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ABSTRACT

The study set out to investigate the role of fiscal decentralization in health service delivery in local governments with particular reference to Musanze district local government in Rwanda. The objectives of the study included; investigating the role of different stakeholders in fiscal decentralization in Musanze district; examining the role of fiscal decentralization on health service delivery in Musanze district and finding out the level of local revenue mobilization and service delivery in Musanze district. The study was case study design and data was collected from a part of population whose sample was 55; correlated, analysed, and interpreted. Quantitative and qualitative research approaches were used as it involved the collection of numerical data to answer research questions, and data analysis was mainly statistical. The study found out that following roles are fundamental in decentralized system; each user department prepares a multi-annual work plan based on the approved district health budget, each entity in the LG defines each fiscal decentralization requirements, the procuring entity is responsible for dividing requirements allocated to a single fiscal decentralization process into separate lots, the procuring unit brings about integration of the diverse decision and activities during fiscal decentralization. The accounting officer ensures availability of sufficient funds to run the plans and that is district health budgeted for, the citizens assist the district council to accurately decide on which services to expand and provide, the citizens also work with NGOs CBOs and political parties to develop proposals for the council to consider during planning and also citizen representatives play a great role in the evaluation of potential service providers. Government should increase funding for the maintenance of community and feeder roads. The study makes the following recommendations: corruption must be reduced by enforced of strict rules, giving penalties on those involved and also increasing of salaries of the civil servant can reduce on corruption. Concerning limited skilled personnel, the local government should train the recruited workers so as to equip them with the necessary skills, and also encourage them for further studies. They should first provide district health projects which are highly demanded by local people, this will not only help them to know that their views are concerned but also will help to improve on public confidence in the local government. The fiscal decentralization team should carry out research so as to find out service providers are able and have the equipment to perform the required work in the given time possible.