



Environmental issues in Chhattisgarh

Experiences of the
*Chhattisgarh Bachao
Andolan* &
Cases dealt with by
Janhit.

Environmental public hearings

The only opportunity for people to participate.

- ◉ When companies defraud, suppress or falsify information. (*D.S. Maliya's case*)
- ◉ No level playing field for the people, and the way vested interests operate.
- ◉ Public hearings under the shadow of repression. (*Adivasi Mazdoor Ekta Sangathan*)

Mining Issues

- Granting lease – consent for private lands, consultation for communal lands, proximity and right of way. (*Karam Singh, Bhagat Ram Sahu, Sarthak case*)
- Mining Plan – Drainage of water, dumping of overburden, green belt, backfilling. (*Dongamahua*)
- Mining techniques – drilling, transportation, dust issues, underground mining. (*Dukalu Ram & Ors.*)

Forest issues

- Inviolable, dense, pristine, biodiverse forests. (*Alok Shukla & Ors*)
- Granting forest clearance without granting forest rights – individual and community rights as a prerequisite. (*Chuiyaram Ekka & Hira Singh Markam*)
- Wildlife issues – elephant corridor, tigers, reserve forests. (*Dharamjaigarh, Achanakmar*)
- Mineral – yes, Tiger – yes, Adivasi – No?

Ash Dykes..

Of seas of ash and regular breaches

- The nature of ash as a by product.
- Air, Soil and Water pollution of ash dykes in Korba. (*Vinod Kumar Pandey*)
- Measuring pollutants ourselves. (*Dukalu Ram*) and efforts in Korba now.

Sponge Iron Plants

- The political economy of the sponge iron plants – in the middle of the pyramid.
- The struggle over installing Electrostatic Precipitators.

(The Chaurenga story)

A disappearing rice bowl

- Acquisition of double cropped agricultural lands for Naya Raipur, Kodatarai air strip, Industrial Corridors, Four and six lane highways....
- Rice varieties, Dr Richaria and Syngenta. Food security issues.

(Cases of Anand Ram, Agammatti.....and so many more...)

Changing water use

- The story of Janjgir and the Rogda dam.
- Diverting agricultural dams to industry.
- A case of privatization – Radius Water.
- What Bailadila mines did to Shankini and Dankini.
- Effects of the Polavaram Dam.
- Small hydropower plants – are they harmless?
- Have we enough water for all these power plants?

Cumulative impacts and Critically polluted areas

- Designation of critically polluted areas.
- Moratorium and “action plan” for critically polluted areas.
- Korba is no longer critically polluted?!

Bending town planning principles

- The case of JP Cement building a cement plant on a green belt. (*Raza Ahmed's case*)

Who will regulate the regulators?

- Functioning of the Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board.

(Abhay Kumar Dubey's case)

- The Secretary of CECB is responsible to ensure that the EIA Report is according to the TOR.

(Ramesh Agrawal's case)

Threats to the environment defenders.

- Attack on Ramesh Agrawal.
- How Jangsay Poya faced a claim of 35 lakhs... (*SECL Vs Jangsay*)
- If the villagers don't go to the town, the town comes to the villagers ... the story of Premnagar. (*Jugga Devi's case*)
- How DB Power harassed DS Maliya.
- Malicious prosecution – rule rather than exception – late Ram Kumar Agrawal.