Water Justice, Gender and Disability
**Guest Editors**

**Dr. Floriane Clement**  
Senior researcher and IWMI Gender Focal Point, International Water Management Institute, Nepal

**Sylvie Cordier**  
Disability and Development Specialist, United Kingdom

**Dr. Alan Nicol**  
Strategic Program Leader - Promoting Sustainable Growth, International Water Management Institute, East Africa

**Chief Editor**

**Dr. Anjal Prakash**  
Programme Coordinator – HI-AWARE, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, Nepal

**Managing Editor**

**Monica Priya**  
Research Associate, South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, India
Karhera – A Photo Book


Nivedita Mani
Coordinator, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, India
Email: geagdelhi@geagindia.org

Sometimes, it is just not enough to record the changes that occur in a project area in terms of straightforward numbers and data projections. These dynamics are better captured through stories and individual perceptions of the people directly affected by the changes. A photo book on 'Karhera' attempts to do just that. This book is an outcome of a research project in Karhera, a peri-urban village in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, a part of the National Capital Region.

Peri-urban areas across the globe are home to an endless orgy of activities that simply gobble up open spaces, fields and breathing areas in their wake. Areas that act as a buffer zone and add to the sprawling city's resilience, no longer exist. Karhera, an agricultural village adjoining Delhi, the country's capital, too faces these issues. The agricultural activities in Karhera have been majorly affected. The pictures in this section bring forth how cereal crops have been slowly replaced by the more lucrative spinach vegetable. Not only is there lesser land left for irrigation, but the traditional water sources have become extremely polluted. Comparison maps bring out the reduced area under agricultural fields clearly, and pictures of water tankers on the roads speak volumes of the degraded condition of the Hindon river.

Changing landscapes feature the property boom in this rural agricultural village - high rise building, malls, and an upcoming metro line. Today the village is a heady mix of the old and the new, where the buffalo cart shares road space with a fancy car on the newly tarred roads. An interesting picture is of the recently created City Forest, which was earlier a communal area, but today, stands fenced and guarded.

What has this change brought for the people of Karhera? Snippets of their views and changed lifestyles are presented in the photo book. It brings forth the problems and the inherent aches of a community that has been thrust into an urbanisation mode, and how for others it translates to better opportunities.

To understand how a peri-urban area is affected by a frenzy of unplanned growth, this photo book provides a quick, easy to comprehend, visual aspect. And these pictures could be true for other such peri-urban spaces across the country too.