

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The Manuscript consists of a review of Professor Araral's article titled "The failure of water utilities privatization: Synthesis of evidence, analysis and implications" and their implications for Ethiopia. Basically, most of the article consists in a description of the arguments used by Professor Araral for considering water privatization reform as failure.

In general terms, the article does not provide substantial additional evidence or information with respect to the article of Professor Araral. Even when the author provides additional references with respect to the fiscal and efficiency hypothesis formulated by Araral, some notable omissions in the review can be found. For example, scholars like Budds and Granahan (•Budds J. y McGranahan G. (2011) "Are the debates on water privatization missing the point? Experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America, *Environment and Urbanization* 2003 15: 87; DOI: 10.1177/095624780301500222), are not considered. These authors, state with respect to the "efficiency hypothesis" that there exist different regional trends with respect to the performance of water reforms. In particular, authors stress that privatizations have performed better in cities with high levels of density more urbanized and relatively wealthier.

The section with respect to policy implications of Araral's article for Ethiopia is not clear. While Araral's article considers the privatizations reforms in developing world basically as a failure, the author finalizes with the following statement: "Generally, in order to solve the above bottlenecks and make public water utility service accessible, affordable, and sustainable, there is a need for private sector participation in the public water utility service delivery system in Ethiopia. Particularly, to improve the absorptive capacity of the sector in utilizing the assigned budget for the benefit of the public, balanced participation from the private sector is required(...)".

I am not familiar with Qeios standards regarding the degree of novelty, evidence or elaboration needed for publications. In my personal view, the article submitted lacks from these three attributes.

