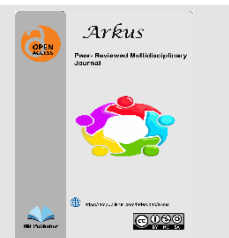




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## Study of Sociological Aspects of Traditional Medicine in Inland Communities in West Java, Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

Traditional medicine is a form of health service that has existed for a long time in Indonesia. Traditional medicine is still used by some people, especially people in rural areas. This research aims to examine the sociological aspects of traditional medicine in rural communities in West Java, Indonesia. This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. The research informants consisted of 10 people who were traditional medicine practitioners and people who used traditional medicine. Data was collected through in-depth interviews and observations. The results of the research show that traditional medicine in rural communities in West Java, Indonesia, has an important role in people's lives. Traditional medicine is used to treat various diseases, both physical and non-physical. Traditional medicine is also used to maintain health and improve people's quality of life. The discussion shows that traditional medicine has important social values for the people of inland West Java, Indonesia. These social values include the value of togetherness, the value of local wisdom, and the value of solidarity. Traditional medicine also plays a role in strengthening the cultural identity of the people of inland West Java, Indonesia. The research conclusion shows that traditional medicine is an inseparable part of the lives of the people in the interior of West Java, Indonesia. Traditional medicine has an important role in social, cultural, and public health aspects.

### 1. Introduction

Traditional medicine has an important role in people's lives. Traditional medicine is used to treat various diseases, both physical and non-physical. Traditional medicine can be used to treat various physical illnesses, such as fever, cough, flu, diarrhea, stomach ache, headache, and wounds. Traditional medicine to treat physical illnesses usually uses natural ingredients, such as plants, animals, and minerals. Apart from physical illnesses, traditional medicine can also be used to treat non-physical illnesses, such as mental disorders, stress, and depression. Traditional medicine to treat non-physical illnesses usually uses non-medical methods, such as spiritual therapy, psychological therapy, and herbal therapy.<sup>1-3</sup>

Traditional medicine can also be used to maintain health and improve people's quality of life. Traditional medicine to health usually uses methods aimed at increasing the body's endurance, such as eating healthy food, exercising regularly, and relaxing. Traditional medicine has important social values for society. These social values include the value of togetherness, the value of local wisdom, and the value of solidarity. Sociological aspects of traditional medicine can be studied from various points of view, including the role of traditional medicine in society, the social values contained in traditional medicine, and the role of traditional medicine in strengthening society's cultural identity.<sup>4-6</sup> This research aims to examine the sociological aspects of traditional medicine in rural communities in West Java, Indonesia.

## 2. Methods

This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. Qualitative research is research that uses an inductive approach to understand social phenomena in depth. The case study approach is a research approach that focuses on an in-depth study of a particular case. The research informants consisted of 10 people who were traditional medicine practitioners and people who used traditional medicine. Informants were selected purposively, based on certain criteria, namely, Traditional medicine practitioners who have at least 5 years of experience and people who use traditional medicine who have used traditional medicine for at least 1 year.

Data was collected through in-depth interviews and observations. In-depth interviews were conducted to explore the information and opinions of informants in depth. Observations were carried out to observe traditional healing activities carried out by informants directly. In-depth interviews were conducted in a semi-structured manner, namely using prepared interview guidelines. The interview guide contains questions that are open and unstructured, so that informants can provide more in-depth answers. In-depth interviews were conducted face-to-face with each informant. Interviews were conducted at the informant's residence or at a traditional healing practice.

Observations were carried out to observe traditional healing activities carried out by informants directly. Observations were carried out by recording the activities carried out by the informant, as well as the interactions that occurred between the informant and the surrounding community.

Observations were carried out for 2 weeks in remote communities in West Java, Indonesia. Data obtained from in-depth interviews and observations were analyzed qualitatively. Data analysis was carried out using thematic analysis techniques. Thematic analysis is a qualitative data analysis technique that aims to identify and analyze the main themes contained in the data. The main themes identified in this research are the role of traditional medicine in

Society, Social values in traditional medicine, and the role of traditional medicine in strengthening community cultural identity.

## 3. Results and Discussion

The results of the research show that traditional medicine in rural communities in West Java, Indonesia, has an important role in people's lives. Traditional medicine is used to treat various diseases, both physical and non-physical. Traditional medicine is also used to maintain health and improve people's quality of life. Traditional medicine in remote communities in West Java, Indonesia, has important social values for the community. These social values include the value of togetherness, the value of local wisdom, and the value of solidarity. Traditional medicine also plays a role in strengthening the cultural identity of the people of inland West Java, Indonesia. Traditional medicine is a form of cultural expression in the interior of West Java, Indonesia.

Traditional medicine has important social values for society. These social values include the value of togetherness, the value of local wisdom, and the value of solidarity. The value of togetherness is reflected in traditional healing practices, which are usually carried out in groups. Traditional healing practices carried out in groups can strengthen social relations between community members. The value of local wisdom is reflected in the use of natural ingredients and traditional healing methods passed down from generation to generation. Traditional medicine is a form of cultural expression of a community that reflects the local wisdom of that community. The value of solidarity is reflected in traditional healing practices, which usually involve voluntary community participation. Traditional healing practices that involve voluntary community participation can strengthen the sense of mutual assistance between community members.<sup>7-9</sup>

Traditional medicine is a form of cultural expression in society. Traditional medicine passed down from generation to generation can strengthen a community's cultural identity. Traditional medicine

can also be a means of introducing community culture to the wider community. Traditional medicine packaged attractively can be an attraction for tourists to visit an area. Traditional medicine is an inseparable part of the lives of people in the interior of West Java, Indonesia. Traditional medicine has an important role in social, cultural, and public health aspects.<sup>10-12</sup>

Traditional medicine can be an alternative health service that can be accessed by people in remote areas. Traditional medicine can also be a way to maintain and preserve the culture of the people of inland West Java, Indonesia. Herbal medicine uses natural ingredients, such as plants, animals, and minerals, to treat various diseases. Spiritual medicine uses non-medical methods, such as spiritual therapy, psychological therapy, and herbal therapy, to treat non-physical illnesses. Apart from herbal medicine and spiritual medicine, there are several other traditional healing practices that are still used by people in the interior of West Java, Indonesia, such as massage, acupuncture, and cupping.<sup>13,14</sup>

#### 4. Conclusion

Traditional medicine is an inseparable part of the lives of people in the interior of West Java, Indonesia. Traditional medicine has an important role in social, cultural, and public health aspects. Traditional medicine can be an alternative health service that can be accessed by people in remote areas. Traditional medicine can also be a way to maintain and preserve the culture of the people of inland West Java, Indonesia.

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