Report on **Bachelor / Master Thesis**

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Student:	**Patrik Kratochvíla**
Advisor:	**doc. Ing. Tomáš Cahlík, CSc.**
Title of the thesis:	**Analysis of clean water supply in developing countries in the context of SDG framework**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT *(provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):*

This thesis studies the consequences and effectiveness of private-sector-supplied water and sanitation services in developing countries in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The author showed that the increased private-sector, neither external financial investment provided by the IMF, did not effectively achieve water-related sustainable development goals.

Contribution

Water scarcity has been considered one of the largest global risks that society will face in the 21st century. Access to clean water and sanitation utilities is vital for maintaining health and growing food. Thus, it remains essential to devote time studying the impacts of implemented policies, such as water privatization, to improve the current situation. The private sector involvement in water services has been continuously rising over the past decades. However, it remains unclear whether water privatization is an appropriate and effective development strategy. The author provides a comprehensive quantitative analysis of the impact of water privatization on access to water on an international level. The thesis builds on the existing literature also by extending the analysis for the most recent years.

Methods

To examine the hypotheses, the author performs regressions using three models: pooled OLS, fixed effects (FE), and random effects model (RE), an appropriate approach when using panel data. To determine the best of these models, the author uses the standard methods, such as the F-test, the Hausman test, and the Breusch-Pagan LM test. The author also tests for heteroskedasticity and serial correlation.

The author collects the data from two sources, World Bank Open Data for macroeconomic meta-indicators and Our World in Data, a free public online database. The created database covers 78 developing countries between 1990 and 2018. This database allows the author to study the effect of the private sector and non-private investment on the expansion of water and sanitation coverage. All included variables are well explained and described.

Literature

The author explains the complexity of treating water as an economic good vs. declaring water a public right appropriately. The related problem of private-sector operations in the water management domain is well illustrated by providing numbers of case studies. However, the most crucial part of the literature review covering relevant academic papers seems incomplete. I find that citing only three related papers in this part of the literature review is insufficient, especially considering that studying the impacts of water privatization is covered rather extensively in the existing literature.

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Manuscript form

The thesis is well written, and the author uses appropriate language and style. The structure is somewhat non-standard as Chapters 2-9 are devoted to water characterization and literature review. A simplified structure of the text may be beneficial. Also, a list of abbreviations or an explanation of an abbreviation in the text when using it for the first time should be included (e.g., WASP).

In Section 10.4, the author refers to Section 9.2, where an unbalanced panel issue should be discussed. However, there is no such section.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

To sum up, I enjoyed reading the thesis, and I believe that it fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, FSV UK. Assuming that the student will present the thesis in front of the committee properly and address potential questions, I recommend grade C. Below, I provide some questions that might be discussed by the author during the defense:

- Explain the issue related to an unbalanced panel dataset.
- To relate and compare the author's findings to other related studies.

The results of the Urkund analysis does not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	26
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	27
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	8
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	13
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**74**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**C**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Mgr. Tereza Palanská, M.A.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 31.8.2020

Digitally signed (31.8.2020):
Tereza Palanská

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Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F