

A REVIEW ON STUDIES DONE WITH REFERENCE TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WORLD MINING INDUSTRY AND APPROACHES

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Sustainable mining has been a controversial topic as it affiliates with exploitation of natural resources. Mining is an important economic activity in the current world and cannot be stopped or retarded due to its economic contribution. Therefore, a proper framework is needed to make the field sustainable. Only a few studies have been done to assess the sustainability of mining industry. Studies done related to the subject were searched in the database of Directory of Open Access Journals, and the records were reviewed. The selected records cover several countries based on mining and faced with current industrial situations. Sustainability can only be achieved by having a three dimensional approach covering the community, technology and the environment. Having a proper evaluation scheme to study the sustainability of the industry is critical, and this scheme may be identical to a country as the factors that affect are unique for the country or region. Further studies and discussions are needed to develop a sustainable mining model and it should include measurable mining practices, which ensure the sustainability of the operations. They should be regulated by the government and further evaluated. In Sri Lanka, the sustainable measures that can be taken and the impact of the industry towards the global climate change have not yet being properly discussed. As a country having a considerable extent in the mining industry, the relevant authorities in Sri Lanka should pay a significant attention towards the field, and take steps to monitor the industry to make it sustainable.

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