

POLLUTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES: A CASE STUDY OF BRICK INDUSTRY IN KARIMGANJ DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Brick kiln is a traditional and an important unorganised industrial sector in India and other developing countries. Brick kilns are small scale sector which uses manual labour and traditional firing technologies. It is estimated that more than 100,000 kilns produce about 80 to 100 billion bricks per year in India. The present demand is estimated as 120 billion bricks per year. The employment of brick kilns is approximately eight million people. These industries supply bricks for constructions of the housing sector, bridges, roads and canals etc. in both rural and urban areas. The construction sector is an important part of the Indian economy with the contribution of 10 per cent in the GDP and is registering an annual growth of 9 per cent. According to Pollution Control Board, Guwahati, (2013) the state has 912 permanent brick kilns. As per the report of Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Silchar, Cachar, Assam, there are 182 brick units in the Barak Valley, as on 26th Feb, 2013. The number is expected to grow further keeping in view the future plans for development of infrastructure of roads, canals, bridges, buildings and constructions which are required for overall development of the nation. Thus, there are two categories of issues in brick making industry such as environmental and social. The traditional brick making technologies are clamps, movable chimney and more recently fixed chimney kilns. This industry is responsible for different types of pollution viz. soil, air, and water resulting in environmental imbalance in the society.

The present paper highlights that environmental pollution and health hazard problems caused by the brick industry as a result of emission of huge quantity of smoke, fine dust particles etc. The paper has also covered various measures taken by the Government in order to prevent/control pollution and to what extent the various guidelines for prevention of pollution are implemented by brick industry. Both primary and secondary data are used in the present paper.

KEYWORDS: *Brick Industry, Pollution, GDP, Suspended Particulate Matter, Pollution Control Measures.*