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Preservation, Sharing and Utilization of Indigenous Health Information by the Kalanga in Bulilima District

by

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to investigate how the Kalanga of Bulilima District preserve, share and use indigenous health information. It was actuated by an observed gradual loss and subtle disappearance of indigenous health information through generations within the Kalanga community, yet this information is seen as an alternative source of health information to solve rural health problems. The case study research design was used to obtain comprehensive data from one hundred and twenty respondents through face to face interviews and focus group discussions. The study revealed that indigenous health information among the Kalanga is not documented and is stored by the elderly who have shared it orally with the younger generation. The study unearthed a growing contest between indigenous knowledge and western based science and religion, where the younger generation among the Kalanga have rubbished Kalanga local health information as primitive and dangerous, basing on the western based science and religion; whilst the elderly still argue the relevance of indigenous health information and advocate for its use. The study recommended that the Plumtree District Hospital Health Information Dissemination department and other Kalanga Culture stakeholders should embark on a programme to engage Kalanga villagers in Bulilima in order to obtain indigenous health information and merge it with modern health information to avoid its loss and disappearance.