

David K. Leonard. Editor. Africa' s Changing Markets for Health and Veterinary Services: The New Institutional Issues. New York, NY: St. Martin' s Press, Inc., 2000. 320 pp. Figures. Tables. Bibliography. Index. \$79.95. Cloth. \$25.00. Paper.

Over the past 15 years, African countries have encountered economic crises that have caused radical changes in the structures that health and veterinary services are provided. These structural adjustments have led to increases in the assessment of user-fees and private markets. Few studies have evaluated the impact that privatization has had on the supply and demand for health and veterinary services. A group of interdisciplinary scholars from Africa and America conducted collaborative research projects over 7 years in order to shed some light on the problems that have arisen as a result of privatization. These scholars apply tools from the New Institutional Economics in order to assist policymakers and scholars with perusing the challenges posed by privatizing health and veterinary services in 6 African countries: Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Uganda, Senegal, and Tanzania. The diversity of health and veterinary services examined using the New Institutional Economics exemplify the impact that economic crises and privatization have had on supply and demand. The issues raised by the results of the studies included in this text make a significant contribution to health and veterinary policies for emerging markets.

Despite its merits, this book has weaknesses. In the last chapter of the text the editor did not compare and contrast the results of the different studies included that might help to gain a deeper understanding of the economic issues being addressed. For instance, studies conducted in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, and Uganda show that time costs, travel costs, and monetary costs influenced the supply and demand for health and veterinary services; studies conducted in Cameroon and Tanzania show the relationships between quality of care and supply and demand of health services; and studies in Senegal and Tanzania show the relationships between organizational structure and supply and demand of health and veterinary services.

Few texts reveal the economic issues that underlie the privatization of health and veterinary services in emerging markets. This edifying collection provides some new insights into the challenges that health and veterinary service markets encounter in 6 African countries. The text is written in a manner that facilitates policymakers and scholars gaining an in-depth understanding of the impact that privatization and economic crises can have on supply and demand.

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