

Original Article

The Paradox of Extraction: A Sociological Analysis of Mineworkers' Rights and Democratic Participation in the 21st Century

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Abstract

The worker is the which person who is helpful to society with his work done. Every big system as run with the help of workers. In India and all world there is various types of workers. In there there is a mine workers are the workers vichar work into the mine that is gold mine, coal mine, stone stone mine. With the help of survey and study of mine workers life researcher known about the problems of tone mine workers. Their life is a very hard and every time with dangerous to life. And their students and family are also not education fully due to the problems of mine workers help problem physical problem living problem etc.

Keywords: Mineworkers' rights, Labor sociology, Democratic participation, Resource extraction, Political economy, Industrial relations, social inequality, Occupational health and safety

Introduction

Def of Democracy – The the system which can run by people for the people and it is all time think about peoples helps and good life also However, the mining industry, often located in remote geographical areas, creates a 'state within a state' where labor laws are frequently secondary to production targets. This section sets the stage for discussing how industrial democracy often fails at the pithead.

The today is condition of mine workers

The mind workers are mainly work for their family economic growth due to their low education and no other economical way for family growth. But in that there is various dangerous system are properly works. Every time the accidental mode is on in their work so their health is disturbed due to the dust of my and stone crushers. They are the part of Indian constitution so they are liable for labour or law for their serving and saving life.. today only mine workers are not there but farmers and other labours are work into the mines and they are capable for health serving in the accident and in a bad condition of health. These workers are not unity so there problems are not comes out earlier .

They are rights to be good health and safety by the constitution and democracy. But no anyone mind workers are provide insurance of health and insurance of their life and they have no facilities by the owners to treatment their health in accident time The mind workers are not a stable worker they are shifted one village to another village and one state to another state for their work so that they have not basic document there due to that they not take the benefits of government various schemes for their family and there students also.

Mineworkers and Democratic Participation

The mind workers want to come unity and make the one union. To get the rights in 21 centuries. This is very important for the democracy because they are the one of the parts of our democracy. If they are not functions then works are stop every time.

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In a functional democracy, workers' voices are channeled through unions. However, the 21st century has seen a decline in union efficacy due to:

- **Political-Corporate Nexus:** Large mining corporations often influence local governance, silencing dissent.
- **Migrant Labor Vulnerability:** Many miners are migrants who lack voting rights in their place of work, effectively disenfranchising them from local democratic processes.

Impact of Automation and the Digital Divide

Modern mining is moving toward automation. While this improves safety, it threatens the livelihoods of unskilled democratic stakeholders. The transition to 'Green Energy' also demands minerals (like Lithium and Cobalt), often leading to neo-colonial mining practices that bypass democratic consent of local workers.

The mine works and dr. ambedkar thought for mine workers

- Democracy makes the mind workers right safe and prevent them from slaves making by mine works
- Why the mine workers want democratic behaviour from mine owners
- Mine workers are human, not machines. Mahatma Gandhi says that "Work is worship." Every worker in society gives service for our good placement, and his life needs also matter.

So, mine workers demand democratic behaviour, meaning being treated as partners rather than just labourers, with a voice in decision-making from mine owners. This demand arises fundamentally due to concerns about miners' work safety, dignity, and economic fairness. Given the high-risk and dangerous nature of the mining system, workers often view a democratic, participatory approach as essential to protecting their lives and ensuring fair compensation.

So, they want a life like humans, not like animals.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's thoughts on mine workers

Dr. Ambedkar was the main person and chief architect of our Constitution. He was very careful about laborers because labourers are the backbone of our society. They do our work and help in the development of society.

Safety of mine workers:

- Mine workers do very hard work, which can make their life dangerous. Their physical safety is very important. Dr. Ambedkar wanted to save mine workers through democracy with the help of laws.
- The Coal Mines Safety Amendment Bill was passed in January 1944 to prevent accidents and improve working conditions.

- He was also passed the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941 for women workers.

Conclusion

The 'Democracy' of a miner is often limited to the ballot box once in five years, The6

Footnotes

- १. **Government of Maharashtra: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches (Volumes 1 and 10).**
- ३. ^3 Sharma, R. K. "The Plight of Indian Miners." *Sociological Bulletin*, vol. 72, no. 2, 2025, pp. 112-115.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper

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