ABSTRACT

The study was set out to establish relationship between budgeting practices and health service delivery in Ruli district Hospital, Rwanda. The study was guided by the following specific objectives: to assess the budgeting practices used in Ruli district hospital; to evaluate the effectiveness of budgeting practices on health service delivery in Ruli district hospital and to examine the problems faced during the budgeting process in Ruli district hospital. A range of literature concerning budgeting and health service delivery was reviewed and this included the different types of budgets, budgeting process, budget participation, budgeting and service delivery in health sector, etc. Descriptive research design was used and in this both qualitative and quantitative designs were utilized. Purposive and simple random sampling methods were also used to select 103 respondents of the study. The data were mainly corrected using a questionnaire and interview. The study found out that Ruli district hospital budget committee members consisted of accounts and finance individuals. Other departments such as human resource management, procurement and operations were not much involved in the budget committee. The final decision on budget proposal was made by the managing Director of the institution while other departments and sectors such as board of directors were left out in the process. The study also found out that there is a relationship between budgeting practices and health service delivery. The study recommends that for effective budgetary planning, all departments need to be involved in the budget committee in order to overcome problems of budgeting, institutions need to develop strong financial integration with performance management and also to have appropriate timing of the financial plan. Management has to put in an effort to ensure that the basic objectives of budgeting are achieved. A joint effort on the part of all departmental heads is required in preparing the budget in deciding goals and objectives, setting priorities, developing future action plans and formulating general and specific policies.