

ABSTRACT

Health Sector Expenditure Survey of Jamaica 1986-90

In recent years health policy and health expenditures have come under increasing scrutiny. This has been heightened by the present economic crisis and the desire of the multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to effect more prudent financial and fiscal management. It is hereby argued that a Health Sector Survey can contribute to the realisation of these aims in Jamaica. Health consumes a modest 2.2% of the GDP. The private sector is largely untapped as a source of finance. It is also argued that manpower shortages notwithstanding, it is necessary to focus on increased productivity and change in work ethic, since employee emoluments can only rise in the future. There has been no significant change in policy towards Primary Health Care. Epidemiologic techniques should be applied to the financial surveillance of the health sector, not only to monitor and explain deviations from the norm, but also to indicate where resources could best be applied and in what mix, and also to highlight the health implications of financial decisions.