

IMPACT OF OPEN CAST COAL MINING ON AVERAGE DECREASE OF NUMBER OF SOIL INSECTS IN MINING AREAS OF JHARIA COAL FIELD IN COMPARISON TO NON-MINING AREAS OF DHANBAD (JHARKHAND)

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ABSTRACT : In Jharia coalfield coal is being extracted through opencast mining. Open cast mining directly hampers the important vegetative layer *i.e.* upper layer of the soil. Due to open cast mining the natural habitats of several micro-organisms and soil insects are being completely destroyed. This paper presents the results of the study carried out in both mining and non-mining areas. To assess the impact of open cast coal mining on available soil insects multiple samples were collected from both mining and non-mining areas. Abundance, density and number of identified soil insects were calculated and compared minutely.

Key words : *Mining, Opencast, Vegetative layer, Abundance, Density.*