

## Quantitative environmental impact assessment of the Open cast mining in Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh, India

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Received: June 23, 2013; Revised received: August 14, 2013; Accepted: August 22, 2013

**Abstract:** The district Sonbhadra, previously a part of Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh, India, was created as a separate district in 1991. Geologically the area consists of Vindhyan supergroup, Mahakoshal group and Dudhi granitoid complex. The district Sonbhadra has rich mineral resources and their potential. The area is known for production of cement grade Limestone and Dolomite; the other minerals are Clay, Calcite, Silimanite and base metals for more than last three decades. These mining areas show impacts on the environmental status of the district. In the present study, the different mining and environmental parameters have been considered for analysing the environmental impact assessment (EIA). A matrix method has been used to delineate the quantitative EIA in the area. Finally, the resulted assessment impact value index (-2861.76), shows significant impact on environment such as degradation of forest land, air contamination due to mining dust, water quality and related health aspect of the area. Thus, major environmental control measures should be taken for sustainable development of the study area such as improvement of mining equipments, proper dumping of the mining waste and large scale plantation.

**Keywords:** Environmental impact assessment, Environmental parameters, Matrix method, Parameter importance value

### INTRODUCTION

The district of Sonbhadra lies in the south-eastern part of the state of Uttar Pradesh; bounded by the Latitude- 23°51' 54" N - 24°46' 18" N, Longitude- 82°40' 24" E - 83°33' 15" E. It is covered in the Survey of India topographical sheet no 63 P, L and 64 I and M, on a scale of 1:2,50,000. It is bounded by Mirzapur and Chandauli in the north, Jharkhand in the east, State of Madhya Pradesh in the west and Chhattisgarh in the south (Fig. 1).

The district Sonbhadra occupies a geographical area of 6788 Sq km. In the year 2011, It has a population of 18,62,612 of which male and female were 9,73,480 and 8,89,132 respectively. Average literacy rate in 2011 is 66.18 (male 77.19 and female 54.11) with compare to 49.22 (male 62.95 and female 32.70) in year 2001. There was a change of 27.27% in the population compared to the population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Sonbhadra district recorded an increase of 36.28 % to its population compared to 1991. The population density is 274 in 2011 as compared to 215 of 2001 and 158 per square km in 1996. The district was previously a part of Mirzapur district. It was created as a separate district in 1991 (DES, 2011).

### GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The area is mainly drained by the river Son, Rihand, Kanhar, Karamnasha, Gaghar, Belan and their tributaries.

The river Son enters the area at Kalighat and after flowing for a distance of nearly 60 km due east, leaves the area about 15 km north-east of the Kon area and enters the state of Bihar. In the area the river Son forms a deep cut valley about 12-15 km wide. The important north bank tributary of Son river is Ghaghar and South bank tributary is Kanhar river. (Fig. 2)

Topographically, the area is divided into three units viz. (i) Table land and stretching from summits of Vindhyan scarp to the Kaimur range (ii) Valley of Son river (iii) Hills, valleys and jungle clod ravines. The tableland forms a part of the Kaimur plateau with minor undulations and a sharp line towards south which separates it from the valley of Son river. The height of the plateau ranges from approximate 250-400 m above mean sea level. The valley of Son river lies south of the table land whose elevation ranges from 150-200 m. The area south of Son valley is marked by hills, valley and forests with an elevation ranging from 200-400 m (Shukla, 1991).

Geologically, Sonbhadra district consists of Dudhi granitoid complex, Mahakoshal group, Vindhyan supergroup and the recent alluvium occur in narrow strip along Son river and other stream courses. Only the Semri and Kaimur groups are present in the Sonbhadra district consisting of limestone and sandstone. The rock of the Semri group consists of basal conglomerates and

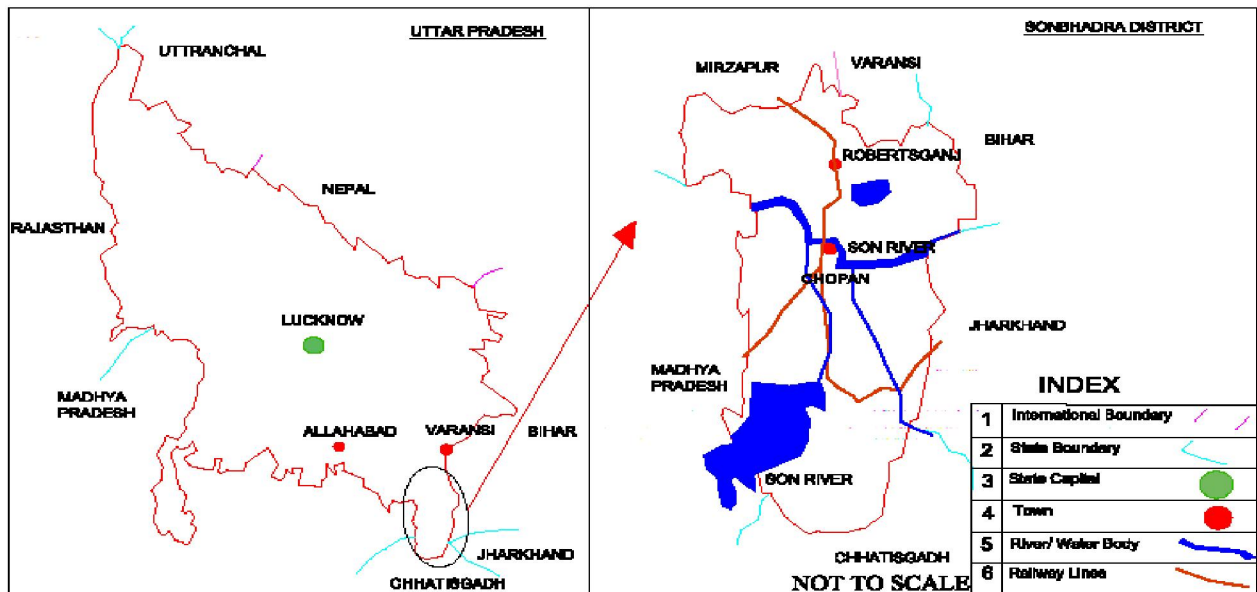


Fig. 1. Location map of Sonbhadra district

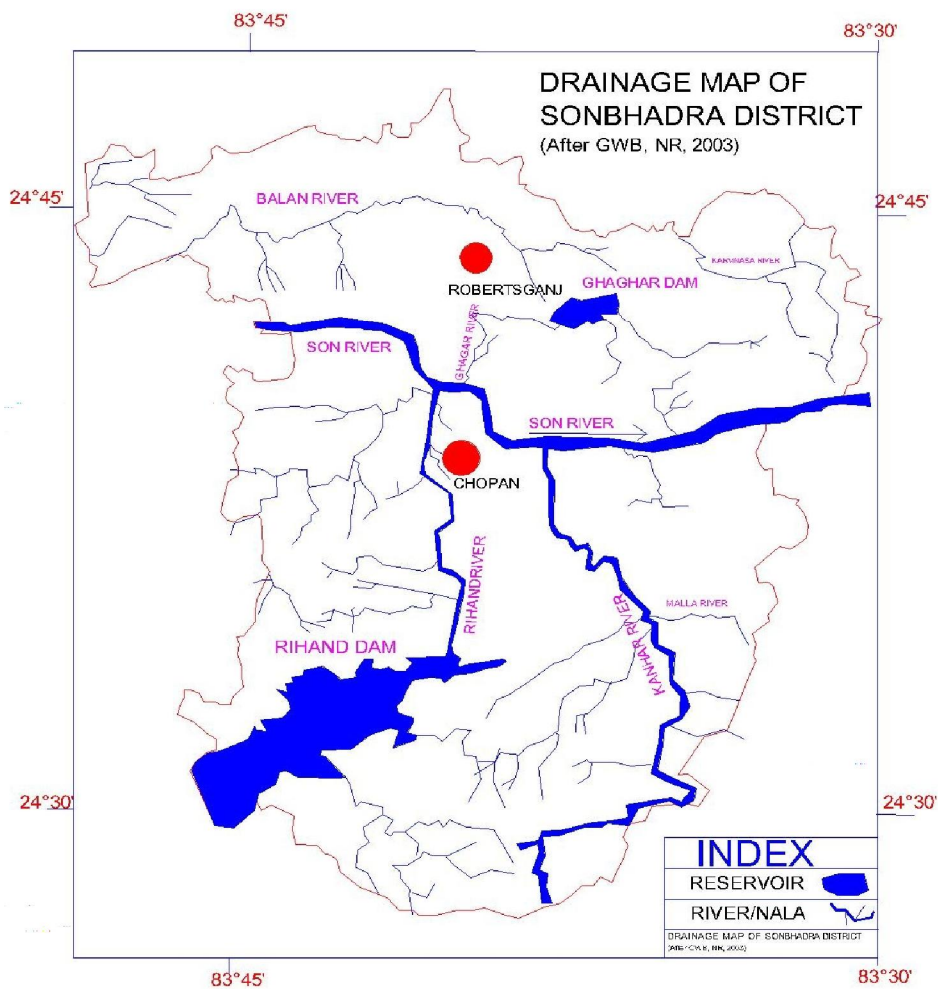


Fig. 2. Drainage map of Sonbhadra district

Limestone, lying unconformable on the schist, phyllites of the Mahakoshal group and on the granites of Dudhi granitoid complex (Srivastava *et. al.*, 2000) (Fig. 3). The climate of the area differs from other districts of the

state. The coldest month is January with a mean monthly temperature of 9.2° C and hottest month is May with mean temperature reaches up to 41° C. The climate of the district is sub-humid. Most of the rainfall occurs during





**1.** Mining at Billi area.



**2.** Bench mining at Dala area.



**3.** Manual mining, near Dala area.



**4.** Unscientific mining at Dala area



**5.** Dust in Rihand river at Obra



**6.** Water pollution by mining dust, Obra



**7.** Vegetation covered by dust near mining area.



**8.** Vegetation covered by dust



9. Dust at rock Cursing, Near Shobha Industries, Chopan



10. Dust at rock Cursing, Near Shobha Industries, Chopan

Fig. 4. Field photographs showing Environmental impact due to mining.

Table 1. Minerals present in Sonbhadra district (Source: DGM, 2006).

S. No.	Mineral	Locality	Reserves (In lakh tonnes as on March 31, 2006)	Approx. Amount (In crore rupees)	Uses
1	China clay	Naudiha, Ramgarh, Garda	165.0	6505.00	Ceramics, refractory industry
2	Coal	Kakri, Bina, Dhughichua, Kharia	7220.00	65702.00	Thermal power, Cement, Ceramics industries etc.
3	Dolomite	Bari	200.00	340.00	Iron & steel Industry
4	Limestone	Bhalua, Kajrahat, Billi, Ghurma	4000.00	6840.00	Cement & steel Industry
5	Silimanite	Chhipiya	32.00	1659.200	Refractory industry

**Matrix method:** The ‘Matrix method’ incorporates in case of open cast mining in Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh. For a semi-quantitative assessment of environmental impact, the matrix which incorporates the same cause and effect relationship between a list of project activities and affected environmental attributes has been used in mining areas. The Matrix method was initially developed by Leopold (1971). His method consists of a matrix which is primarily a check list designed to show possible interactions between development activities and a set of environmental characteristics. One hundred different types of impacts and eighty eight environmental characteristics were identified in the system giving a total of 8800 possible interactions. In practical, it can be reduced to similar number of related items.

Lohani and Thanh (1980), has evolved a simple formula based on the principal to assist in the identification of major activities and impact areas requiring greater attention. In this method relative weight is assigned to the development activity. The total value of activity (vertical sum) is given as

$$\sum_{i=1}^n P_i = \sum_{i=1}^n (M_{ii} + I_{ii})$$

and the total value of all the interactions is given as:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n P_i = \sum_{i=1}^n (M_{ii} + I_{ii})$$

where,  $M_{ii}$  and  $I_{ii}$  are the magnitude and importance of the interaction between  $i^{th}$  activity and  $i^{th}$  impact &  $P_i$  as the relative weight of the  $i^{th}$  activity.

The ‘Matrix method’ basically incorporates a list of project activities or actions with a check list of environmental conditions or characteristics that might be affected. Combining these lists as horizontal and vertical axes for a matrix allows the identification of cause-effect relationships between specific activities and impacts. The entries in the cell of the matrix can be either qualitative estimates or quantitative estimates of these cause-effect relationships. The latter are in many cases combined into a weighted scheme leading to a total ‘impact score’ (Chaudhari, 1992).

CMPDI (Central Mining Planning and Design Institute,

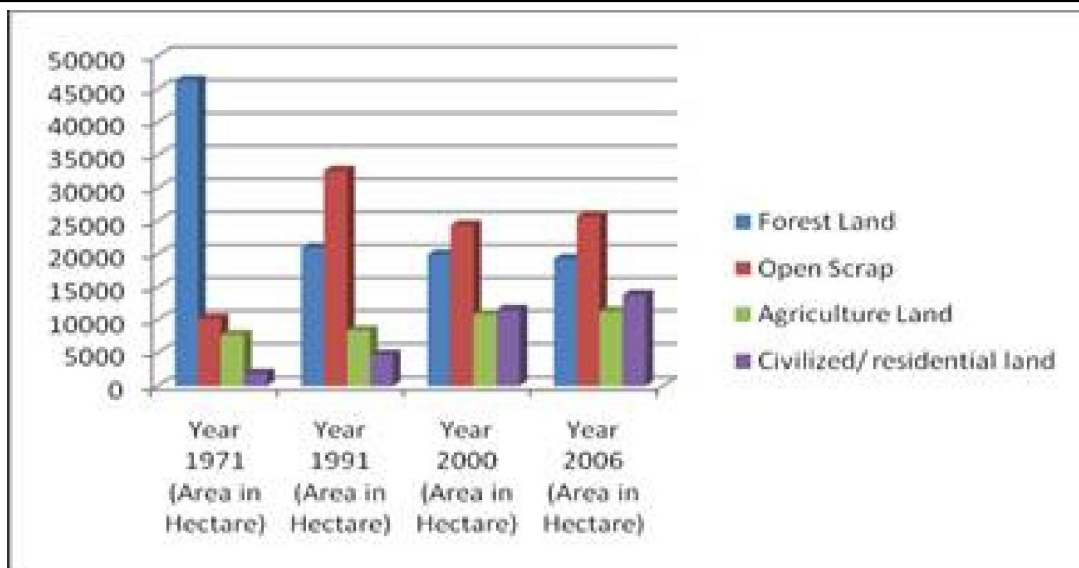
**Table 2.** Impact values were assigned as per scheme.

Impact value	Impact nature	Remarks
0	No impact	
0.5	Slight impact	
1	Appreciable impact	+sign denotes beneficial impact
2	Significant impact	-sign denotes adverse impact
3	Major impact	(For Table no 3)
4	High impact	
5	Severe / Permanent impact	

1986) (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited, Govt of India) has developed a similar environmental impact matrix in which environmental attributes have been located in rows and activities having impact on attributes are placed in columns. Positive and negative signs are assigned to the impact value to show beneficial or adverse effects. Each attribute has also been assigned a value depending on its relative weightage for protection/improvement of environment and is placed as the first column. Row-wise and column-wise score was obtained as in the Lohani and Thanh methods (1980). Taking into consideration the degree of stress that these activities are likely to impose cumulatively, each Impact area has been ranked on a scale of 1 to 6 to arrive at the Parameter importance

**Table 3.** Importance value of Environmental parameters-Sonbhadra

S.No.	Environmental parameters	Ranking						Total	Weight-age	Parameter importance value (PIV)
		1	2	3	4	5	6			
1	Land use & soil characteristics						*	6	6/58	103.45
2	Surface water resources				*			4	4/58	68.96
4	Ground water resources					*		5	5/58	86.21
5	Air quality				*			4	4/58	68.96
6	Noise				*			4	4/58	68.96
7	Ground vibration		*					2	2/58	34.48
8	Flora			*				3	3/58	51.72
9	Fauna			*				3	3/58	51.72
10	Socio economics						*	6	6/58	103.45
11	Civic amenities				*			4	4/58	68.96
12	Health and safety			*				4	4/58	68.96
13	Aesthetics			*				3	3/58	51.72
14	Human settlements and historic buildings						*	6	6/58	103.45
<b>Σ</b>								<b>58</b>		



**Fig. 5.** Comparative bar-chart of Land use pattern year 1971, 1991, 2000 and 2006.

**Table 4.** Environmental impact matrix without protective measures.

PIV	Environmental parameters	Mining activities						Total impact score (TIS)
		Mining	Processing	Waste disposal	Slurry disposal	Transportation	Arts & craft	
103.45	Land use and soil	-5	-3	-4	-3	1	3	-1137.95
68.96	Surface water resources	-2	-2	-2	-2			-551.68
68.96	Ground water resources	-2	-2	-2	-2			-551.68
86.21	Water quality	-3	-2	-3	-4			-1034.52
68.96	Air quality	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-1	-1034.40
68.96	Noise	-4	-4	-3	-3	-4	-2	-1379.20
34.48	Ground vibration	-3	-3					-206.88
51.72	Flora	-2	-1	-1	3	3	1	103.44
51.72	Fauna	-2	-2	2	2	3	3	310.32
103.45	Socio economics	4	4	2	2	4	3	2275.90
68.96	Civic amenities			-1	-1	-1	2	68.96
68.96	Health and safety	-4	-1	-2	-2	2	2	-344.80
51.72	Aesthetics	-3	-2	-3	-1	-2	5	-310.32
103.45	Human Settlements and historic buildings	-2	1	2	2	2	2	931.05
<b>TIS</b>							<b>=</b>	<b>-2861.76</b>

value (PIV).

The impact values were assigned as per scheme shown in Table 2.

Impact value of each parameter was multiplied by the weightage values allotted to the corresponding parameter. This gave final score in terms of environmental impact units. Summing up the final score gave EIA of the entire project / mining area.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mining activities have been continuously going on from the last three decades and there are many mineral based industries also running in the area. Previously the following authors Jain, Urban, and Stacey, 1971, Down and Jonson, 1977, Chaudhari, 1992, CEAA, 1999, Mahatha and Dutta 2003; Datta *et al.*, 2004; have been described the EIA parameters of the present area, only qualitatively. Few remedial and precautionary measures have been suggested such as to formulate by-law and their strict compliance by centralised government body, protection of natural ecosystem by proper implementation of muck disposal, good machineries, plantation along mines etc (Sinha, 1982-83). In the present study this quantitative matrix method used first time for the calculation of the EIA in Sonbhadra district. The mining activities which have impacts on various environmental parameters in

study area are enumerated below:-

On the basis of project activities done during open cast mining the changes in landuse from year 1971 to year 2006 are recorded such as forest land decreases rapidly and become nearly half, open scrap land get 2.5 times higher, agriculture land become 1.5 times higher and residential land become 7.5 times higher with compare to year 1971 (Fig. 5). We have given the ranking for different project activities in environmental impact matrix (Pandey, 2012).

**Method for calculating PIV:** Refer Table 4, For each environmental parameters as Land use and Soil characteristics; considered the Ranking on the subjective judgment of study area 6. Same process for Surface water resource takes ranking 4 and so on. Finally find the total of all the given ranking. Each ranking is divided by 6 and multiplied by 1000, result is PIV.

Ranking of Land use and Soil characteristics = 6, AND 6 = 58

PIV =  $6/58 = 0.103445 \times 1000 = 103.45$

This score has been evaluated against an assessment value index scale, which is given below:

The present study was focussed on EIA by Matrix method and the impact score we have obtained for the study area is (-2861.76). This score has been shown as per assessment value index scale table; it has led to a

significant impact on environment.

### Conclusion

It can be undoubtedly said that environmental consciousness arising out of mining and associated impacts is achievable through joint efforts of agencies doing research and development and monitoring work on various parameters. Mining and related activities have major beneficial impacts on socioeconomics of the entire region. Mining has appreciable adverse impact on human settlements in the study area and slight beneficial impact on provision of civic amenities in the area. Amalgamation of small lease holds and mining on co-operative basis needs to be explored in consultation with mine owners, government representatives and environmentalists for sustainable development of the mining area. In addition to remedial measures, vegetation screens all around mining belt, stabilization of overburden dumps, and realignment of railway lines are suggested for environmental management of the area. People should have a moral responsibility of conserving their environment.

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