

## **Regulation of African Traditional Medicines and Public Participation: Empirical Evidence from South Africa**

**Fikile Vilakazi<sup>1</sup> and Mulugeta F. Dinbabo<sup>2</sup>**

*Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag x 17,  
Bellville, 7535, Cape Town, South Africa*

*Telephone: <sup>1</sup>+27 83 581 6161; <sup>2</sup>+27 21 959 3855*

*E-mail: <sup>1</sup><fikile.vilakazi@gmail.com> <sup>2</sup><mdinbabo@uwc.ac.za,  
mulugeta.dinbabo@gmail.com>*

**KEYWORDS** Trust. Reciprocity. Participation. Africa Traditional Medicines. Regulation

**ABSTRACT** Ensuring active participation can have a positive impact on the regulation of African Traditional Medicines (ATMs). This research assessed the level of participation and the role of trust and reciprocity amongst African Traditional Health Practitioners (ATHPs) in the regulation of ATMs in South Africa. A quantitative research methodology was employed. The research found that trust in government's regulation was high (60%) amongst ATHPs and this negatively correlated with low levels (72%) of willingness to participate in the regulation of ATMs. A classical regression model where:  $Y = a + bK + cX + dL + \mu$ , where  $a$  is the intercept of the model;  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  represent regression coefficients; and  $\mu$  is the random error term, revealed that reciprocity ( $P > |t| 0.00$ ) and trust ( $P > |t| 0.01$ ) play a statistically significant role to influence participation. The creation of participation units is recommended to increase active involvement in the regulation of ATMs.