

**INVESTIGATION OF THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE  
(PRACTICES AND MEDICINES') IN MOSOCHO DIVISION, KISII  
COUNTY**

**BY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Traditional medicine refers to health practices approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plant animal and mineral based medicines, spiritual therapies, manual techniques and exercises, applied singularly or in combination to treat, diagnose and prevent illness or maintain well being. WHO has estimated that 80% of the world depends on traditional medicine for their primary health care. The study was to find out traditional medicinal practices, determine and document plants traditionally used for medicinal therapy by the Abagusii community of Mosoch Division, Kisii County. The study was conducted between May, 2013 and October 2013 through a survey method, interviewing. The study was conducted on all traditional practitioners identified and recruited with the help of the local village elders from the respective locations in the division. The data was collected by both quantitatively and qualitatively using semi- structured questionnaires and oral interviews, and analysis and findings are documented. The following findings were made the herbalists were found to be high in number of 66.7% followed by the traditional birth attendants 24.% whilst the surgeons were (craniotomy (head trephining), circumcisers, and clitodectomy) was with least practitioner this is due to modern technology that has outweighed traditional methods. Trephination was well carried out by the Abagusii community but it has diminished because of the modern technology and old age of the knowledge holders. Plants are the chief source of medicine of 84.4% and can also be used in combination with spirituals at 11.4% this is a clear indication that people should develop botanical gardens as indicated in the findings 62.2%, forest were initially the source of medicinal plants but due increase in population forests have been turned into agricultural lands and also for commercial and this has

contributed to the decline of medicinal plants at 6.7%. It was also noted in the findings that plants are bought from other places or in other countries hence this becomes an expensive process this is shown from the findings of 8.9%. Motivation of traditional is essential for proper and quality health care services. 40.0% were motivated by payment, followed by those who used both gifts, payments, recognition and successful treatment 28.9%.