Using peer-to-peer learning to strengthen local government capacity to deliver sustainable and equitable sanitation services

Introduction: Strengthening local government capacity to expand and deliver basic services is a challenge faced in many countries. There are limited resources for high intensity support for the capacity development needed for sanitation programming available from either national governments (taxes), aid agencies (transfers) or users (tariffs). Peer-to-peer (P2P) learning has been suggested as a cost effective way to help increase the performance of local governments to deliver sanitation services for all in their given jurisdiction.

Project Aim: Assess if P2P learning between local governments is an effective mechanism for improving capacities and programmatic outcomes of sanitation interventions in low and middle income contexts.

Research Questions:
1. Is P2P learning an effective learning mechanism for improving individual capacities?
2. What are the impacts of P2P learning activities on programmatic outcomes?
3. What are the barriers and enablers to support P2P learning between local governments in low and middle income settings?

Research approach: A multi-case study approach is underway. This will enable the ability to contrast, compare and triangulate findings from three different peer learning initiatives in different countries around the world.

Figure 1 highlights the four components of the PhD project which includes:
- A global literature review
- A prospective, contemporary study in Mozambique
- A retrospective, historical study in Bangladesh
- A third study is yet to be finalized

Expectations: Through the research project I hope to contribute to both the theoretical and empirical knowledge around P2P learning and capacity development in low resource settings. Including:
- Demonstrating outcomes and impacts of initiatives
- Identifying broader issues that facilitate or disrupt peer learning and knowledge-into-use

| Global Literature Review | Case Study 1 Mozambique | Case-Study 2 Bangladesh | Case-Study 3 To Be Confirmed |

Figure 1: The four research strands

Status: Each of the four research strands are in different stages of development.
1. Literature review: *underway*
2. Mozambique: *P2P learning activity complete, first round of data collection complete, two additional rounds to take place in October 2023 and March 2024*
3. Bangladesh: *relevant documents identified, review underway fieldwork being planned*
4. Case study 3: *Yet to be started, country to be confirmed*

Findings so far…
- *Literature review:* There is no standard P2P learning process or common understanding of what it is and there are limited studies on P2P between local governments in low income settings
- *Mozambique:* P2P learning events were found to be relevant and useful, appreciated and enjoyed and led to increases in knowledge and capacities however still do not know if it will led to changes in practices and processes. A lack of financial resources was reported to being a major barrier.

Jamie Myers, 2021 Cohort
University of Leeds
Contact: cnjm@leeds.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

WATER WISER