

Environmental Impact Assessment Of The Open Cast Mining In Sonbhadra District

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INTRODUCTION

The district of Sonbhadra lies in the south-eastern part of the state of Uttar Pradesh; bounded by the Latitude- $23^{\circ}05' 54''$ N - $24^{\circ}04' 18''$ N, Longitude- $82^{\circ}04' 24''$ E - $83^{\circ}03' 15''$ E.

It is covered in the Survey of India topographical sheet no 63 P, L and 64 I and M, on a scale of 1:2,50,000. It is bounded by Mirzapur and Chandauli in the north, Jharkhand in the east, State of Madhya Pradesh in the west and Chhattisgarh in the south (Fig. 1). The district Sonbhadra occupies a geographical area of 6788 Sq km. In the year 2011, It has a population of 18,62,612 of which male and female were 9,73,480 and 8,89,132 respectively.

Average literacy rate in 2011 is 66.18 (male 77.19 and female 54.11) with compare to 49.22 (male 62.95 and female 32.70) in year 2001. There was a change of 27.27% in the population compared to the population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Sonbhadra district recorded an increase of 36.28 % to its population compared to 1991.

The population density is 274 in 2011 as compared to 215 of 2001 and 158 per square km in 1996. The district was previously a part of Mirzapur district. It was created as a separate district in 1991 (DES, 2011).

GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The area is mainly drained by the river Son, Rihand, Kanhar, Karamnasha, Gaghar, Belan and their tributaries. The river Son enters the area at Kalighat and after flowing for a distance of nearly 60 km due east, leaves the area about 15 km north-east of the Kon area and enters the state of Bihar. In the area the river Son forms a deep cut valley about 12-15 km wide. The important north bank tributary of Son river is Ghaghar and South bank tributary is Kanhar river. (Fig. 2)

Topographically, the area is divided into three units viz. Table I and stretching from summits of Vindhyan scarp to the Kaimur range (ii) Valley of Son river (iii) Hills, valleys and jungle clod ravines. The tableland forms a part of the Kaimur plateau with minor undulations and a sharp line towards south which separates it from the valley of Son river. The height of the plateau ranges from approximate 250-400 m above mean sea level. The valley of Son river lies south of the table land whose elevation ranges from 150-200 m.

The area south of Son valley is marked by hills, valley and forests with an elevation ranging from 200-400 m (Shukla, 1991). Geologically, Sonbhadra district consists of Dudhi granitoid complex, Mahakoshal group, Vindhyan supergroup and the recent alluvium occur in narrow strip along Son river and other stream courses. Only the Semri and Kaimur groups are present in the Sonbhadra district consisting of limestone and sandstone. The rock of the Semri group consists of basal conglomerates and

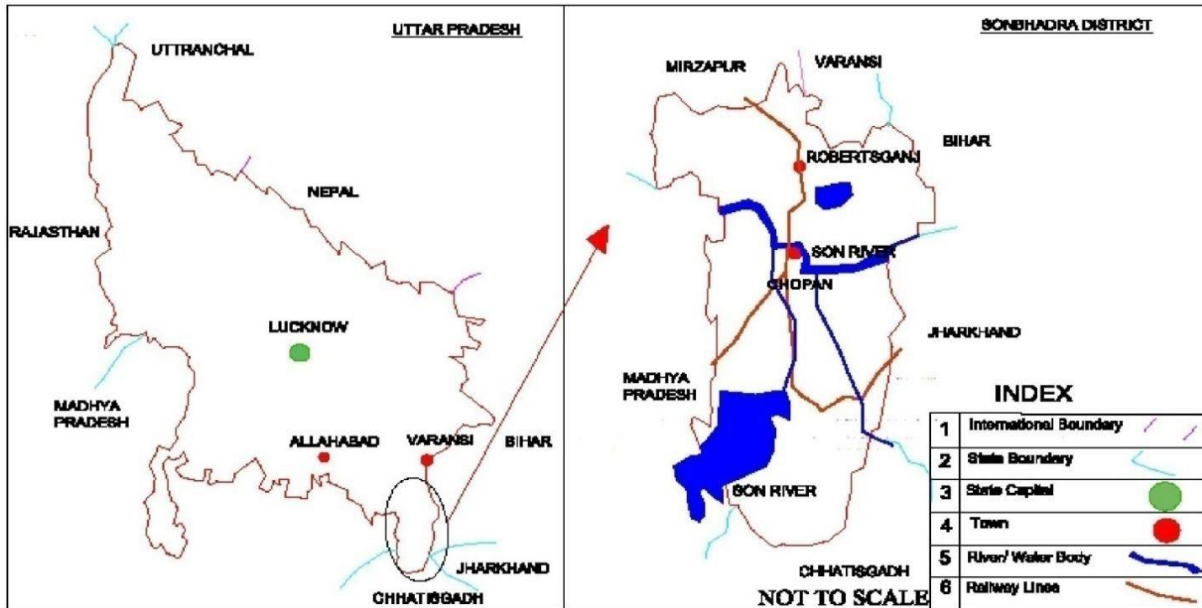


Fig. 1. Location map of Sonbhadra district

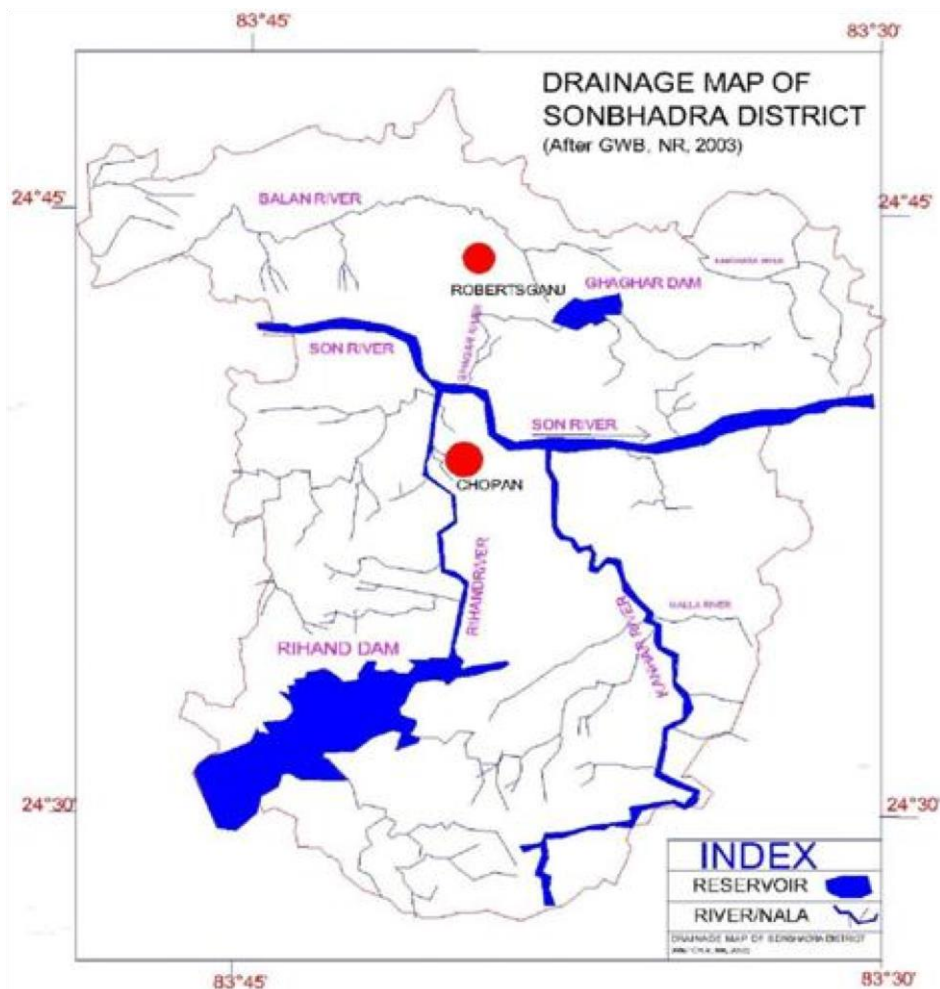


Fig. 2. Drainage map of Sonbhadra district

Limestone, lying unconformable on the schist, phyllites of the Mahakoshal group and on the granites of Dudhi granitoid complex (Srivastava et. al., 2000) (Fig. 3). The climate of the area

differs from other districts of the state. The coldest month is January with a mean monthly temperature of 9.2o C and hottest month is May with mean temperature reaches up to 41o C. The climate of the district is sub-humid. Most of the rainfall occurs during

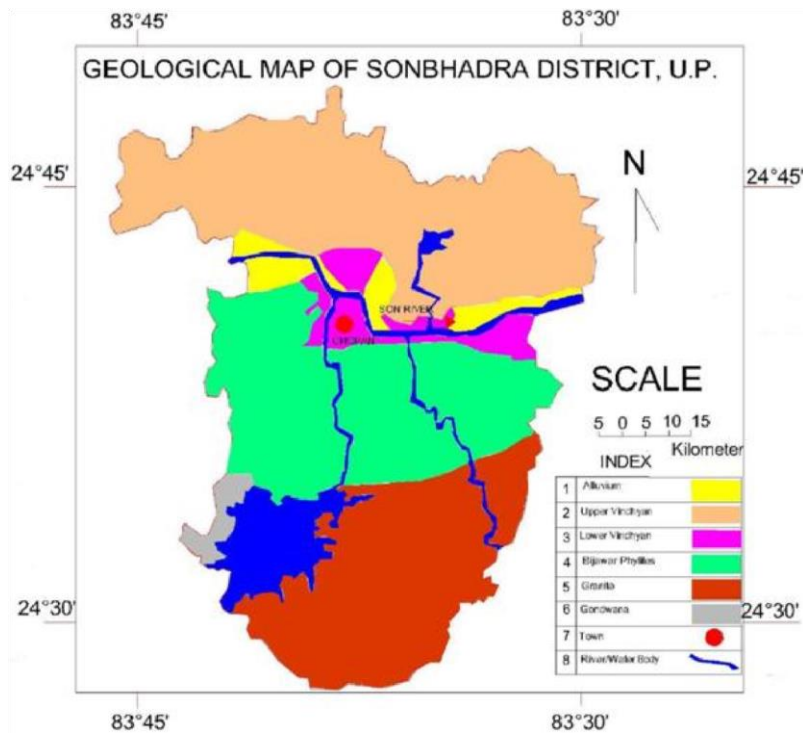


Fig. 3. Geological map of Sonbhadra district.

monsoon season between June to September every year, average rainfall of the district being 1065mm.

MINERAL RESOURCES IN SONBHADRA DISTRICT

Sonbhadra district has rich mineral resources. Government organisations as well as private lease holders are doing mining in these areas. The ongoing mineral investigation programmes in Sonbhadra district by Directorate General of Geology and Mines, Uttar Pradesh (DGM, 2006) are given below:-

1. China clay in Naudiha-Ramgarh - advanced stage
2. Sillimanite in Chhipiya area - advanced stage
3. Cement grade limestone in Ghaghar - advanced stage
4. Placer gold in Hardi-Bagisoti - preliminary stage.
5. Base metals in Deva-Injani - preliminary stage.

METHODOLOGY

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the documentation of an environmental analysis which includes identification, interpretation, prediction and mitigation of impact caused by a proposed action or project (Chaudhari, 1992). Opencast mining is the main method of mining in the area. It can have significant impact on the environmental status of the district (Fig 4). EIA

is a process, used to identify the environmental, social and economic impact of area prior to decision making.

It is a decision making tool, which guides the decision makers to taking appropriate decisions for appropriate area (Guidance Manual for Mining of Mineral, MoEF, Govt of India, 2010). The quantitative analysis process involves the major elements of identification, measurement, interpretation and communication of impacts. However, the measurement techniques vary, interpretations vary from impacts which are adverse to those which are beneficial, and decision makers are faced with balancing of these projects pros and cons to reach an 'equitable' or 'promising' decisions.

So, a number of methods have been developed which are based upon the way impacts are identified (EIA, 1970; Singh, 1980). In the present study, we have carried out quantitative analysis of EIA of the open cast mining using the matrix method.



1. Mining at Billi area.



2. Bench mining at Dala area.



3. Manual mining, near Dala area.



4. Unscientific mining at Dala area



5. Dust in Rihand river at Obra



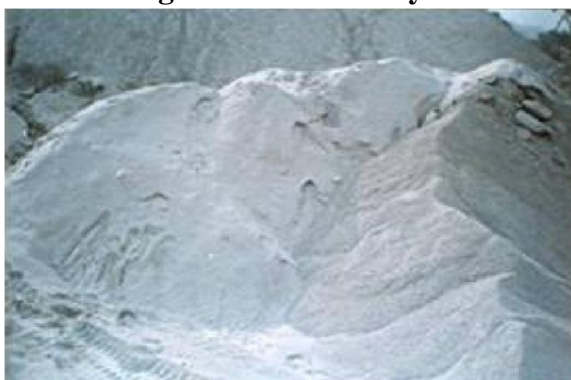
6. Water pollution by mining dust, Obra



7. Vegetation covered by dust near mining area.



8. Vegetation covered by dust



9. Dust at rock Cursing, Near Shobha Industries, Chopan



10. Dust at rock Cursing, Near Shobha Industries, Chopan

Fig. 4. Field photographs showing Environmental impact due to mining.

Table 1. Minerals present in Sonbhadra district (Source: DGM, 2006).

| S. No. | Mineral | Locality | Reserves (In lakh tonnes as on March 31, 2006) | Approx. Amount (In crore rupees) | Uses |
|--------|------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1 | China clay | Naudiha, Ramgarh, Garda | 165.0 | 6505.00 | Ceramics, refractory industry |
| 2 | Coal | Kakri, Bina, Dhughichua, Cement, | 7220.00 | 65702.00 | Thermal power, Ceramics Kharia industries etc. |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|---------|----------|-----------------------|---|-----------|---------|
| 3 | Dolomite | Bari | 200.00 | 340.00 | Iron & steel Industry | 4 | Limestone | Bhalua, |
| | | Kajrahat, | 4000.00 | 6840.00 | Cement & steel | | | |
| | | Billi, Ghurma | | | Industry | | | |
| 5 | Silimanite | Chhipiya | 32.00 | 1659.200 | Refractory industry | | | |

Matrix method: The ‘Matrix method’ incorporates in case of open cast mining in Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh. For a semi-quantitative assessment of environmental impact, the matrix which incorporates the same cause and effect relationship between a list of project activities and affected environmental attributes has been used in mining areas. The Matrix method was initially developed by Leopold (1971).

His method consists of a matrix which is primarily a check list designed to show possible interactions between development activities and a set of environmental characteristics. One hundred different types of impacts and eighty eight environmental characteristics were identified in the system giving a total of 8800 possible interactions.

In practical, it can be reduced to similar number of related items. Lohani and Thanh (1980), has evolved a simple formula based on the principal to assist in the identification of major activities and impact areas requiring greater attention. In this method relative weight is assigned to the development activity. The total value of activity (vertical sum) is given as

$$\sum_{i=1}^n P_i = 1 \quad (I_{ii} \quad M_{ii})$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n = P_i (I_{ii}) (M_{ii})$$

and the total value of all the interactions is given as:

Where, M_{ii} and I_{ii} are the magnitude and importance of the interaction between i th activity and i th impact & P_i as the relative weight of the i th activity. The ‘Matrix method’ basically incorporates a list of project activities or actions with a check list of environmental conditions or characteristics that might be affected.

Combining these lists as horizontal and vertical axes for a matrix allows the identification of cause-effect relationships between specific activities and impacts. The entries in the cell of the matrix can be either qualitative estimates or quantitative estimates of these cause-effect relationships. The latter are in many cases combined into a weighted scheme leading to a total ‘impact score’ (Chaudhari, 1992). CMPDI (Central Mining Planning and Design Institute,

Table 2. Impact values were assigned as per scheme.

| Impact value | Impact nature | Remarks |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0 | No impact | |
| 0.5 | Slight impact | |
| 1 | Appreciable impact | +sign denotes beneficial impact |
| 2 | Significant impact | -sign denotes adverse impact |
| 3 | Major impact | (For Table no 3) |
| 4 | High impact | |
| 5 | Severe / Permanent impact | |

1986) (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited, Govt of India) has developed a similar environmental impact matrix in which environmental attributes have been located in rows and activities having impact on attributes are placed in columns. Positive and negative signs are assigned to the impact value to show beneficial or adverse effects.

Each attribute has also been assigned a value depending on its relative weight age for protection/improvement of environment and is placed as the first column. Row-wise and column-wise score was obtained as in the Lohani and Thanh methods (1980). Taking into consideration the degree of stress that these activities are likely to impose cumulatively, each Impact area has been ranked on a scale of 1 to 6 to arrive at the Parameter importance

Table 3. Importance value of Environmental parameters-Sonbhadra

| S.No. | Environmental parameters | Ranking | | | | | | Total | Weight-age | Parameter importance value (PIV) |
|-------|--|---------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | |
| 1 | Land use & soil characteristics | | | | | | * | 6 | 6/ 58 | 103. 45 |
| 2 | Surface water resources | | | | * | | | 4 | 4/ 58 | 68. 96 |
| 4 | Groundwater resources | | | | | * | | 5 | 5/ 58 | 86. 21 |
| 5 | Air quality | | | | * | | | 4 | 4/ 58 | 68. 96 |
| 6 | Noise | | | | * | | | 4 | 4/ 58 | 68. 96 |
| 7 | Ground vibration | * | | | | | | 2 | 2/ 58 | 34. 48 |
| 8 | Flora | | | * | | | | 3 | 3/ 58 | 51. 72 |
| 9 | Fauna | | | * | | | | 3 | 3/ 58 | 51. 72 |
| 10 | Socio economic s | | | | | | * | 6 | 6/ 58 | 103. 45 |
| 11 | Civic amenities | | | | * | | | 4 | 4/ 58 | 68. 96 |
| 12 | Health and safety | | | * | | | | 4 | 4/ 58 | 68. 96 |
| 13 | Aesthetics | | | * | | | | 3 | 3/ 58 | 51. 72 |
| 14 | Human settlements and historic buildings | | | | | | * | 6 | 6/ 58 | 103. 45 |
| | | | | | | | | Σ | 58 | |

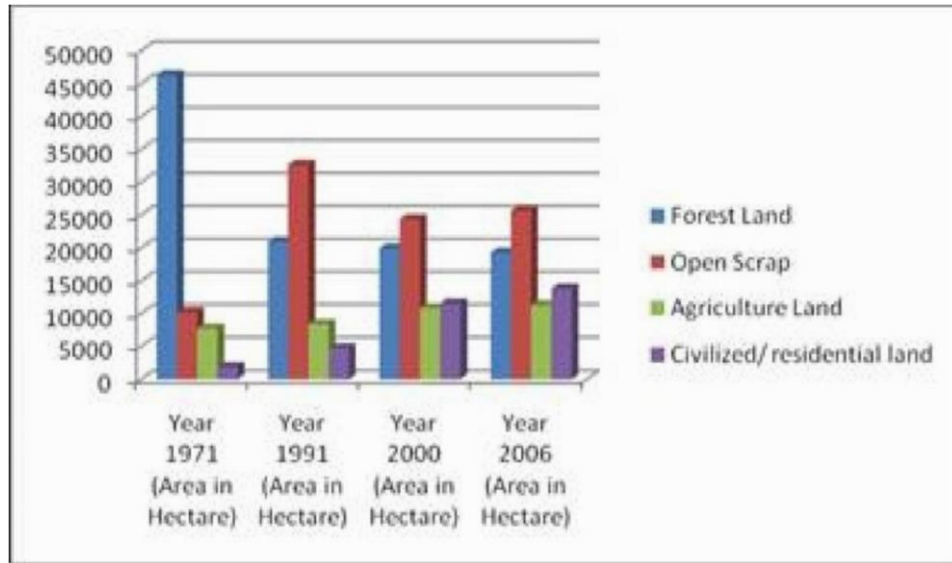


Fig. 5. Comparative bar-chart of Land use pattern year 1971, 1991, 2000 and 2006.

Table 4. Environmental impact matrix without protective measures

| PIV | Environmental parameters | Mining activities | | | | | | | Total impact score (TIS) |
|--------|--|-------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| | | Mining | Processing | Waste disposal | Slurry disposal | T ransportation | Arts & craf t | T rading | |
| 103.45 | Land use and soil | -5 | -3 | -4 | -3 | 1 | | 3 | -1137.95 |
| 68.96 | Surface water resources | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | | | | -551.68 |
| 68.96 | Ground water resources | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | | | | -551.68 |
| 86.21 | Water quality | -3 | -2 | -3 | -4 | | | | -1034.52 |
| 68.96 | Air quality | -3 | -3 | -3 | -3 | -2 | | -1 | -1034.40 |
| 68.96 | Noise | -4 | -4 | -3 | -3 | -4 | | -2 | -1379.20 |
| 34.48 | Ground vibration | -3 | -3 | | | | | | -206.88 |
| 51.72 | Flora | -2 | -1 | -1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | -1 | 103.44 |
| 51.72 | Fauna | -2 | -2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | 3 | 310.32 |
| 103.45 | Socio economics | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2275.90 |
| 68.96 | Civic amenities | | | -1 | -1 | -1 | 2 | 2 | 68.96 |
| 68.96 | Health and safety | -4 | -1 | -2 | -2 | 2 | | 2 | -344.80 |
| 51.72 | Aesthetics | -3 | -2 | -3 | -1 | -2 | 5 | | -310.32 |
| 103.45 | Human Settlements and historic buildings | -2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 931.05 |
| | | | | | | | TIS | = | -2861.76 |

value (PIV). The impact values were assigned as per scheme shown in Table 2. Impact value of each parameter was multiplied by the weightage values allotted to the corresponding parameter. This gave final score in terms of environmental impact units. Summing up the final score gave EIA of the entire project / mining area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mining activities have been continuously going on from the last three decades and there are many mineral based industries also running in the area. Previously the following authors Jain, Urban, and Stacey, 1971, Down and Jonson, 1977, Chaudhari, 1992, CEEA, 1999, Mahatha and Dutta 2003; Datta et al., 2004; have been described the EIA parameters of the present area, only qualitatively.

Few remedial and precautionary measures have been suggested such as to formulate by-law and their strict compliance by centralised government body, protection of natural ecosystem by proper implementation of muck disposal, good machineries, plantation along mines etc (Sinha, 1982-83). In the present study this quantitative matrix method used first time for the calculation of the EIA in Sonbhadra district.

The mining activities which have impacts on various environmental parameters in study area are enumerated below:- On the basis of project activities done during open cast mining the changes in landuse from year 1971 to year 2006 are recorded such as forest land decreases rapidly and become nearly half, open scrap land get 2.5 times higher, agriculture land become 1.5 times higher and residential land become 7.5 times higher with compare to year 1971 (Fig. 5). We have given the ranking for different project activities in environmental impact matrix (Pandey, 2012).

Method for calculating PIV: Refer Table 4, For each environmental parameters as Land use and Soil characteristics; considered the Ranking on the subjective judgment of study area 6. Same process for Surface water resource takes ranking 4 and so on. Finally find the total of all the given ranking Σ . Each ranking is divided by \bar{O} and multiplied by 1000, result is PIV.

1. Ranking of Land use and Soil characteristics = 6, AND $\bar{O} = 58$
2. $PIV = 6/58 = 0.103445 \times 1000 = 103.45$

This score has been evaluated against an assessment value index scale, which is given below: The present study was focussed on EIA by Matrix method and the impact score we have obtained for the study area is (-2861.76). This score has been shown as per assessment value index scale table; it has led to a significant impact on environment.

CONCLUSION

It can be undoubtedly said that environmental consciousness arising out of mining and associated impacts is achievable through joints efforts of agencies doing research and development and monitoring work on various parameters. Mining and related activities have major beneficial impacts on socioeconomics of the entire region. Mining has appreciable adverse impact on human settlements in the study area and slight beneficial impact on provision of civic amenities in the area.

Amalgamation of small lease holds and mining on co-operative basis needs to be explored in consultation with mine owners, government representatives and environmentalists for sustainable development of the mining area. In addition to remedial measures, vegetation screens all around mining belt, stabilization of overburden dumps, and realignment of railway lines are suggested for environmental management of the area. People should have a moral responsibility of conserving their environment.

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