

Vulnerability in respect to water supply - coping and adapting strategies in different neighbourhoods of Delhi

Delhi, India's capital, has experienced an enormous growth since independence in 1947. Today more than 13.85 Mio. people live in the *National Capital Territory* east and west of the river Yamuna. The typical fragmentation of gated communities of the upper class and JJ-colonies of the urban poor with different access to public infrastructure is prevailing all over the territory. Hence, the task to provide for a sufficient water supply - in quality and quantity - is one of the most ambitious tasks the inhabitants have to face.



Different neighbourhoods

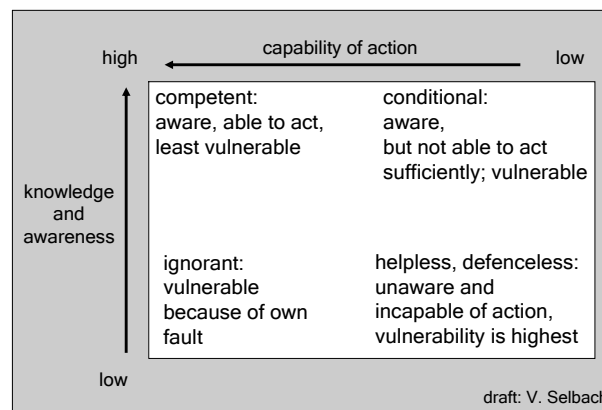
To delineate different types and levels regarding social vulnerability the awareness of a certain danger and the possibilities to react to it in an adequate way are

Water tankers are a common picture in the streets of Delhi. In times of shortage the upper class calls for private tankers, while the blue ones of the Delhi Jal Board deliver thousands of litres daily to the JJ- and Unauthorized Colonies to supply the unconnected households. As many tankers are leaking half of the precious resource gets lost on the way.



two major criteria that have to be analysed. Depending on these factors, four main types of vulnerability can be identified. Whereas the "competent" people

have both, a high level of awareness and coping strategies, the "helpless" lack both of it. The "conditional" type represents those who potentially would react



but are not able to do so because they don't have the means. People, who would have the options to react to the danger but don't take up any strategies because of low awareness are classified as "ignorant".



Wherever possible, pipes of the DJB are tapped to connect households illegally to the existing network. Another widespread strategy to increase the amount during supply times is the usage of motors.

The storage of water is an inevitable coping strategy for all households. Who can afford it gets a 500 - 1000 l tank, poorer citizens depend on keeping as much water as possible in drums and cans.

The inhabitants of Delhi are exposed to an insufficient water supply in many regards. Looking at the quantity aspect, it is evident, that the better-off households can cope with the situation quite well as they have the individual financial background. In poorer quarters it depends on the social networks, whether a sufficient supply can be organized.