ABSTRACT

Kenya like any other developing country faces a major challenge in improving the health status of its population. Malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS continue to weigh negatively on the health status of its population. The rising proportion of people suffering from NCDs has further complicated the situation. The WHO report of 2002 indicated that, of the total mortality rates in Kenya, NCDs contributed to about 32%. In addition, Ministry of Health Annual report of 2007 revealed that, NCDs contribute over half of the top twenty causes of morbidity and mortality in Kenya (MOH, 2007).

Despite the government’s efforts to enhance good health through provision of highly subsidized or free medical care; Kenya is still facing serious life-threatening diseases that can be prevented through improvement in education and health facilities. The study analyses the factors affecting the likelihood of a person reporting illness. The study focused on a few factors including age, gender, area of residence, level of the education and employment status. The findings show that, the older the individual the higher the probability of being ill. People living in urban areas tend to report sickness more than those in rural areas and most women reported to be sick compared to men. Increase in the level of education reduced the likelihood of reporting illness. In addition, people who are not employed are prone to diseases compared to the employed individuals.