



Methodological Evaluation of Municipal Water Systems in Tanzania: A Meta-Analysis of Cost-Effectiveness Studies

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Abstract

The cost-effectiveness of municipal water systems in Tanzania has been a subject of interest due to the country's significant investment and challenges in this sector. The methodology employed is systematic literature review and meta-analysis, focusing on randomized field trials conducted across various municipalities in Tanzania. Studies were identified through databases such as PubMed and Web of Science, using inclusion criteria based on study design, data collection methods, and outcomes measured. A thematic analysis revealed that studies varied significantly in methodology, with some employing cost-benefit analyses while others used cost-effectiveness ratios (CER). The meta-analysis underscores the importance of consistent methodological standards to ensure reliable and comparable results across different studies. Researchers are encouraged to adopt standardised methodologies for future studies on municipal water systems in Tanzania, thereby enhancing the validity and comparability of findings. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{-1} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan Africa, econometric analysis, meta-regression, stochastic frontier analysis, cost-benefit assessment, randomized controlled trials, spatial econometrics*

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