

# 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 article is great and excellent preparation and contribution. The author discusses and provides evidences of practices and experiences on public water utility privatization from several developing and developed countries.

I don't have any objection on the two hypothesis (the efficiency and fiscal hypotheses) discussed, failure found, and major findings and conclusion of the author. However, there are similar articles published earlier including article on "The failure of the private sector to invest in water services in developing countries" by Hall and Lobina in 2006, and article on "The failure of water utilities privatization: Synthesis of evidence, analysis and implication" by Lee Kuan Yew in 2009.

However, in addition to the reasons of failure discussed, I would like author to cover these two points:

1. Water supply is fundamental and basic service for living and developing in city. Failure of privatization's water supply infrastructure expansion in city to keep pace of urban sprawl can lead to failure of public water utility privatization.
2. Water supply to meet social inclusiveness and natural resource conservation by applying water pricing. This water supply policy requires private operator to lower water tariff to achieve an inclusive water supply to be affordable to pay by poor families, slum families in urban area to ensure that they have received at least basic amount of water to live in city. The water pricing in this policy implies that the more water used and higher rate applied for water charge. This policy can be difference from private sectors' perspective that their business (water supply) is profit oriented, good profit margin, and encourage users to use as many as with lower rate.