COPING WITH THE DEMAND FOR BUILDING LIME

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The principal raw materials for the manufacture of Building Lime are coral and dolomite. The mining of coral in the coastal belt has resulted in coastal erosion which possess a serious threat to the stability of the landmass. In addition, these effects have caused irreversible effects to the environment. This has resulted in the introduction of laws to make coral mining illegal, thus depriving many of their sources of income.

The scope of this investigation covers

(a) a study into the state of existance of the raw material in its natural form, which varies from limestone to dolomite through five categorised stages.

(b) a study into the efficiency of the kiln, heat retention capability and fuel economy.

(c) a financial evaluation to gauge the economic viability of lime manufacture using dolomite transported from source locations.

The conclusions drawn from the present investigations indicate that the raw materialcurrently in use is not ideal. The desirable temperatures are not reached in the kilns, probably due to adverse cooling effects of wind. Fuel

economy may be achieved by incorporating a gasifier in the kiln. The viability of the project is apparent when considering the need to meet the demand for building lime. The transport of the raw material to the coastal regions is more economical than that of the product lime.

It is recommended that the usage of dolomite in lime production be encouraged to avoid a shortage of building lime. The project can be viable provided the ideal raw material is identified. The success of such a project will ensure that the people in the coastal belt presently engaged in lime manufacture can continue to do so rather than seek alternative means of livelihood which can cause various types of sociological problems.