

Abstract

Despite the longstanding existence of HFGCs, little is known about their impact on health service delivery and challenges faced by these committees in implementing their roles. Taking in to account that, there was a belief that these committees would solve challenges that exist in the public primary health facilities but still there are significant challenges facing these committees in undertaking their duties. The general objective of the study was to assess the impact of health facility governing committees on the health services delivery in Tanzania. More specifically, the study examined the practice of accountability of HFGCs in Dodoma City Council, investigated dimension of challenges facing FGCs in Dodoma City Council and found out the lesson from the challenges facing HFGCs in Dodoma city council. A qualitative research approach and an explanatory study design were applied in this study. A purposive sampling technique was used involving 33 respondents among 744 members of the total population. Data were collected using interview guide, focus group discussion (FGD) and documentary review. Content analysis was used to analyse data collected through FGDs and individual interviews to get an interpretation of their meaning. Findings from this study revealed three major responsibilities of HFGCs in health care delivery namely; Managing health facility resources, Planning and approval of health facility strategic plan and approval of procurement and supplies. Five major challenges facing HFGCs were inadequate funds (budgets), poor health facility infrastructure, inadequate community support to HFGC members, lack of training among HFGC members on roles and responsibilities, and lack of motivation among HGFC members in handling activities. The four common lessons reported by a majority of respondents were: Motivation for HFGC members, Effective training and education programmes for both HFGC members and the community, Proper allocation of budgets and financial resources for HFGC activities as well as Improving health facility infrastructures as the key initiatives that can be used to address the challenges facing HFGCs in health services delivery. It is recommended that a survey research relating with the objectives of the study to be done, that will employ larger sample size so as to gather information from many HFGCs, and increase the generalization of findings to all HFGCs in Tanzania.