

The under(Mined)



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From the Editor's desk

The mining industry might make wealth and power for a few men and women, but the many would always be smashed and battered beneath its giant treads.

--Katherine Susannah Prichard--

While mining for development is inevitable, it is important to ensure right to dignified life, decent employment and protection of the rights of women and children in areas affected by mining. This issue therefore highlights certain impacts of mining on human settlements, life and livelihoods of affected persons, especially the situation of health and education of mine workers, women and children in mining areas. The last newsletter focussed on the structure, role and functioning of the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMF). In continuation, further inputs are presented in this issue on the extent to which the DMFTs focus on welfare of women and children and how they can improve by enlisting participation of the affected communities and civil society. Finally, the buck stops at our Parliamentarians to ensure that the laws and policies they make are implemented in letter and spirit. We hope the response to questions raised in the Parliament and information from other sources will provide enough insights and motivation to the readers to act for securing the rights and entitlements of the communities living in areas affected by mining.

Impacts of Mining

Did You Know?

The Indian mining industry is a capital-intensive industry contributing 2% to 4% of GDP. India has about 3,938 operational mines of different mineral types, from coal to minor minerals. The mining industry is also heavily dependent on large labour and workforce. The industry directly employs approximately 23 lakh people, and indirectly, about 2.3 crore people work for the mining sector. Nearly 0.3% of the Indian population live near mining areas in India.

- *Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)*¹

The number of mines which reported mineral production (excluding atomic, fuel, and minor minerals) in India was 1303 in 2019-20 as against 1427 in the previous year. Out of 1303 reported mines, most are in Madhya Pradesh followed by Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Telangana and Goa. During 2020-21, mineral production was reported from 32 States / Union Territories (actual reporting of minerals for all 32 States/Union Territories) (including MCDR minerals and estimation of minor minerals) of which the bulk of value of mineral production (excluding fuel and atomic minerals) of about 87.40% was confined to 10 States in the following order – Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

- *Ministry of Mines, Annual report 2020-21*²

Land conflicts over mining projects are the second highest cause of distress, with 852,488 citizens affected by them. On average, each land conflict impacts 10,668 people. Land conflicts involving mining projects affect the highest number of people; on average, each one affects 21,312 people.

- *Land Conflict Watch*³

Of the 213 lakh displaced people estimated by Walter Fernandes and V Paranjpye, 25.5 lakh people have been displaced by mines. Due to rapid industrialization in tribal areas, 3.13 lakh people have been displaced due to mining operations, and a total of 13.3 lakh tribals have been displaced from their ancestral lands.

- *S. Narasimham and D.V. Subbarao*⁴

In 2013, when the Land Acquisition Act was amended, a Reference Note was circulated among the Members of Parliament [No.30/RN/Ref./December/2013] on Displacement and Rehabilitation of People Due to Developmental Projects. The note mentioned that 2.55 million are displaced in India due to mining over a period of 50 years.⁵

- *Lok Sabha Secretariat, 2013. Reference Note, No.30/RN/Ref./December/2013, Government of India*

¹ <https://www.csir.res.in/covid-19-and-indian-mining-industry#:~:text=The%20mining%20industry%20is%20also,near%20mining%20areas%20in%20India.>

² https://mines.gov.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/Mines_AR_2017-18_English_Final%2017052021.pdf

³ https://global-uploads.webflow.com/5d70c9269b8d7bd25d8b1696/5ecd20dd626f166d67f67461_Locating_the_Breach_Feb_2020.pdf

⁴ <http://ndpublisher.in/admin/issues/EAv63n1z.pdf>

⁵ http://164.100.47.193/Refinput/New_Reference_Notes/English/DisplacementandRehabilitation.pdf

Parliament Watch: Impacts of Mining

Response to questions raised on data regarding persons displaced and affected by mining and the District Mineral Foundation Trust

In March 2020, Ms. Ramya Haridas, a Member of Parliament raised a question in the Lok Sabha seeking information about the total number of individuals displaced due to mining in the country and their rehabilitation.

Mr. Prahlad Joshi, the Minister of Mines, Coal and Parliamentary Affairs replied that such information is not available with his Ministry as the subject “pertains to the respective State Governments” and District Mineral Foundations have been constituted by the state governments to work “for the interest and benefit of the persons and areas affected by mining related operations.”⁶

Unfortunately, the websites of the District Mineral Foundations do not provide data on persons displaced and affected by mining.

Can the Ministry absolve itself of the responsibility of providing such critical information?

Relief & Rehabilitation of Displaced and Affected Persons National Mineral Policy, 2019, Para 6.12 (a)...

“Mining operations can involve acquisition of land held by individuals including those belonging to the tribals and weaker sections. In all such cases a careful assessment of the economic, cultural, environmental, and social impact on the affected persons need to be undertaken to ensure that suitable, appropriate, relief and rehabilitation packages are evolved.

In areas in which minerals occur and which are inhabited by tribal communities and weaker sections, it is imperative to recognize resettlement and rehabilitation issues as intrinsic to the development process of the affected zone. A mechanism will be evolved which would actually improve the living standards of the affected population and ensure them a sustainable income. For this purpose, all the provisions of rehabilitation and resettlement given in the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013 as amended from time to time will be followed.”



⁶ <http://164.100.24.220/loksabhaquestions/annex/173/AU2097.pdf>

Voices from the Ground...

It's really horrible to work in the summer season. The rocks are too hot and burn like anything. We suffer many wounds on our hands. Dehydration takes place, high body temperature or fever attacks are regular. Even if one needs to take rest for a few days, it is not possible as no work means no food to eat. So we cannot stop working. The salary is insufficient and there are no increments. All of this makes us feel mentally and physically sick.



Although Primary Health Centres (PHCs) exist, for severe or acute health related problems, people go to the ESI Hospitals, which are at a distance of distance of 50 to 60 kms.

Due to economic condition of the families of workers, some children lose their interest in studies and become child labourers. Girls are married off after class 10.

- *P. Venkatesh, works as a helper at the blasting site picking stones after the blast, Bakkamanthula Gudem, Matam Palli Mandalam, Suryapet District, Telangana*



Due to the sound pollution, many people have developed hearing problem. People are becoming deaf. Houses are also damaged because of the heavy blasting. Roofs as well as walls are affected. People do not have the means to invest in house repair all the time.

I work in the lower part of the mine, close to the blasting of rocks, which is a threat to life. Oxygen level is low, causing breathing problems. Exposure to excess heat and dehydration are common. Drinking water is polluted. People walk 1 km to fetch drinking water. Villagers are suffering from fluoride related problems. The rate of children born with disabilities is also high. Electricity is provided only for 12 hours, from evening 6 pm to morning 6 am.

- *Vemula Nagaraju, works at the blasting site on the wheel loader machine loading stones into dumper trucks, Dondapadu Village, Chinthalapalem Mandalam, Suryapet District, Telangana*

As we are lower caste people, other caste people degrade us in everything. Everything here is based on caste. Salaries are given in time but they are low. One school is provided by the company, but the problem is that only children of the management and other staff are allowed. If children of daily wage labour find a place in the school, they won't be allowed to sit with other and will not get even a glass of water to drink.



- *Mallaboina Chandrasekhar, works as a helper at the blasting site picking stones after the blast, Matam Palli Village, Matam Palli Mandalam, Suryapet District, Telangana*

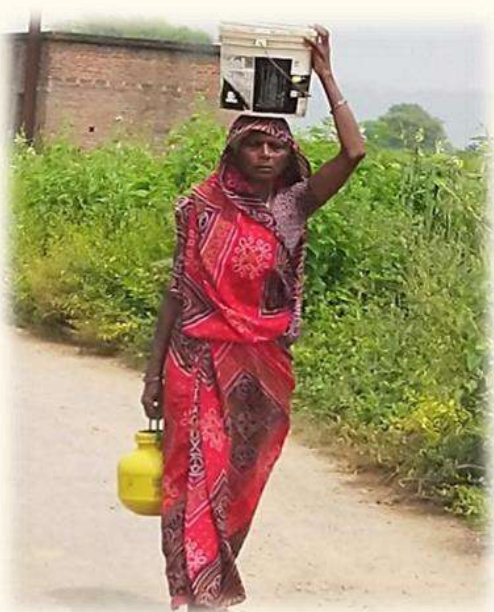
Situation of Women & Children in Mining Districts

Indicators (NFHS-5)	Kabeerdham	Korba	Krishna	Nellore	Sonbhadra	Mirzapur
Population below age 15 years (%)	27.4	25.4	20.4	20.8	31.8	31.9
Sex ratio at birth for children born in last 5 years (females per 1,000 males)	826	989	1,139	1,011	974	812
Women aged 20-24 years married before age 18 years (%)	15.3	7.2	25.3	23.8	17.7	16.6
Women age 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey (%)	1.5	1.2	9.6	14.9	6.9	2.4
Mothers who consumed iron folic acid for 180 days or more when they were pregnant (%)	36.9	15.4	39.2	51.8	12.5	3.3
Women whose Body Mass Index (BMI) is below normal (BMI < 18.5kg/m ²)%	20.6	24.4	10.5	15.2	20.9	20.9
Women age 15 years and above who use any kind of tobacco (%)	13.7	18.6	1.4	4.4	5.8	5.4
Institutional births in the 5 years before the survey (%)	91.7	75.4	98.9	97.0	76.8	91.1
Children age 12-23 months fully vaccinated based on information from vaccination card only (%)	96.9	(89.3)	(97.2)	(80.1)	82.3	83.3
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age) (%)	37.9	34.7	29.8	29.2	38.3	43.4
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height) (%)	12.0	14.7	14.3	17.2	26.8	12.5
Children age 6-59 months who are anaemic (<11.0 g/dl) (%)	67.5	63.6	65.7	67.5	63.0	59.8
Total children age 6-23 months receiving an adequate diet (%)	6.8	4.0	(23.4)	6.9	2.5	4.6
Prevalence of symptoms of acute respiratory infection (ARI) among children under age 5 years in the 2 weeks preceding the survey (%)	0.0	0.3	2.4	3.9	2.9	2.6
Children age 5 years who attended pre-primary school during the school year 2019-20 (%)	0.0	14.3	(15.1)	9.6	13.0	2.8
Female population age 6 years and above who ever attended school (%)	61.7	71.1	74.0	67.9	62.1	69.0
Women with 10 or more years of schooling (%)	32.6	37.1	46.2	38.7	35.7	43.8
Households with any usual member covered under a health insurance/ financing scheme (%)	72.1	60.6	68.1	72.3	19.7	15.0

Child Labour (Census 2011) ⁷	Kabeerdham	Korba	Krishna	Nellore	Sonbhadra	Mirzapur
	5,727	6,737	27,647	14,662	22,462	25,957
Enrolment by Social Category at Secondary Level (Class IX-X) [UDISE Dashboard 2019-2020) ⁸	Kabeerdham	Korba	Krishna	Nellore	Sonbhadra	Mirzapur
General	1,768	3,739	35,921	15,815	6,838	13,121
OBC	20,667	16,423	55,876	33,176	30,386	51,927
SC	5,044	4,929	27,551	19,040	13,979	21,122
ST	5,492	16,468	3,842	4,485	8,086	707

This story is of Karvaniya village in Jugail Gram Panchayat, Chopan Block, District Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh...

With poor infrastructural capacity, the villages in Chopan Block are mostly underdeveloped. Only few have electricity with regular power supply. Most people live in kuchcha houses and are very poor. With a population of approximately 2097 persons, Karvaniya village consists of around 682 households. The block headquarter is about 30 kms. away from the village locality. Female literacy rate is lower compared to males. Agriculture and other daily wage/mining labour are the main sources of income. Most people are dependent on mining and related activities and earn daily wages as they do not have sufficient land for agriculture or the land does not yield enough for sustenance due to lack of irrigation facilities. The ratio of marginal workers to main workers is more, implying shortage of secure employment. Karvaniya is a tribal dominated area and deprived of common basic facilities like drinking water, drainage, connecting road, etc. Water borne diseases and skin problems are common because of consuming contaminated water. Educational facilities, with elementary and high schools in the vicinity are moderate and many youth do not get adequate opportunities to even complete their schooling. There are no secured opportunities for girls after completing high school and no degree colleges nearby. On the whole, the village exhibits all the characteristics of a backward area.



⁷ <https://vgnli.gov.in/sites/default/files/State%20of%20Child%20Workers%20in%20India-Mapping%20Trends.pdf>

⁸ <https://dashboard.udiseplus.gov.in/#/reportDashboard/sReport>

District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT)

Devolution of Mining Benefits to Project Affected Persons National Mineral Policy, 2019, Para 6.12 (b)

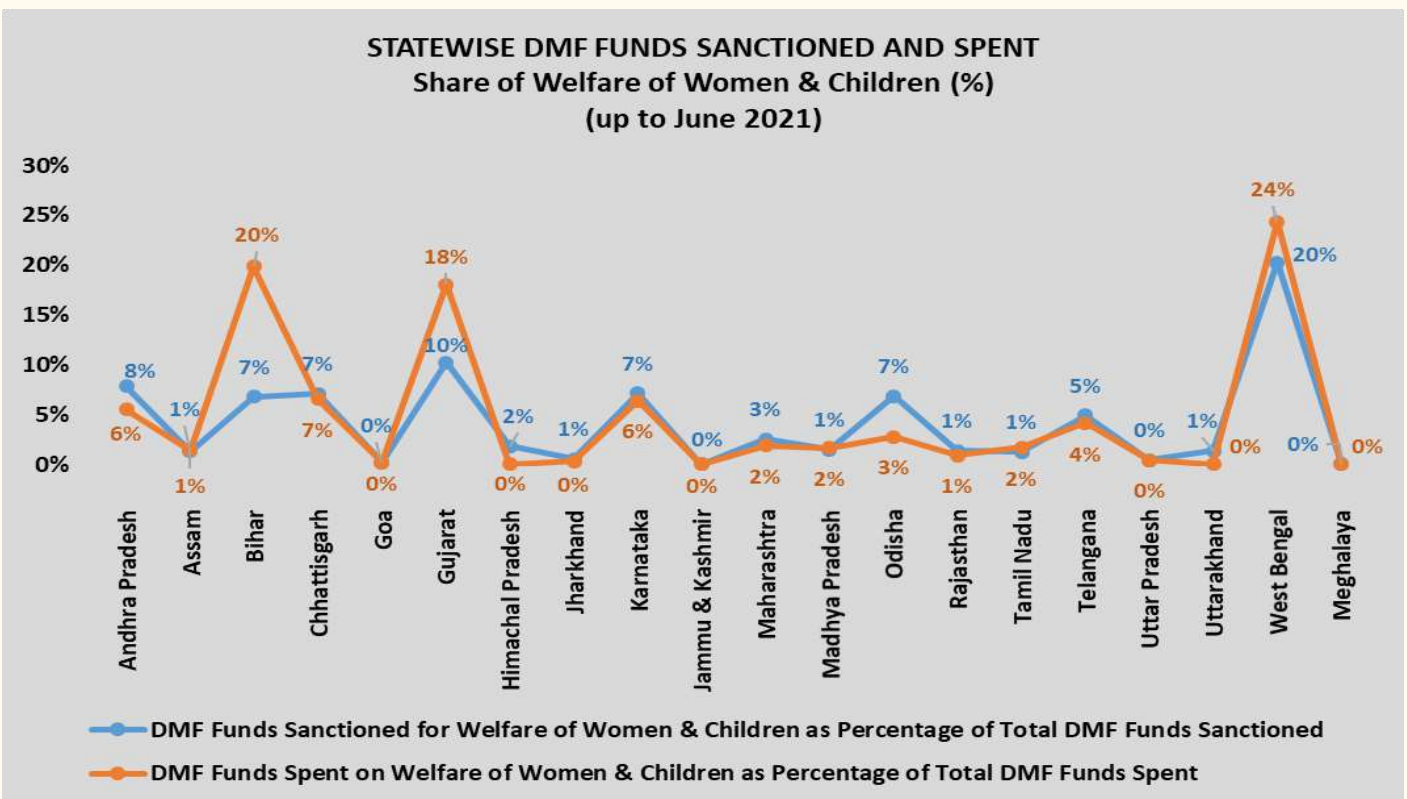
“The mining legislation has been amended to provide for the establishment of District Mineral Foundation (“DMF”) with the objective of working for the interest and benefit of persons, and areas, affected by mining related operations. The objectives for devolution of mining benefits under DMF for inclusive and equitable development of project affected persons and areas are to be guided by the provisions of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (“PMKKKY”).

It shall be the endeavour of the Government to monitor and review the implementation of schemes under DMF for giving effect to PMKKKY for a national web portal shall be developed with free access to the public.”

PMKKY High Priority Areas:

- drinking water supply;
- environment preservation and pollution control measures;
- health care;
- education;
- **welfare of women and children;**
- welfare of aged and disabled people;
- skill development; and
- sanitation

Is Welfare of Women and Children really a High Priority for PMKKY?



Source: Rajya Sabha, Parliament of India, Unstarred Question No. 2356, Annexure-II referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Unstarred Question No – 2356. Available at: <https://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/Questions/QResult.aspx>

Parliamentarians now have a greater responsibility to ensure proper utilisation of DMFT Funds ...

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021 which came into effect on 28.03.2021 empowers the Central Government to issue directions to the State Governments with respect to composition and functions of DMF. Accordingly Central Government has issued order on 23.04.2021 to all the States to include MPs, MLAs and MLCs in the Governing Council of DMF in the larger public interest.

Civil Society Partnership and Community Participation is the Key to Success of DMFT & PMKKKY

District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) is a non-profit autonomous body to be established by the State Governments under Section 9B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 in the mining districts to “work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations.”

At least 60% of the DMF Trust funds are to be utilised for high priority sectors under the PMKKKY and 40% for other priority sectors.

The **composition and functioning of DMFT** requires participation of not just the district administration, line departments and mining companies, but also **affected communities, institutions of local self-governance and civil society.**

DMFT activated through community initiative and civil society support to bring Solar Panel Water Tanks in mining affected villages of Sonbhadra ...

Participatory Action Community Empowerment (PACE) is working in 10 affected backward villages in Sonbhadra. They have formed youth groups, SHGs, labour group and child protection committees (CPC) in Karvaniya village in Chopan Block. During a CPC meeting in Karvaniya, the problem of water scarcity and contaminated water that often resulted in water borne diseases was discussed. CPC members Sonu, Ramnihor, Pankaj, Ramcharan and Kalavanti Devi played an active role in taking up the issue with the authorities and a written communication was sent to the village Pradhan, the District Mineral Officer (DMO) and the Block Development Officer (BDO). In February 2021, 4 solar panel water tanks were sanctioned for 4 intervention villages through the DMFT and the Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme. The youth group and CPC members helped in identifying the location for the construction of these community water tanks.

This was not enough. The tank was installed in Karvaniya, but approximately 200 litres of water was getting wasted in the process of taking water from the tank for drinking, washing clothes, etc. In another CPC meeting, the members discussed the problem and came to the conclusion that if funds are made available, they will do *shramdaan* (free charitable labour) to construct a demarcated area for water collection from the tank with a drain that could be connected to kitchen gardens through a pipe. PACE came forward to provide the needed funds through a project supported by terre des hommes (Germany) and Misereor.

Today, Karvaniya has a 1000-liter water tank catering to 30 houses with a population of 200 people. Moreover, people are now getting home grown vegetables like spinach, ladyfinger and onions, which are given by the CPC to the poor and needy families. There has also been awareness among the community about water conservation and its proper use.



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