



## **MINING AND ENVIRONMENT: BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE**

**Akter HOSSAIN**

**ID 074**

Institute for Environment and Development Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
[iendesbk@accesstel.net](mailto:iendesbk@accesstel.net)

### **ABSTRACT**

There are major mine able deposits of coal, limestone and granite in Bangladesh. These are often at a deeper depth than conventionally exploited elsewhere. However, lack of surface or shallower deposits and overall competitiveness against import has encouraged development of underground mines to exploit such resources. At present two major coalmines are being developed to extract, about 1 million tons of coal and 1.65 million tons of granite respectively from the Barapukuria Coal and Madhyapara Hard Rock Mine.

Other than coal, rock and stone, the gas and oil mining taken an extensive shape in Bangladesh particularly the gas mining is massive. Estimated gas reserves range from 182 billion to 623 billion cubic meters. Deposits lie in more than a dozen different locations, six of which are producing in full swim. Currently, about 90 per cent of power generation is based on natural gas and the whole of the urea fertilizer requirements of the agricultural sector is met by using gas as feedstock. Natural gas output now accounts for about 70 per cent of the country's commercial energy supply.

Mining Accident: An immense fire at the Magurchhara (Maulvi Bazar district) gas field in June 1997 from an explosion devastated a large part of the forest and several tea gardens in the gas field vicinity. Many wild animals and tiny creatures living in the forest had been burnt dead while many others had been suffocated in the poisonous gas. A cluster village of the forest dwelling khasi people, had suffered environmental and economic loss. The fire had damaged many houses on the hillocks and destroyed 20,000 Betel creepers of 150 acres of land. The unprecedented fire, which could be stopped only after several months, proves the fragile position of Bangladesh in exploring and controlling the mineral resources.

**Key words:** .