

Primary Health Care Interventions and Social Ties in Kenya

Josephine Gakii Gatua

The burden of disease due to preventable diseases is a major challenge for developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. Governments and aid agencies have devised various interventions to improve the situation. This thesis explores how different health interventions influence health and healthcare-seeking behavior of households in Kenya.

In chapter I, I combine data on households and healthcare providers to investigate the impact of social connections between locally instituted primary healthcare providers and beneficiary households, on health outcomes and healthcare-seeking behavior. I find that households socially connected receive more healthcare and demonstrate better healthcare-seeking behavior. In chapter II, we employ a nationally representative dataset to examine the impact of this community-based intervention on child health. We find no strong positive impact of the intervention on a range of health indicators.

Chapter III examines the effect of health information on preventive behavior and cooperation. I find that households engage in more preventative behavior when informed their co-villagers are doing the same.



JOSEPHINE GAKII GATUA
Holds a BSc in Economics from the University of Nairobi and a MSc in Economics from the University of Dar es Salaam.

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