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## **Transcultural health care utilisation in Serengeti of Tanzania : towards applied ethnoscience in public health management**

Bekker, J.C.M. de

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**Author:** Bekker, J.C.M. de

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**Propositions**  
**Transcultural Health Care Utilisation in Serengeti of Tanzania:**  
*Towards Applied Ethnoscience in Public Health Management*  
by Drs. J.C.M. de Bekker

1. The pattern of utilisation of the plural medical system in Serengeti as reported by the local population appears to be dominated by psycho-social factors, particularly by indigenous medical knowledge, belief and convictions (*this thesis*).
2. The co-operation with traditional practitioners remains an essential aspect of the health manpower shortage in public health management. Such co-operation should not be assessed by the eligibility of potential candidates based on academic qualities, but rather on their commitment and interest, as well as on their role in the community through social communications and personal relationships (*this thesis*).
3. The commercialisation of traditional medicine as documented in predominantly urban areas of Serengeti may lead to a loss of the cultural significance of the traditional medical system. Such process becomes manifest when detachment from the ritual and symbolism occurs which accompanies medical treatment by traditional practitioners in their original environment (*this thesis*).
4. The role of the modern media in health education and in the early warning of health hazards is currently underestimated, and underutilised in low infrastructural settings such as Serengeti (*this thesis*).
5. The concept of ‘medical pluralism’ could be regarded as a continuum which is influenced by an increasing number of options in treatment, not primarily as a result of developments in medical science, but because of the globalisation of health care rendering alternative medical systems known and accessible around the world, leading to new combinations, adaptations and applications, transcending their cultural areas of origin (*cf. Leslie 1977; Slikkerveer 1995*) (*this field of study*).
6. The importance of the recording of indigenous knowledge is underscored by the observation expressed by traditional practitioners that there is a diminishing interest in their skills among the younger generation. The process is complemented by their observation that there is a declining biodiversity with regard to the Medicinal, Aromatic and Cosmetic (MAC) plant species on which their herbal therapies are based (*this field of study*).
7. The implementation of an officially regulated and accessible communal health insurance scheme should preferably be linked to existing indigenous institutions at the community level. The study shows that there is an underutilisation of the modern medical system as a result of socio-economic and cultural considerations which occasionally leads to health hazards through absent, delayed, incomplete or inappropriate treatment (*this field of study*).
8. The application of the ethnoscience methodology in this study shows the potential of these specific methods and techniques as an impact assessment model with predictive capabilities to assist sustainable community development *cf. Slikkerveer, Baourakis & Saefullah (2018)* (*this field of study*).
9. One way of reducing the fear of flying is to undertake as many pilot studies as possible (*free choice*).
10. The role of local cosmovisions of the indigenous peoples living in the larger areas of the tropics is underestimated in the current debate on climate change around the globe (*free choice*).