use has been of questionnaires to capture some basic characteristics of actors and TM practices
- **Interviews:** Subsequent phase will involve extensive interviews with key informants among TM actors, policymakers, regulators and people in pharmaceutical industry

Summary of Findings

▶ General observations

- TM is male dominated practice
 - The wide range of experiences among actors
 - There has been a surge in people practicing traditional medicine
 - This is also reflected in increased number of TM shops and clinics
 - TM practitioners also double as researchers
 - TM practice knowledge/skills is based on inheritance from family members
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Summary of Findings, cont.;

▶ General observations

- TM practitioners are reporting in-depth knowledge of plants, herbs and roots
- TM practitioners are reporting wide range of diseases or symptoms of diseases
- Majority, 68 percent, are reporting average to high demand for traditional practice services
- Ability of TM to address some diseases considered chronic was singled out one most important development

Summary of Findings, cont.;


▶ Interaction among actors

- Given the diversity actors within TM practice interaction is critical for sustainability
- Majority, over 80 percent, are reporting professional contacts in the following areas:
 - Exchange of knowledge/ideas on TM
 - By referring patients to each other when they run out of medicines or conditions are perceived as being beyond their levels of competence

However there is limited contacts between TM and MM practitioners

Summary of Findings, cont.;

▶ Status of integration

- Phase I established co-existence of the two systems
 - That is, the two systems operate as separate entities within healthcare systems
 - This happening despite the existence of law, policy and regulatory frameworks considered as critical inputs to integration process
 - The experience elsewhere shows potential for closer relationships
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Summary of Findings, cont.;

▶ Potential for integration


- TM actors are in agreement of the great potential for integrating two systems
- This is evidenced from cross-referrals within TM and between TM and between TM and modern counterpart
- Increased sharing of knowledge among TM actors
- Medical doctors are expressing limited appreciation of the role of TM

Summary of Findings, cont.;

▶ Factors constraining integration

- A number of factors can be identified as constraining the integration process
- Among them are:
 - Limited public understanding of the functioning of TM
 - Long standing mistrust between TM and MM
 - Underfunding of research in traditional medicine
 - Bureaucracy within regulatory agencies
 - Underdeveloped pharmaceutical industry
 - Not very conducive policy environment

Tentative conclusions

- ▶ At this stage no firm conclusions can be made on the integration process
 - ▶ While there encouraging interactions among actors in the traditional practice the same cannot be said about the relationship between TM and MM
 - ▶ The need raise public awareness about TM
 - ▶ The need to rethink the setup of national health system in terms of education, training and resource allocations especially in research
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!END!

- ▶ Thank you for your attention!