

Abstract

The Review and Audit of Environmental Impact of Stone Industry on the Cities of Bethlehem, Beit-jalla, Al-Doha and Al-Khader.

The purpose of the study was to evaluate and assess (audit) the environmental impact of stone cutting industry on the study area, in order to come up with results indicating the reasons and effects of these industries and to contribute to possible solution in order to reduce the risk of these types of industries.

Materials and Methodologies in the study consisted of three types. Firstly, descriptive analysis so as to describe the current situation of stone industries in the study area; their numbers and locations. Secondly, field and observation analysis were used to gather data regarding the study area using a questionnaire directed towards residents and stone companies. Finally, the use of statistical analysis to analyze the filled questionnaire. The intended target of study was selected randomly due to several factors such as accessibility and willingness of participants.

The main findings of this study included the following: stone industries affect the studied area in the following aspects of air quality leading to an increased pollution making it harder for the biodiversity to survive, as well as the decrease in the production of the surrounding lands. The regression of biodiversity and soil quality has caused the general landscape to be distorted. Other findings from the

study showed that lands in the vicinity of stone industries were less taken care of, and were prospect to sabotage. The land values also suffered tremendously due to living hardships.

Findings also showed that these facilities affected the health of nearby residents especially the young and the elderly with the prognosis of respiratory and heart health issues. Lastly these industry based on the questionnaire showed that 80 % of them have not done the environmental impact assessment study. And a 55 % of them were indifferent to what happens to the environment around them.

This study concludes with a few suggestions to help reduce the impact of the stone industries on the study, the construction of a shared database among the governmental related service and stone industry people to help ease the process of monitoring and improving relationship with the economic factor of these projects. Another suggestion would be the routine inspection of these facilities to ensure that they are abiding by the law in regards to quantities of pollution allowed. Finally, the stone industries must create dumping tanks for all their residue's in which they could sell or dispose to other sources, a campaign of planting tree's to help the nearby residents would prove to be a positive move by these industries .