

BUSINESS APPROACH TOWARDS INTEGRATED MINE MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Mining is associated with substantial economic advantages, which include, among others, generation of wealth, provision of employment, contribution to GDP and tax, royalty and other payments to the public sector. However, extraction and processing of minerals is associated with negative externalities on environment and society. As a result, the mining industry has a historical reputation, which is highly negative and which results in virtually all mining activities being viewed with concern by most stakeholders. Altering the perception of stakeholders requires mining development to be sustainable. Sustainability in mining can be ensured by integrated mine management i.e. managing the mine in a way that minimizes its adverse impact on environment and society. The first step towards integrated management entails identification of key sustainability issues, which can be classified into three major categories- economic, environmental and social. These issues need to be addressed rigorously and consistently at every stage of mine development, to ensure effective management. This paper aims to analyze how these issues can be integrated into the mainstream business strategy and identify guidelines that if followed, can improve the overall management of mines. The paper will include case studies to illustrate how sustainable mine management has been embraced at the corporate level.