Assignment

1. Explain four examples of potential benefits and four examples of possible drawbacks from public–private partnerships in urban sanitation and waste management.

Some of the advantages of public-private partnerships in urban sanitation and waste management include:

1. Can access capital (from loans or reserves) in order to purchase the most suitable equipment to manufacture sanitation products and they can buy raw materials in bulk, minimising their business expenditure. This opens up opportunity for private investments.
2. Often specialise in a small number of services and so have considerable expertise in these fields. Depending of the recruitment policy specified in the partnership, the capacity of the individuals engaged from the target communities could be enhanced through specialised trainings on sanitation and solid waste management by the private partner.
3. Are motivated by profit and have greater freedom to use their finances in ways that promote competition with other providers. Profit are used to build specialization that will give the firm a competitive advantage over other actors in the sanitation and solid waste management space.
4. PPP contracts assure fairness of contracting parties. Both parties will be able to get a deal that would be profitable.

Some of the drawbacks include:

1. Seeking higher profits can lead to lower standards. When the procurement process and the governance framework for the partnership is not robust enough, there is the tendency that the focus on lower cost of service will be eroded the standard of work. The implication of the low standard could affect the provision of protective gears field staff, provision of tools and specialized equipment for collecting and transportation of waste as well as treatment of waste at the processing plants.
2. Private companies can ‘walk away’ from a contract if it proves less profitable than they expected, leaving householders without the service. Private companies are at liberty to withdraw their services if they are unable to break even with little to no regards about the wellbeing of the communities. Even where redundancy are factored in the partnership arrangement, it takes time for the redundant service provider to cover the scope of the previous service provider.
3. The risk of a monopoly situation developing, so that there is no alternative to one particular service provider – who can then increase prices and/or reduce standards without fear of losing the contract. There is need to open opportunities for a number of partners, especially in specialized areas of sanitation and waste management, to prevent building monopoly out of a private firm. The continuous engagement of a firm for a specialized waste management project for a period of times would enable the firm develop unique expertise in the field and they can monopolize the market if they are the only firm with capacity in the sector.
4. Corruption (bribes paid to inspectors and officials to award contracts to a particular firm or to overlook shortcomings and associated penalties) can happen. Where there are weak procurement system and poor oversight by supervisory agency, a corrupt official can manipulate the procurement process in favour of a particular form for returns in kind or cash.
5. Briefly describe the main activities needed for planning improvements in sanitation and waste management in local institutions.

Through the adoption of standard vehicle for implementing change in emergency or development sectors (project or program models), the following step-by-step actions are important when developing a plan for an improvement programme:

1. Know the scope of activity by identifying the institutions to be included.
2. Assess the existing sanitation and waste management situation and identify the main problems.
3. Identify the possible partners that you can work with.
4. Identify and prioritise activities taking account of available resources.
5. Develop and implement the plan of action.
6. Composting is an example of waste recycling but it could also be described as an example of recovery from waste. Explain why this statement is true.

Composting is an example of recycling because the waste is reformed into a new material, compost, which is different from the original waste. It is also an example of recovery because the compost has value as a soil improver and has been recovered from the waste.

1. Imagine there is a local NGO working in the town you are assigned to that wants to develop a school WASH programme. While preparing the project documents, the delegates of the local NGO come to your office and ask you to support them. Describe the minimum requirements that you will advise them to include in the sanitation and hygiene part of their programme.

My advice will include the following:

* Following sphere standard in WASH programming
* Separate latrines for boys and girls should be provided that are located in a convenient place in the school compound, give privacy to users, are easy to clean and agreeable to use.
* The number of latrines should be calculated based on the number of students (one cubicle per 100 students) with a minimum of two cubicles for girls and two for boys, with urinals as well.
* Latrines should be designed and constructed to be appropriate for children of the age at the school; small children will need facilities they can reach and feel comfortable using.
* There should be appropriate latrine and handwashing facilities for students with disabilities.
* Handwashing facilities with soap should be provided very close to the latrines with separate facilities for boys and girls. The supply of water for handwashing must be maintained at all times.
* There should be appropriate provision of menstrual hygiene management facilities that ensure privacy for girls and allow them to dispose of or wash used menstrual pads hygienically.
* There should be hygiene promotion targeted towards negative hygiene practices in the communities
* Sustainability should be built into the project
* There should be partnership with responsible government ministries and department as well as other NGOs operating in the WASH sector in the community
* The project should be adopt a need and right based approach in their implementation

1. Giving examples explain three examples of ways of encouraging or supporting an ISWM approach

You may have mentioned any three of the following possible ways of encouraging and supporting ISWM:

* organising promotional campaigns to raise awareness of the 3 Rs among all members of the community.
* providing effective training for people who wish to start new schemes and supporting them in the early stages of development
* start-up funding can be provided for new initiatives such as waste collection, composting and recycling schemes and special awards could be given to individuals and organisations to celebrate successful projects.

Reference

[Public Private Partnerships (WS) | SSWM - Find tools for sustainable sanitation and water management!](https://sswm.info/sswm-solutions-bop-markets/improving-water-and-sanitation-services-provided-public-institutions-2/public-private-partnerships-%28ws%29)

[Study Session 11 Integrated Solid Waste Management: View as single page](https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=80577&printable=1)

[Study Session 12 Institutional Sanitation and Waste Management: View as single page](https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=80578&printable=1)