Enhancing capabilities of women in mining areas - the urgent need reporting from the Indian case

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India
Women in Mining – the Indian Scenario
EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN MINES

• Decline in the employment of women in open cast mines and above ground works from 1961

• Share of women in the total employment in coal mines has also declined

• Wages to women workers are lower than their male counterparts

• Distinct difference in the increase of wages for men and women.
WORKING CONDITIONS

• Women at work also have very less safety measures & are susceptible to health hazards

• Women are not allowed paid leave even maternity or health reasons

• They have no help with their children, they cannot take their children to work & hence leave them home.

• Women working in mines suffer from several occupational illness such as respiratory problems, silicosis, tuberculosis, leukemia, arthritis to reproductive problems. They work in toxic and hazardous substances without any safety
IN THE MINING SECTOR
What is TERI?

- An independent, not-for-profit research organization established in 1974
- Pursuing activities related to energy, environment, and sustainable development
- Based in New Delhi; regional centres in southern, western and north-eastern India; and staff presence in Germany, Japan and CIS/Central Asia

Affiliates:
- TERI-NA in Washington, DC
- TERI-Europe in London

- Staffed by nearly 350 professionals drawn from over a dozen disciplines
TERI’s mission

To develop and promote technologies, policies, and institutions for efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.
TERI studies in mining

- Natural Resource Accounting in the States of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal for mining sector
- EPA models to predict short-term pollution levels due to individual mines
- EIA & EMP of Neyveli Master Plan for Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited
- Investigation on respirable particulates and trace elements with source identification in air environment of
TERI studies ....

- Carried out the State of Environment Report for Mining sector of Karnataka -2003

- Currently carrying out a study titled “Environmentally Sustainable Development of Mines” for a mining company in Karnataka -2004
STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY TERI IN GOA, IRON ORE MINING

• Socio Economic study of Mining villages near Sonshi

• Area wide environmental quality management (AEQM) plan for the mining belt of Goa

• Designed a framework for Minerals Foundation in the state of Goa – 2000
STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY TERI IN GOA, IRON ORE MINING ……

• Environmental/social performance indicators (ESPIs) and sustainability markers in minerals development: reporting progress towards improved health and human well-being supported by the IDRC

• DFID sponsored project on Planning of sustainable regeneration in mining areas using tri-sector partnerships
RESULTS OF TERI STUDIES
Locating Goa

- Western coast of India
- 3 major geographic regions
- Population: 140,000  :  Area: 3,700sq. km
The Goan Iron-ore Industry

- Started in the late 1940s early 50s
- Privately owned companies
- Export-oriented
- 6%-8% share in global market
- Share in India’s export of iron-ore is 60%
- Major foreign exchange earner
Importance of the Mining Industry to the Local Economy

- NSDP declining over the years - currently around 5% of Goan economy
- Local economy driven by mining activities

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<th>Sectors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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Sectoral Shares of total income of the mining belt (%)
Land / Surface Water

IMPACT

- Silatation of land and water bodies
- Flooding
Impact of degraded land on people

- Decreased agricultural yields
- Cessation of agricultural activities
- Loss of livelihoods and productive assets
- Compensation Culture
- Brings about conflict/tensions in society, polarizes the community
- Makes community more prone to political manipulations
Air Quality

Dust Pollution along road corridors

IMPACT

- Dust pollution
Impact of dust pollution on people

- Health problems
- Conflict/tensions within community
- Reduced yields of fruit-bearing trees
- Nuisance – affects ambient environment
Women depend on public taps for water especially where wells are dry

WATER

IMPACT

• Decreased availability of groundwater
• Wells go dry
Impact of reduced groundwater on people

- Decreased availability of water for household use
  - Increases dependency on external sources
- Alternative sources irregular and erratic at best
  - Affects women disproportionately
    - Feeling of insecurity
Enhancing capability sets of women – the urgent need

• Empowerment of women
• Loss on traditional livelihood activities
• Prepare for impending mine closure
• Bring back a moderate level of resilience in the community
TERI’s efforts towards capacity building of women

- Formation of SHGS

  - Formed 53 SHGs in 9 mining villages

  - Provided specific training to these SHGs
    - Micro-credit
    - Alternate Livelihood activities
    - Exposure visit to members
Livelihood fair

- Attended by 300 women and 5 men
- Twelve trainers
- Training such as handicraft, food processing, tailoring, soap making, incence making etc
➢ Proposed SHG federation

➢ Proposed Community Resource Centre
- Multistake holder workshops
  - Women made their own presentation
- Training workshops
- Specific Farmers group workshops
Capacity building on Community Health

Specific health awareness training programme
  . For Mothers and local community, school Teachers, Adolescent girls
  . On early detection of respiratory illness,
    detection of gastrointestinal illness
    Nutrition of children and family
    Health and Hygiene needs
FUTURE PLANS

• Institution vision building programme – by NGO

• Funding sought for Community Resource Centre

• Foundation, Companies and Govt to plan for micro watershed
We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop

Mother Teresa