

Abstract

Natural resources play a vital part in a country's development process. Without the use of natural resources, industrialization is practically impossible in any country. The social and economic development of a nation depends on its capacity to utilize its natural resources, avoiding its wasteful use to the extent possible.

With globalization increasing at an ever increasing rate, the extraction and production of natural resources do not necessarily mirror the resources' use within a particular country's national boundaries. Some countries have ample resources, which they extract and export; others rely heavily on imports of raw materials and products to satisfy consumer demand. Geographic heterogeneities and differences in the operational costs of extraction and processing of metal ores have led to large net trade imports and exports.

This paper assesses the importance of dynamic material flow analysis in the metal trade sector in India. A material flow analysis of copper trade in the country for the financial year 2011-12 has also been carried out as a part of this project. Further, the various issues and challenges faced during the material flow analysis of the metal trade sector in India have also been discussed.