

source of information was 82.7% of the rural and 94% of the urban respondents knew about exemption and waiver policy, the finding is much more twice to this study. The sources of information for the majority of rural respondents were kebele administrations as was compared to the study conducted in the household survey of the study in Bahir Dar area [11]. This indicates that there is no government body or health facility staff that strongly considers the importance of disseminating the information about the presence of free health services to the poor.

Lack of awareness of the public about the presence of free health services for the eligible poor and the mechanisms for properly utilizing these measures are noted and high proportion of respondents that suspect the possibility of leakage and under-coverage could be an indication that the communities were not confident enough about the selection process.

Acknowledgment

The authors are grateful to Dilla University for financial support and all the respondents who have participated in the study for their cooperation.

References

1. Gwartk DR. Health inequalities and the health of the poor: What do we know? What can we do? Bulletin of the WHO 2006; 78(1):59-62.
2. Pierre N, Fred NB, James FP, Brian P, Bruce M. Demographic surveillance and Health equity in sub Saharan Africa. Health Policy and Planning .2007; 16(4):337-344.
3. Jantina F. Socioeconomic inequalities in health care: A study of service utilization in Curacao. Social Science and Medicine 2006; 45(2):213-220.
4. Frank N., Joseph K. Health for some? The effects of user fees in the Volta Region of Ghana Health Policy and Planning 2006; 14(4):329-341.
5. George W.K., Francis K. Exemptions and waivers from cost sharing: Ineffective safety nets in decentralized districts in Uganda. Health Policy and Planning, 2007; 17(1):64-71.
6. World Bank Discussion Papers. Financing health services through user fees and insurance Case studies from sub-Saharan Africa 2005: page 33-35
7. Health Sector Financing Reform Project manual in Ethiopia, Southern Ethiopia Regional Health Bureau, 2009: Page 38-39.
8. Levine RE, Griffin CC and Brown, T. Means Testing in Cost Recovery: A Review of Experiences. Health Financing and Sustainability (HFS) Project. Technical Note No. 23, 2006.
9. New brander W. and Collins D. Methodology for Equity and Coverage of health Care Provision Study. The basics Project, Management Sciences for Health, 2007.
10. M. Woldie, C. Jirra, A. Tegegn An assessment of the free health care provision system in Jimma town, Southwest Ethiopia, Ethiopian Journal of Health Development, 2003: Page 6-7.
11. Engida E. Hailemariam D. An assessment of the free health care provision system in Bahir Dar area, Northern Ethiopia, Ethiopian Journal of Health Development, 1999: Page 19.