

Impacts of mining card sort

SOCIAL

The Adivasi (local tribal people) are forced off their land because companies want to mine minerals.

The traditions that are associated with the forest land are being lost.

The land belongs to the tribespeople by a time-honoured right of occupation.

The Adivasi are not part of the caste system and are therefore "Outcastes".

Many academics, welfare workers and some politicians claim that the civil rights of tribespeople have not been adequately protected.

Local tribal people continue to be poor and there is not much improvement in their standard of living. Education and medical facilities need improvement.

The Indian government has been accused of something called "indoctrination". This means teaching someone to accept a set of beliefs without questioning them.

There are some schools where 20,000 tribal school children are mainstreamed in education to think certain positive things about the mining and about the government.

The Naxalites are a group who stand up for the poor and dispossessed, and are challenging government authority in India. They have a bad reputation due to their use of violence.

The mine workers are suffering from occupational health diseases like bronchitis, hearing disorders, arthritis, sleeplessness and fibrotic lungs.

For those local people employed by the mining industry, they feel that their quality of life has greatly improved and they aspire to greater material wealth.

ECONOMIC

The Adivasi (tribal people) earn their living from the land so when the mining companies force them off their land, they are left with nothing.

Due to absence of proper benefit-sharing mechanisms from the mineral sector, the benefits are found to be concentrated in a few hands.

The mining companies are very anxious for a share of the profits of rich mineral deposits in India.

62% of the population is still living below the poverty line.

Industrialists exploit the mineral wealth in Odisha by mining. They argue it will raise standards of living in the general population.

Odisha accounts for a third of India's iron ore production (a vital steel making material). It also holds a quarter of India's coal, and half its bauxite.

The mineral wealth is a source of revenue to national and local government, which, it is claimed, can benefit the whole of society.

Vedanta Resources, the British mining giant, explains that minerals such as bauxite are a key input for manufacturing industry, which is a central driver of growth in developing countries, like India.

The local economies that used to circle around agriculture, forest produce and traditional occupations (fishery, handicrafts) are on the verge of collapse (extinction).

Local people can be employed cheaply in the mining industry, which reduces the unemployment rates in some of the poorest regions in India and the cheap labour attracts investment.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The main problem for the Adivasi is loss of forest resources for nutrition, everyday objects and medicines.

The Adivasi own the land with the mineral resources but they don't exploit it in commercial terms. Some areas, for example certain mountains, are sacred to them.

The mining has reduced much of the forestland to scrubland; date palms rather than coconut palms have been planted because date palms have deep roots and can flourish in desert-like conditions.

The Indian Bureau of Mines decides the type of mining and allows a maximum mining depth of six metres to prevent environmental degradation. But miners have ignored this rule to over-extract iron-ore.

There have been severe ecological changes due to illegal mining. Certain species of animals, like the sloth bear, have disappeared. Medicinal plants from the area do not grow anymore.

No significant effort (apart from only a few mines) has been made to rehabilitate mined areas through plantation.

The number of people with respiratory tract infection is increasing significantly in the areas surrounding mines.

The mineral resource base in Odisha is mainly spread in and around the districts dominated by tribal communities.

"Reap & run" mining appears to be the policy of mine owners. They aren't following the sustainable practice of concurrent reclamation of land.

The lack of effective regulation in the mining and transport of iron ore means worse road safety. Overloaded trucks carrying ore have caused hundreds of fatal accidents on the roads.