

Review of: "The Failure of Public Water Utility Privatization From Araral's Perspective: Implications for Ethiopia's Water Sector"

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Reading the title of the article I have a mixed impression, positive and negative impressions. The positive impression is that the privatization of public goods is always challenging, and therefore this article becomes important to be discussed. On the other hand, when the article merely quotes the statements, comparing with other relevant studies, and criticizing one's perspectives without his/her own study, this review article, therefore, loses its soul.

The article's title promises an interesting and important discussion: the privatization of public goods. However, the content of the article does not deliver. It is based on the subjective views of other studies without any quantitative evidence to support the arguments. The article misses the opportunity to explore the pros and cons of privatization. It is not a thorough work. The article could be improved by providing some facts, examples, or arguments to back up the author's or reviewer's claims, including side-by-side quantitative analysis on the comparison between Araral's arguments and other studies. It could also compare and contrast different perspectives on privatization and its implications. It could also acknowledge the limitations and challenges of the topic and suggest some possible solutions or recommendations.

In my opinion, some missing arguments must be discussed in the review, for example, the requirements to accomplish the successful privatization of public water utilities. It can certainly vary depending on the context and the specific goals of the privatization effort. However, here are some general considerations that are often discussed:

1. Legal Authority: State legal authority for public entities to privatize water systems has aided the privatization trend.
2. Transaction Process: Privatization normally involves at least two transactions with a successful offeror: conveyance of the utility system and acquisition of utility services for a long-term commitment, for example, up to 50 years.
3. Cost Analysis: A comprehensive cost analysis is crucial to ensure that the privatization of public water utilities is financially viable and sustainable.
4. Regulatory Framework: Establishing a regulatory framework that ensures accountability, transparency, and quality control is essential to protect the interests of consumers and the public.
5. Public Engagement: Public engagement and consultation are important to address concerns and ensure that the privatization process is transparent and inclusive.

6. Contractual Agreements: Developing clear and enforceable contractual agreements between the public entity and the private operator is vital to defining the roles, responsibilities, and performance expectations.

7. Monitoring and Oversight: Implementing robust monitoring and oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance with contractual obligations, service quality, and pricing is critical.

8. Social and Environmental Impact Assessment: Conducting a thorough assessment of the social and environmental impacts of privatization is necessary to mitigate potential negative consequences.

It is important to note that the privatization of public water utilities is a complex and multifaceted process that requires careful planning, stakeholder engagement, and consideration of local context and priorities. The specific requirements may vary depending on the specific circumstances and objectives of the privatization effort.