


Chapter 7


Emergence of Public– Private Partnership Policies: A Comparative Study of Morocco and France

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ABSTRACT

The State has historically played a crucial role in society, often holding a monopoly over the management of public affairs. The diversity of its responsibilities and the complexity involved in managing public services have increasingly necessitated the involvement of other actors, including the private sector. In this context, several countries have adopted Public-Private Partnership (PPP) policies to stimulate economic development. PPPs have been implemented in both developed and developing countries with the aim of enhancing public service management through collaboration between the public and private sectors. The objective of this article is to examine and understand PPPs as a developmental phenomenon through a comparative analysis of the PPP models in Morocco and France. The study's results have significant implications for both academic and managerial contexts.

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INTRODUCTION

Over the past three decades, the environmental requirements imposed on states have grown increasingly complex and dynamic. Many countries, at varying stages of economic development, face challenges due to inadequate infrastructure. To address these infrastructure needs, public-private partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a significant innovation. These partnerships are utilized across various sectors, including transportation, environmental management, energy, health, and education (Loukili and Elhamma, 2024). Beckett-Camarata (2020) highlighted that “many governments are becoming even more dependent on the private sector in the implementation of public policies”. PPP contracts are integral to the New Public Management (NPM) paradigm, which advocates for a managerial and competitive approach within the public sector.

A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is defined as “an agreement between the state and one or more private partners under which the private partners provide a service in a manner that aligns the delivery goals of the state with the profit objectives of the private partners, with the effectiveness of this alignment depending on a sufficient transfer of risk to the private partners” (OECD, 2008). PPPs are often touted as a solution for enhancing public sector performance by leveraging the strengths and capabilities of both the private and public sectors. This mechanism facilitates the rapid expansion of public services in both developing and developed economies (Hodge and Greve, 2016). Over time, the concept of Public-Private Partnerships has been adopted by various countries as a cost-effective and efficient strategy to address existing deficiencies and meet the increasing demand for public services. According to Beckett-Camarata (2020), “few countries can adequately finance ongoing capital infrastructure needs and demands without private sector involvement through some form of PPP, as an infrastructure finance policy option”.

The global proliferation of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) has elicited diverse responses from governments, each adopting distinct approaches to the phenomenon. Prior research indicates that the development of PPPs is influenced by factors such as political commitment and the presence of a supportive institutional and legal framework. The advancement of PPPs depends on a combination of institutional elements that either facilitate or hinder their development. Consequently, the extent and nature of PPP policies and their implementation vary significantly across different countries and institutional contexts.

The primary objective of this article is to examine PPPs as a development phenomenon through a comparative analysis of their evolution and reforms in France and Morocco. These two countries are exemplary cases of PPP success, making them particularly pertinent for detailed study. By analyzing the development trajectories of PPPs within these distinct national contexts, we aim to identify both similarities and

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