

**A STUDY OF CURRENT PRACTICE OF THE QUARRY
MINING INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA: A CASE OF
KADUWELA DSD**

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis/dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgment any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or Institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

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The above candidate has carried out research for the PhD/MPhil/Masters thesis/dissertation under my supervision. I confirm that the declaration made above by the student is true and correct.

Name of Supervisor: Dr. Sri Rohana Rathnayake

Signature of the Supervisor:

Date:

DEDICATION

To my family, who have always supported me and encouraged me to pursue my dreams.

To my advisors, who have provided me with invaluable guidance and mentorship throughout my research.

To my friends, who have stood by me and provided me with much-needed laughter and support during the ups and downs of this journey.

And to all the participants who took part in this study, without whom this research would not have been possible.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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ABSTRACT

Quarry mining is an important industry in Sri Lanka, contributing to the country's economy in many ways. There have been complaints about the impacts of quarry mining in Sri Lanka, particularly related to environmental and social impacts including noise pollution, dust, vibration, and water scarcity. This research studies the current practice in the quarry mining industry that has led to these conflicts by analyzing the legal and policy frameworks around mining. The study adopts a qualitative research design, including a review of relevant literature and documents, as well as interviews with key stakeholders, including regulatory bodies, license holders (quarry owners), and local communities affected by quarry mining. The structured interviews aimed to identify the most pressing regulatory gaps and impact complaints related to quarry mining in Sri Lanka and to gather recommendations on how to address them under three stages including stage of application to license issuance, stage of operation of the quarry, and stage of rehabilitation. The snowball sampling method was used to identify communities, quarry owners, and experts for the interviews. The findings of this research reveal several gaps in the current regulatory framework, including inadequate enforcement of regulations, unclear roles and responsibilities of regulatory bodies, and limited community participation in the decision-making process. Also, addressing the regulatory gaps around quarry mining in Sri Lanka requires a collaborative effort from all stakeholders to ensure that natural resources are extracted responsibly and sustainably, benefiting both the economy and the environment. Overall, this research contributes to the understanding of the challenges in regulating quarry mining and provides insights into the measures required to ensure sustainable mining practices that protect the environment and the well-being of local communities.

Keywords: Quarry mining industry, Regulatory framework, Impacts, Gaps, Community objections

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CEA	Central Environmental Authority
DCA	Data Coverage Analysis
DG	Director General
DSD	Divisional Secretary's Division
DS	Divisional Secretariat
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EVR	Environment Viability Report
FSI	Forest Survey of India
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSI	Geological Survey Ireland
GSMB	Geological Survey and Mines Bureau
GTFP	Green Total Factor Productivity
GVA	Gross Value Added
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ISFR	Indian Forest State Report
LKR	Sri Lankan Rupee
MPCB	Maharashtra Pollution Control Board
NBRO	National Building Research Organization
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PTF	Presidential Task Force
UDA	Urban Development Authority
UK	United Kingdom
WHO	World Health Organization
WRB	Water Resources Board

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