

Do public-private partnerships benefit the end-user in rural energy provision?

By: Laura Hellqvist, SOAS University of London

The challenges of providing rural energy access

- The SDG 7 'ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all' impressive progress in electrification has slowed – which can have significant adverse effects
- Approximately 775 million people are without sufficient electricity access, disproportionality affecting Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asian populations
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) are used in more than 134 developing countries and account for 15-20% of all infrastructure investment

What are Public-Private Partnerships

- There is no single agreed & established PPP-model
- The PPP is a risk-sharing model between the public and private sectors to offset the demand risk for private-sector companies
- The Green Paper of the Commissions of the European Communities (2004) definition of PPPS:
 - 'forms of cooperation between public authorities and the world of business which aim to ensure the funding, construction, renovation, management or maintenance of infrastructure or the provision of service'
- Various delivery mechanisms exist among PPP structures, including: The supply push
 Demand-pull
 - **Cooperative model**
 - Fee-for-service

The case study of PPP in Bangladesh

- Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) launched its Solar Home Systems initially in 1997 but only reached success in 2003 when the World Bank formed a PPP with IDCOL to disseminate solar energy to rural areas
- The PPP overcame the issues such as lack of funding and technical knowhow and mitigated the uncompetitive and unattractive rural energy market
- In total, the PPP-strategy attracted in support of the programme an investment surmounting USD 696 million over the course of the project and ensuring over 20 million people got access to electricity
- Yet, within 10 years of the project, installation numbers plummeted



Overcoming common barriers in PPPs

- The impacts of PPPs on the end-user are scarcely studied, but the lack of engagement with the stakeholders is a common shortcoming in project preparation
- The quality of technology and after-sales services are critical for long-term renewable energy programme success
- Promotion of renewable energy systems requires energy technology-specific policies tailored for the endusers and stakeholders these systems are intended for – the local context should always be at the centre of the planning framework
- The pricing and loan-structure must be adjusted to the local income level

Gender considerations in rural electrification programmes

- Identifying gender-specific needs that infrastructure services can meet
- Women are underrepresented in renewable energy project design, implementation and evaluation
- Gender biases in legal frameworks must be considered and addressed in programme design
- The end-user pricing structure must be adjusted to local income-levels and women's unequal access and control over resources and services should be taken into account

GENDER EQUALITY Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Thank you.

Laura Hellqvist 311473@soas.ac.uk

https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-hellqvist-562280156/