

Integrated Development of Mine Areas with Corporate Social Responsibility

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Abstract

Mining is essential to obtain ores and minerals for their use as raw materials in most of our major industries. In the process of mining, a lot of mineral resources are lost, a large area of forest are cut, both underground and surface water bodies are damaged, a large number of local people, wild animals, etc., are displaced and the environment gets highly polluted. In view of this, it is essential to plan and execute Integrated Development of the Mine Areas (IDMA) involving scientific mining, rainwater harvesting and water resource management, afforestation of mine dumps and nearby barren areas, rehabilitating the displaced persons and protecting the environment. In Section – A of this paper, the importance of the IDMA has been stressed. The efforts made to demonstrate such a programme in a chromite mine of Orissa and a limestone mine in Uttranchal under the leadership of the author, have been summarized.

In addition to IDMA, the mining industry can be further productive by planning and implementing Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) programmes. In Section – B of this paper, the importance of CSR for all stakeholders has been described and discussed. The efforts to make the industry sustainable have been highlighted. Three case studies in India and abroad namely CSR efforts in Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), CSR efforts in Ghana and CSR practices of Philex Mining Corporation in Philippines have been briefly described and discussed. It is emphasized that, in planning and implementing the CSR programmes, all the stakeholders should be involved from the very beginning and there should be transparency at every stage.