

**DISSERTATION TITLE:**  
**FACTOR INFLUENCING LOW ENROLMENT RATE OF COMMUNITY  
HEALTH FUND IN IRINGA DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
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**ABSTRACT**

The government of Tanzania introduced Community Health Fund since 1996, with the aim of improving health services in the community. Iringa district council started practicing CHF prepayment scheme, since 1999, which involves heads of households. The level of CHF enrollment in the district is not satisfactory. So the study was conducted between Nov 2002 and April 2003 in order to identify the factors contributing to the low enrollment. Method used was descriptive cross sectional study.

The following were the major findings from the study. Among the respondents interviewed, 85.5% were aware of CHF. Majority of respondents 70.7% got information from village meetings. The study revealed that the current number of CHF was 10%. The study noted that farming was the main source of income that forms the majority of 91%. The study revealed long distance from health facilities is associated with low enrollment to CHF; this observed difference is statistically significant. ( $X^2=6.6$ , df 1,  $P<0.01$ ). The findings revealed some benefits and problems mentioned by the CHF members. These were reduced cost, availability of drugs, prepared before sickness, and good staff attitude.

Lack of laboratory services, poor management of CHF, long distance and long waiting time for service were mentioned as problems. Again non- CHF members mentioned the same reasons for not enrolling with CHF. The study revealed more than 70% of respondents use public health facilities for their health care services.

The study concluded that the community members have negative attitude on CHF program, due to some reasons given above.

It is recommended that, the campaigns should be based on the easily perceived benefits of CHF, easily accessibility of services and drug availability.