



Proposal for a Master Theses

Title: Water Institutions and Diversity

Background of the research

In the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and its capital Hyderabad water is a scarce and over-exploited resource. Water conflicts are apparent on multiple scales. They exist between sectors – agriculture, industry, commerce, and households –, between rural and urban areas, and between and within neighbourhoods of Hyderabad. Especially in the highly diverse slum neighbourhoods, access to water is distributed unequally. Institutions and governance structures on multiple scales govern water allocation. They range from national water laws and water boards to rather informal rules and practices of neighbourhood associations.

Aims of the call for research:

Students will analyze in how far water institutions and governance structures are adapted to the diverse conditions in Hyderabad slums. How is diversity reflected in water institutions? Did diversity play a role in the process of institutional change? Do institutions and governance structures implicitly or explicitly address diversity?

Methods

Institutional Analysis depending on the particular research question: e.g. Case Study, Economic Experiment, Survey Analysis, History

Relationship to partners and support offered

With its "Sustainable Hyderabad" project¹ the Division of Resource Economics has ample expertise in the region and several PhD students and Post-Docs are working on related topics. This creates an ideal supervision situation for the student who will be assisted in all stages of the research. The supervision includes the provision of background literature, theory development, etc. Yet, Master Students are expected to work to a great extent self-responsibly. Support in finding financial means for field work and for jointly publishing the results of the study (if they are of sufficient quality) will be provided.

Prerequisites: Excellent command of English, a strong background in methods, good knowledge of Institutional Economics, an interest in Development and Resource Economics, an interest in urban water governance and South Asia, willingness and ability to conduct field work in India if necessary

Starting date: Preparatory phase in autumn 2011, up to six weeks of field work in India from January to March, 2012 or later

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¹ For more information see www.sustainable-hyderabad.de.