

**POVERTY AND HEALTH CARE: THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN ODEDA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.**

BY

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ABSTRACT

This project examined poverty, healthcare and the role of traditional medicine in Odeda local government area of Ogun state. This is with a view to understand how people in the rural settings medically take care of themselves particularly in areas where there are no primary health care centres. The alternative these rural dwellers has is the use of traditional medicines that is plants to help treat diseases and sicknesses. This study was conducted at eight settlements within Odeda local government. A total of 120 respondents were taken from Apesin, Eweje farm settlements, Ilugun, Obantoko, Opeji, Osiele, Olodo, Odeda through Simple Random Sampling. The result of the study shows that 60% of the people were poor and therefore were unable to afford orthodox medication when ill. The best available alternative to them is to opt for traditional medicine which is cheaper and effective using indigenous knowledge. A total of 24 different plant species were found to be used to administer curative measures in treatment of sicknesses and diseases. The poverty line calculated from the respondents using income level approach was 4,725 Naira and this indicated that more than 60% of the respondents were poor using World Bank standard of \$ 1.25 per day for households. Also, using the indicator of household assets, it was obvious that majority of the people were poor as majority of the people were unable to afford these assets. Since the result from this study had proved that majority of the populace are poor, it is strongly believed that majority of the populace will depend on traditional medicine for treating diseases and illness. Therefore, government should formulate policies that will encourage the use of medicinal plants for the treatment of various diseases and illness especially in areas where there are poor primary health care distribution among the rural populace.