

Health as a productive sector of the Tanzanian economy by Prof. Maureen Mackintosh & Paula Tibandebage

This presentation is based on a paper drawing on a recent collaborative research project entitled “Industrial productivity and health sector performance”. Health care is generally characterised as a “social sector”, and often seen, incorrectly, as a cost to the economy. We argue that on the contrary, health care is a productive economic sector of the Tanzanian economy, and policy should treat it as such. We examine the size of the health sector in economic terms, and we trace the ways in which investment in the health sector is economically and socially productive for the Tanzanian economy and population. The presentation includes examination of the linkages of the health sector to industrial and service suppliers, and policy implications. Health care is a key economic sector, influencing economic development, as well as directly influencing human well-being through the services it provides.