Public Organization Review
https://doi.org/10.1007/s11115-026-01037-w

What Really Drives People-first Public-private Partnerships Adoption? Evidence From Resource-constrained Settings

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Received: 6 January 2026 / Accepted: 17 July 2026

Abstract
This study examines the factors influencing the adoption of People-First Evaluation Methodology (PFEM) in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) operating within resource-constrained contexts. Using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling applied to survey data, the findings show that contracting authority support and staff awareness are a strong drivers of adoption, which in turnimproves PPP success in development phases. Compliance mechanisms and regulatory involvement facilitate adoption, although regulatory frameworks have a limited moderating effect. Internal organizational capabilities and stakeholder awareness emerge as stronger predictors of sustainability outcomes. The study argues for prioritizing people-first principles, fostering supportive organizational cultures, and investing in staff training to strengthen UNSDG-aligned PPPs in resource-constrained contexts.

Keywords People-first evaluation methodology · PPPs · People-first PPPs · PLS-SEM · Low-income economies

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Published online: 15 August 2026