

USING AN ABSTRACT

Revision Guide

Journal articles usually have an abstract, which provides a kind of summary of the content of the article. Abstracts tend to be fairly short, usually not more than 300 words, and their purpose is to help readers decide whether the article is relevant to them. We put the following search terms into Google Scholar:

water privatisation success of world bank global south

and this led us to a journal article:

Budds, J. & McGranahan, G. (2016). Are the debates on water privatization missing the point? Experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America. *Environment and Urbanization*. Vol 15, Issue 2, pp. 87 – 114

Read the abstract from this journal article. In what way do you think the article might be useful for your essay? What information do you think you might find to support your essay topic?

Are the debates on water privatization missing the point? Experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America

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First Published October 1, 2003 research-article

Abstract

This paper has two principal aims: first, to unravel some of the arguments mobilized in the controversial privatization debate, and second, to review the scale and nature of private sector provision of water and sanitation in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Despite being vigorously promoted in the policy arena and having been implemented in several countries in the South in the 1990s, privatization has achieved neither the scale nor benefits anticipated. In particular, the paper is pessimistic about the role that privatization can play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals of halving the number of people without access to water and sanitation by 2015. This is not because of some inherent contradiction between private profits and the public good, but because neither publicly nor privately operated utilities are well suited to serving the majority of low-income households with inadequate water and sanitation, and because many of the barriers to service provision in poor settlements can persist whether water and sanitation utilities are publicly or privately operated. This is not to say that well-governed localities should not choose to involve private companies in water and sanitation provision, but it does imply that there is no justification for international agencies and agreements to actively promote greater private sector participation on the grounds that it can significantly reduce deficiencies in water and sanitation services in the South.

Source: *Environment and Urbanization*, published in association with [International Institute for Environment and Development](http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/095624780301500222): <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/095624780301500222>