

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-unintended-consequences-of-infrastructure-development/>

This video discusses a research paper focusing on the implications of the implementation phase of public goods delivery, particularly in the context of sewage infrastructure projects in Peru from 2005 to 2015. The study highlights that while substantial attention has been given to the planning and completion phases of public infrastructure, the implementation phase—where projects are neither completed nor abandoned—has received less scrutiny.

The author notes that ineffective implementation of sewage projects led to significant health hazards, including increased infant and child mortality rates due to waterborne diseases and construction-related accidents. The analysis shows a rise in infant mortality rates by approximately 0.74 deaths per thousand and under-five mortality rates by 0.16 per thousand during the project's implementation. The author stresses that these findings reveal a dire need for better compliance with health and safety regulations, as well as increased efficiency in completing infrastructure projects to avoid prolonged exposure to hazards.

Despite government investment exceeding \$3 billion for these projects, over 40% of initiatives remained halted, posing risks to community health. The paper also emphasizes the necessity for policy makers to enforce stricter health regulations during construction phases to mitigate risks of accidents and diseases, stressing the urgency of completing infrastructure works effectively to improve public health outcomes.