ABSTRACT

This study investigated the performance of the integrated early childhood development services in poor households in Rwanda with respect to its potential impact on poverty reduction. To achieve this it focused on the Nkundabana Program of Care International, in Kamonyi District, Southern Province. The period covered was 2005-2010. The analytical framework considered poverty indicators as dependent variables (with the following components: the drop outs, completion, timely enrolment rates for education component, the incidence of diseases, maternal child mortality rates for health and low daily income, lack of decent shelter and assets for income). Provision of productive assets and services through the program to address the poverty indicators were considered as independent variables. The study population was 180 families and the study selected a sample of 60 respondents. Questionnaires and in-depth interviews were used to collect primary data while document review generated secondary data. Findings of the study revealed that families’ economic status had improved as a result of the program. Based on the findings the study recommended that the approach used by Care International could be replicated in other parts of Rwanda.

Key words

Integrated early childhood development, poverty reduction, Nkundabana program, Rwanda