

Vermiculite's Mines in Parnaíba Basin: Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact

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At the southeast border of Parnaíba Basin, one of the biggest deposits of vermiculite in Brazil can be found. The deposits is located in Piauí state, in the dry Savannah-vegetation, so called "caatinga". Its exploitation has been provoking structural impacts on the population and in the environment.

The main objective of this paper is to analyze: socio-economic and environmental impacts due to the exploitation activities of this important mineral resource; the importance of vermiculite as raw material in the productive sector; aspects of deposit's extension compared to others existing in the country.

Therefore, possible relative advantages of the mining employees will be measured considering the natural landscape scenario of the drought area with a innumerable environmental restrictions where many people work in extensive agriculture, seasonal activity that has made man fail and vulnerable in relation to his family income.