Equity, Re-allocations and Institutions

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Two types of inequities:

- Spatial or locational disadvantages emanating from the bio-physical characteristics of water
  - Example of micro-watershed development in India
  - Water as both a local and non-local resource and issue of scale – its relationship with our understanding of rights and entitlements

- Historically disadvantaged sections on the basis of class, caste, patriarchy, ethnicity, etc.
Water access and entitlements often determined by property

- Domestic water sphere:
  - Urban-rural divides
  - Spatial inequities within cities
  - Legality of domicile (in the urban context)

- Water for agriculture:
  - Mediated by land; water rights go with land and not people
Water re-allocations: Agriculture to urban and industrial uses
Institutional reforms: Efforts at de-politicisation

- Independent water regulatory authorities
  - Efforts to take the critical water sector issues away from the political arena

- Micro/local institutions like Water Users’ Associations – de-linked from the elected, political and governance institutions like gram panchayats

- Absence of meso-scale (sub-basin, basin scale) institutions
Moving towards equity: positive experiences

Crafting institutional norms for equitable and sustainable water use at micro watershed scale – the case of Hivre Bazar village (Maharashtra, India)

7 May 2015 | Webinar: Towards Equitable Water Governance
Moving towards equity: positive experiences

Social movement in South Maharashtra (India) to restructure public irrigation systems on equitable lines

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In conclusion:

- Both the spatial disadvantages and the historically embedded social inequities to be taken into account

- Water enlistments and use norms to be decided taking into account the “scale” in a nested manner

- Water re-allocations, if needed, to be done in a transparent and democratic manner causing minimum negative impacts on existing uses/users

- Setting up meso-scale (sub-basin, basin), democratic institutions for governance