

# Analysis of religious leaders' perceptions regarding witchcraft and healing in Honduras

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## Background



In Honduras few authors have written about witchcraft and healing. This study analyzes shamanism in the Mosquitia region and its religious practices. More recently, it explores witchcraft as a social phenomenon from an exploratory perspective, focusing specifically on the period between 1933 and 1949, during which Honduras was under a dictatorship.

## Objective



Grasp the different perceptions of religious leaders regarding the practice of witchcraft and healing in Honduras through statistical and hermeneutical analysis.



## Methodology

Mixed approach, combining descriptive methods and hermeneutic perspective.

### Number of interviewees

30 religious leaders

### Type of interviewees.

Priests, evangelical pastors, and catholic nuns

### Instruments

survey

### Technics of analysis

discourse analysis and statistics



## Results



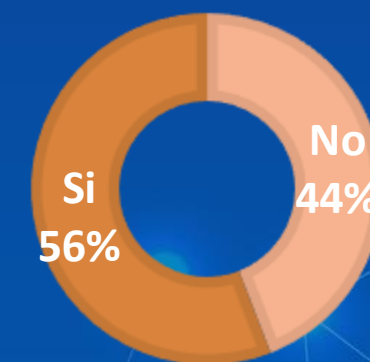
### Witchcraft: Fear or Sympathy

Interviewees reveal that they consult their spiritual leaders for two main reasons. The first, and most frequently mentioned, is to seek help when they suspect they are victims of such practices. The second reason is when they are considering alternative solutions to their problems but are concerned about whether it would be considered a sin.

*"To ask for help when they believe someone has harmed them."  
 (Participant 3, Catholic priest)*

### Witches and Healers

¿Considera usted que existe diferencia entre brujería y curanderos?



## Conclusions/ Recomendations



- The analysis based on the perceptions of religious leaders showed that, over the years, Honduran society continues to believe in the knowledge promoted and produced by both witch doctors and healers.
- Furthermore, the realm of beliefs continues to be contested with religious leaders, resulting in what many social scientists have called religious syncretism, which further complicates the religious diversity of Honduras in the 21st century.



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Conflict of interest: none