



## Referee report

to dissertation

*Household Energy and Water Use in Hawassa, Ethiopia*

by Tarekegn Mamo Legamo (supervisor: Milan Ščasný, Ph.D.)

It was my great pleasure to read the dissertation thesis “Household Energy and Water use in Hawassa, Ethiopia” written by Tarekegn Mamo Legamo and supervised by Dr. Milan Ščasný. I believe this is a very good piece of work that deserves to be defended at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University. I congratulate the author and the supervisor on the achievement and appreciate in particular the meticulous field work in Ethiopia.

For full disclosure and also to provide context on the structure of my report, I note that I have seen the draft the thesis before and provided some comments on it. The final version of the thesis is much improved, and my report is in consequence relatively short. While I do not believe that major changes are necessary (and am not sure whether they are even possible at this point), below I provide brief and mostly minor comments that the author may or may not want to use to further improve his quite impressive work.

Comments on Chapter 1: This introduction is competently written and lays the ground of the thesis by providing compelling motivation. I appreciate the homogeneity of the thesis in that it focuses on one region, and the research topics are very clearly defined. A bit more attention could have been devoted to the formatting side of the chapter: for example, there are changes in font size, and it is relatively difficult to read some figures (such as Figure 1) due to low resolution. Some figures, such as Figure 2, seem to have been produced in haste. Also the formatting of the tables (such as Table 1) is less than ideal. But these are very minor



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formal issues; taken together, Chapter 1 does a very good job explaining the context necessary for the rigorous chapters that follow.

Comments on Chapter 2: The second chapter focuses on household's fuel choices, which are the principal determinants of energy expenditure. Once again, I appreciate the original collection of data conducted in Ethiopia, which is done competently and professionally and is also well explained in the chapter. The documentation of the dataset is extensive, and perhaps some parts of it could have been moved to an appendix. Regarding the main regression results reported in Panel B of Table 8, I miss more diagnostics of the potential problems in this application, such as heteroskedasticity.

Comments on Chapter 3: The third chapter concerns the financing of biomass energy generation. Once again, a prominent feature of the chapter is meticulous work with original data. The formatting of the chapter, I would say, is inconsistent with the rest of the thesis, because it uses a different citation style, one that is uncommon in social sciences. But again, this is a minor issue, easily fixable. I appreciate the use of multinomial logit (Table 6), which is explained well and applied competently. I think that the discussion of the results (Section 3.5) is executed especially well in this chapter.

Comments on Chapter 4: The fourth chapter considers water saving behavior. Once again the key part of the chapter rests on an original dataset, which therefore forms the main contribution. The main results are presented in Table 30, which uses a logit model. Perhaps bootstrapped standard confidence intervals could have been useful in this case, but generally, once again, the econometric part of the thesis is conducted competently. I also appreciate that the author took collinearity into account.



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Comments on Chapter 5: The final chapter is a summary of previous results, and I think the summary is written well. It is a bit nonstandard to include a summary chapter in a dissertation (often the results are summarized in the first chapter), but I think in this case it makes sense. As I have noted, I appreciate the homogeneity of the chapters included in the dissertation in relation to the topic studied, region examined, and methodology used. Well done.

I thus recommend the thesis for defense.

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