

**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
AROUND  
MINING AREAS**



## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AROUND MINING AREAS**

Coal is by far the most important primary source of energy for industrial growth in our country. With the growth of economy and speedy industrialization, demand for power is upward. At the same time due to increased consumption of steel, more coal is needed. To meet the ever increasing demand of coal, it is imperative that the Mining Industry is prepared to manage promising and challenging situation efficiently. Mining Management today has an obligation and challenge of different dimension.

With revised wages structure of employees, low productivity of underground mines, capital investment for reconstruction and budgetary support almost vanishing, today's management face a very complicated situation. Moreover, the coal industry has to face political interferences in day to day's functioning, and an overcautious bureaucratic management style unsuited to the commercial undertaking. Due to opening up of global market and competition, the vital need of coal company's today is to enhance coal production. The management has therefore the tasks for achieving the goals by maintaining total co-ordination for (a) planning and its timely implementation (b) adoption of correct technology for planned production with economy (c) introduction of effective industrial and human relation policies (d) implementation of community development programmes for the people of the surroundings mining area.

Today for the purpose of steady and faster growth, plans for development and its implementation in the coal projects appear to be most important. Today we are living in an era of the most rapid technological change , industrial world has ever known. Now we have reached a stage when most operations are subject to some form of mechanization. All classes of coal can be extracted and loaded by proved machineries of type with technology to suit most of the varied condition. Supported by a smart financial approach for managing finance and cost for the best advancement of mines is essential.

Opportunity will seen wasted unless technical development and management re-organization are matched by a labour force influenced by balanced HR Policy and are eager to work with them.

Uniform approach for all the steps mentioned, will be necessary to have an effective result.

The focus in this topics is on community development, a major approach in the process of advancement and growth of a project.

The coal companies have to open new projects to match the ever growing demands of coal. Undoubtedly this is a major and tough task in the days of complicated socio political environment.

For economic growth and in the interest of the nation while new coal projects are essential, land acquisition and consequent effect disrupts the traditional, social system and source of livelihood of the people associated to such land.

Displacement of people involuntarily may rise to severe social, economic and environmental problems because:

- a) Productive assets and sources of income are lost
- b) Social structures may get disrupted.
- c) In the relocated environment, productive skill of the people may be less applicable.

Community development programmes adopted for the surroundings areas and villages help consolidation of favourable tie with the people and also become essential to deal complicated issues arising out of land acquisition.

The key element for any organization are people, structure, technology ***and environment in which the organization operates.***

The objective of organization including coal industry is to achieve the triple reward system in which human, organizational and society are met.

For the effective functioning of all role players, people, structure and technology, it is essential that the objective of each are clearly understood in relation to the external stimuli, influence of surroundings social, economical and political environment.

To have better control and understanding of the surroundings the Coal Industry has to endeavour to uplift social life and economical condition of the people residing around the mines area. The common feelings and aspiration, emotion and motivation of the people residing in the operating zone of coal mines, revolve around the activities of this institution. It is the

social responsibility of coal company to emphasis on welfare activities for the workers and general people around the coalfields.

Sometime community development programmes are considered to be wasteful expenditure. It is also considered to be the responsibility of the local Government to ensure development work in villages. It is also the views that the revenue earned by the state Government from coal industry should be utilized partially for village development. While some suggest, that coal company should concentrate in their business of coal production only.

It is to be noted that coal employees earn fairly higher wages, have a better living condition with free supply of power, water and free medical treatment for the family. Since most of the mines are situated in far off areas having rural base, many villagers are also employee of mines who reside in the villages. The company do not have to construct house for them nor, arrange free water and power supply. Many village link roads are used by the mines authority for movement of transport.

Moreover due to industrialization, the age old rural environment gets often transformed to semi-urban environment within a short spell of time and usually follows with rise in cost of living. The traditional sources of income is likely to be reduced and in most of the cases, the persons affected, face difficulty to cope with the new situation.

Subsidence also do occur sometime in the villages over old workings.

All these aspects create regional imbalance. Often comparison is drawn for the economic status between the villagers and coal workers. Many a times the prosperity and facilities available to project people evoke hostility, resentment amongst young people who live in a sub-standard condition with uncertainty in earning their livelihood. Sometime it become a potential threat and on any plea project work get dislocated by disgruntled group.

These days part of Assam, W. Bengal, Jharkhand, M.P., Orissa, Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya are witnessing insurgency due to unemployment, economical imbalances. Most of the coal mines and projects are operating in these states. Some projects of the coal company's have faced recently incidences of kidnapping of executives and looting of magazine house to remove explosives for extremist activities.

If losses are calculated due to dislocation of production process initiated by villagers or none co-operation to hand over required land for new projects in time, then the amount will run in to crores of rupees. The budget, however, for implementing CD programmes will be much less in comparison to the losses to be incurred. The public sector has been a part of the philosophy of socio-economic development in India. Public Sector has –

- i) To give an adequate return on investment to the Nation.
- ii) To generate surpluses to help in the socio-economic transformation.
- iii) To generate additional employment.
- iv) To promote balanced regional growth.
- v) To help develop ancillary industries.

Micro-socio-economically, these objectives are stated to be to accelerate the process of economic development both in industrial and agricultural areas and to give the country a self reliant economy to bring about better distribution and reduction in inequalities in incomes and the removal of poverty.

With the community development programmes in the villages, greater support is earned by project authority. It develops a common platform through which understanding will be much more effective and clear between both the groups.

For establishing better image it is necessary that following community development activities are initiated as regular feature in the neighbouring areas:

- Diversion of mine waste water for irrigation purpose.
- Excavation of pond by involving villagers.
- Development of community building, library with matching grants.
- Development of village link road, green belt with medicinal plants in the waste land.
- Opening of health service unit in co-ordination with district level health services agencies.
- Family welfare scheme, organizing free eye operation camp, to encourage State Government Health Programmes.
- Installation of hand pump, tubewell where needed, sinking of well.

- To initiate ancillary work activities which may generate employment opportunities for the village people.
- Such other jobs for the benefit of the Community like training for poultry and fisheries.
- Organising sports activities for handicapped people and for economically backward community.

### **Scheme for Protection of Environment**

- Protection against possible subsidence.
- Suppression of dust and elimination of noise.
- Developing green belt over waste land.
- Blanking of underground fire.

Community development is a step followed by management with modern outlook. This is rational approach and a measure for protection and growth of projects. It is to be taken as an aggressive agenda.

Our common interest is the mine, the people who live by it and the community which exists around it. From our common interest, we hope to evolve common affections and from our common affections thus created, if not common opinions at least a greater identity of purpose and closer unanimity of outlook will evolve.

No man can act with effect who do not act in concert

No man can act in concert, who do not act with confidence

No man can act with confidence who are not bound together with common opinion, common affection and common interest.

**Edmund Brooke**

To initiate community development work is to grow with the Neighbour. Some portion of wealth so generated by the project, can be shared with the citizen of our country, who live in rural village and have not received minimum facilities from the society.

With action oriented inspired team, having positive attitude to risk taking, regard to ethics, concern for surrounding people, freedom to manage with

clear frame work of necessary restriction and tight control over the areas that matter, will definitely lead the coal industry to success.