

Peer Review

Review of: "Evaluation of Nyumba Ni Choo: A National Campaign to Promote Improved Sanitation in Tanzania Between 2016–2020"

Rishabh Rathore¹

1. The ICFAI University, Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India

1. The evaluation lacks a strong counterfactual due to its reliance on non-randomized, self-selected samples. A more rigorous experimental or quasi-experimental design (e.g., matched controls or difference-in-differences using national data) would better establish causality between the intervention and sanitation outcomes.
2. Given the scale and public investment in the campaign, the paper would benefit from at least an indicative cost-effectiveness discussion—e.g., cost per additional improved toilet or per household reached.
3. While increases in improved toilet coverage are reported, more robust statistical analyses (e.g., regression controlling for covariates) could strengthen the interpretation of observed changes.
4. The gendered dynamics of toilet decision-making, exposure, and responses—especially given the male-dominated sample—are not sufficiently addressed. This is a missed opportunity given sanitation's strong gender implications.
5. The paper does not address whether toilet improvements led to sustained use and maintenance, nor how government follow-up capacity was supported post-campaign. Long-term outcomes and institutionalization of such efforts need consideration.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.