

A Systematic Analysis of strategic management methods for conservation of Medicinal Plants in South African rural communities

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Abstract

This study was aimed to provide theoretical analysis on strategic management methods for conservation of medicinal plants in South African rural communities, owing to the reported scarcity of medicinal plants in most of the rural areas of South Africa. The strategic management methods were reviewed based on implementations and sustainability across rural South African communities. This qualitative study adopted non-empirical research design: Systematic review, closely looking at recent reputable reports in South African context, aided by international seminal studies on this subject. This was done by closely looking at recent reputable reports across globe, while using South African rural communities as case studies, from 1990-2020 (I.e. 30 years' projection, not in sequence). The Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA) was used to filter the reviewed literature studies, focusing on keywords. The data collected was analysed using inductive Thematic Analysis (TA).

This study established that medicinal plants in rural South African communities are mostly affected by urbanisation practices. It was also evident that few strategic of protecting and preserving medicinal plants are currently ineffective despite the conventional importance of these plants. It is recommended that the scarcity of medicinal plants should be highly prioritised by the local municipalities of rural South African communities, fully supported by the provincial and national spheres of government to avoid extinction resulting from urbanisation and other notable factors. The town planners should also consider medicinal plants during development phases.

Keywords: Conservation, Medicinal plants, Rural South African communities, South Africa, Strategic management methods, Theoretical framework, Urbanisation.

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