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## **MEDICAL TRADITIONS OF EXTENDED FAMILIES**

- (According to Imereti ethnographic materials)

Folk medicine is one of the subjects of ethnography. Its study has particular importance for the exploration of national traditions and everyday culture.

Effective folk remedies in most cases were passed from one generation to the other within a family that promoted the establishment of the traditional family medical cultures.

The knowledge of preparation of a particular remedies were kept in secret within the family, however, such "bans" on mystifying the preparation of medicines have practically disappeared.

The collection of the ethnographic materials in Lower Imereti showed us that the popular memory and the families interested in maintaining these particular traditions brought their ancestors' medical experience to these days. Apart from the medication the folk medicine still keeps in practice magic-religious rites, heaving with incantation and prayers. Much is still to be done in the direction of the comprehensive ethnographic study of the medical traditions of extended families, which will undoubtedly rediscover unknown medical means.