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Urban Ethnomedicine as an Adaptive Healthcare System: Women's Knowledge, Medical Pluralism, and Biocultural Conservation in Semarang, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT This study documents women's urban ethnomedicinal knowledge in Semarang City addressing a critical gap in the ethnobotanical research. It aims to identify medicinal plants used by women, associated local knowledge, and socio-cultural factors shaping their use. A qualitative descriptive was conducted in representative sub-districts of Semarang City through observation, semi-structured interviews with 160 purposively selected female knowledge holders, photographic and literature documentation. The findings reveal the use of 82 plant species to treat various ailments and utilizing different plant parts. The use of these plants reflects local perceptions of health and illness, with women ~~ascting~~ acting as primary custodians, transmitters, and processors of ancestral knowledge, particularty in the preparation of *jamu* (Javanese herbal drinks). These practices represent both primary and complementary healthcare strategies, demonstrating resilience in an urban context. Documenting this knowledge is essential for conserving urban biocultural heritage and recognising women's central role in sustaining traditional healing practices.