

Journal Assignment 5  
Due Session 11

The readings for this week discuss three different cases in three different developing regions. They share a theme, namely the discussion of strategies to improve access to W&S services by poor households in urban areas. Yet the pieces differ in many other ways. The cases themselves feature different strategies for improving access by the poor, and the authors of the articles differ in terms of the conceptual framework they use to analyze the problem of low coverage among poor households and communities.

Note that we need to be clear, when discussing services for poor households, whether the principal explanation for low coverage is (1) affordability (i.e., public infrastructure exists, but poor households are unable to pay the fees necessary to connect to it), or (2) access (i.e., public infrastructure such as water mains or trunk sewers do not extend to the neighborhoods where the poor live). How do planning/policy responses for these two types of problems differ?

Additional questions to mull over when reviewing these readings and completing your journal entries include:

What are the different approaches pursued in these cases to get W&S services to poor households? (You might also look back at the Whittington article from last week, in which service to the poor is also discussed.)

What are the necessary and sufficient conditions for each of these strategies to be feasible in a given setting? (Why did they work--or not work--in the situations presented? What would it take to get them to work in another location?)

These authors use somewhat different evidence when discussing the success or failure of particular strategies in particular cases. What do \*you\* think are the criteria we should use to evaluate success (and what does success mean when discussing access to services by the poor)?