

Journal Assignment 8  
Due Session 15

What are the objectives that developing countries and donors seek when advocating for greater private-sector participation in the W&S sector? What does the empirical evidence in the case studies suggest about the likelihood of private-sector participation actually delivering on these goals? (Do you think your answer would be different if we were considering industrialized-country cases? If so, why?)

Are there viable alternatives to private-sector participation that could help us achieve the same objectives that you've thought about above?

Considering the trend data provided in Davis, it would seem that we'd expect more successful private-sector ventures in W&S to occur in Latin America as opposed to Africa (why?); yet the Bolivian case is deemed a 'failure' while the Guinea case is considered a 'success.' How do we explain these apparent exceptions?

The Davis piece also reminds us that there are many, many private entrepreneurs involved in W&S service delivery that have nothing to do with the large (often multinational) companies that we tend to think of when discussing 'privatization.' Some W&S specialists argue that SSIPs provide an important source of competition to large service providers, and we find warnings about exclusivity clauses for private providers in our other readings as well. But if we're interested in attracting the private sector to a particular locale, we also need to put together a deal that will get the attention of private firms. What are some of the options for balancing these apparently competing objectives?