

A PHOTO, A FACT, AN EMOTION



"The "PIRANA" dumping site is used for the disposal of solid waste in the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. I visited the site, witnessed the situation and captured these images. It was completely beyond imagination; every 15-20 minutes loaded trucks entered the site to unload solid waste. On seeing this, it occurred to me that the population needs to learn how to reduce the generation of household waste. A multitude of small heaps of mixed solid waste were dotted over the site, the air was heavily polluted and the smell was intolerable; surprisingly hundreds of men, women and even children were working on the dump to scavenge wastes which they could then recycle and sell as a paltry source of income. They worked steadily, rummaging through the waste - it was a miserable situation.

The recycling process from this site is officially managed by the local authorities, however, this informal system often provides the main source of income for the scavengers. I realised that the health of these people could likely have been compromised, but that they needed to undertake these activities, often together with their children, to provide for their families. It was a truly shocking situation."

"IN SEARCH OF ..."

PIRANA - Ahmedabad of Gujarat, India

Prabha Jayesh Patel, India



This photo had been selected to participate in the first edition of Waste to Photo in 2015, the photo contest connected to the Sardinia Symposium, International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium organised by IWWG.

The most significant shots were used to set up a photographic exhibition to illustrate the differences, the contradictions, the difficulties and progresses encountered by this complicated issue in a series of contexts throughout the world, ranging from the developing countries to the more industrialized nations.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Prabha Jayesh Patel, 44, lives in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. She took up photography five years ago. Since then, her awards have included being the winner of the 'Waste to Photo' award organised by the Sardinia Symposium and the "Clean & Green India", organised by ASSIST India/Ten Photos to Shake the World. Her documentary projects include "Salty Life" about the lives of salt workers in Little Rann of Kutch.