

SUMMARY

Based upon case studies held in Morocco and Senegal into urban services (water, purification and waste management), the aim of this research was, on the one hand, to analyse the conditions of access for the most destitute to basic essential services and, on the other hand, to question the interplay of the actors involved in the implementation of these services in cities with different social, economic, political and historical backgrounds.

The links between the principles of efficiency and equity, which often conflict, result, on the one hand, from the inability of the State to guarantee the principles of public service and, on the other hand, from the impact of the privatisations which started in the early 1990s. These privatisations carry a technical and financial rationale which leads to the aim of equity being subjected to the logic of efficiency.

This observation led to a questioning as to how the interplay of the actors involved in the implementation of these services is organised. Though the situations analysed show a hybridization of the logic, it appears that States - one of the most important actors, "pulled" between the international and civil society - haven't, until recently,

chosen to encourage the emergence of an urban power where the issues at stake in public services would be negotiated and debated.

Based on these observations, three questions seem to arise regarding operational research:

- To go further than the observation of the hybridization of the logic, how can urban services understand the possible evolutions of the World Bank model, ultimately presented as domineering, and of the projects carried out by actors within civil society in favour of the most destitute?
- How can we enrich the debate between participative and representative democracy? How, in practice, to link them together in order to go from local experimentation to the emergence of urban powers, which would go beyond the discredit of the former and the inadequacies and weaknesses of the latter?
- What assumptions can we make regarding a revival of municipal structures by States, which would view such initiative as an opportunity to reposition themselves politically and socially?