Determinants of health seeking behaviour in Kenya
Nyambane, Dominic
Date: 2012

Abstract:
Access to healthcare has been prioritised by successive governments in Kenya. Different models towards enhancing the health security and access to health services to all Kenyans have been implemented with varying degrees of success. For instance, policy shifts have seen the introduction, abolition and re-introduction of user fees as well as co-financing of health services. Attempts have also been made at establishing an all inclusive National Social Health Insurance Fund (NSHIF) without significant success. In 2012, the government rolled out a comprehensive health scheme for all staff in the public service. Despite the laying out of these interventions, the dream of achieving universal healthcare in Kenya remains elusive. The study examines the factors that influence peoples' demand for healthcare, with a view to informing and maximising on the benefit and impact of future health related expenditure patterns. The data used in the study is derived from the 2008/09 Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS), a logistical regression model was used to test the direction of causality between the demand for health services and selected determinants. Chi-Square Tests were then applied to establish their levels of significance. The results showed that, as hypothesised, individual, household and regional characteristics have a significant bearing on the health seeking behaviours. Policy makers should, therefore, take into consideration the various determinants of demand for health services in evaluating the success of existing initiatives and/or in the design of new interventions.