

GEOLOGY AND TELECOMMUTING

PRAÇA LEITE, M. L. Ouro Preto Federal University, Ouro Preto. Brazil.

In the last decades, the information revolution is having a profound impact in our society, including transformations on economic activities, such as the Implementation of telecommuting. Telecommuting is the partial or total substitution of telecommunications technology for the trip to and from the primary workplace. In other words, it's moving the work to the workers, instead of the workers to work. Who can telecommute? If an employee must be physically present to perform his/her duties or cannot easily move their work tools or activities, telework is not likely an option. An individual who can telecommute is someone who has the training, permission and the technology to perform some or all of his/her work outside the main office. The question that arises is 'can a geologist telecommute?.' The answer, without a doubt, is yes. Most of the geologists work can be divided in 5 parts: field work; laboratory analysis; bibliography research; data analysis and report writing. The last three can be developed at home or in a telework center. In other words, it can be a part-time basis telecommuting. There are many advantages in telecommuting. The companies are benefit from cost savings with the reduction of office requirements and from productivity gains. For the society there is a reduction in pollution levels, traffic congestions and energy consumption. Finally, it benefits employees, both mentally and emotionally, with the gain in time because of the reduction in travelling and because the more flexible work arrangements allow him to accommodate his personal care situations.