Summary:

India is a country with huge untapped human resources. The quantity of labour is generally less compared to the developed countries. The growth of science and technology requires a simultaneous growth of skill and efficiency among the working class. Then only the abundant labour force of the country can be harnessed to attune to the economic development. For that an integrated approach to bring social, economic and cultural transformation among the working class is the need of the hour. Since India got independence the government has taken various stringent measures to safeguard the interests of the labour class and to promote their welfare. The present study, which is micro in nature, shows that achievement in this direction is quite unsatisfactory. The following are the important findings of the study.

Findings:

1. It is observed by the study that the major part of the labour force in the study region are between the age group of 15 - 25. That means the existing
circumstances force the reeling poverty to enter into the mining activity in the early age itself.

2. Because of the religious and customary influences marriage is occupying primary importance in the social life of the respondents. Hence, the percentage of labour force unmarried is insignificant. Since marriage has got more social importance early marriage is quite, common phenomena among the respondents.

3. It is evident from the study that labour is the main source of livelihood of the respondents. A negligible percentage of respondents are processing land holdings with a size of 2 - 5 acres. It is quite natural to the people of this region to consider labour an asset and the desire to possess larger size of the family in order to increase the income.

4. In the study region the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes forming the larger section the labouring class. The percentage of population belonging to minorities who participate in mining activity is negligible. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes with their strong physique and capability to withstand the hazardous mining work are preferred by the mining employees. The social barriers
restrict them to enter into the other sophisticated occupations and so naturally
they are forced to enter into mining activity.

5. Majority of the population in the study region speaks Telugu as they are
migrants of Andhra Pradesh and with their marital relationship with Andhra. At
the same time a small percentage of emigrants from Tamilnadu and Maharrastra is
also found in the study region. Hence, we will find a heterogeneous culture and
tradition among the respondents.

6. The important sources of recreation in the study region are cultural activities
like Jatras, Bhajans, Devotional songs, Kirtans, Group dances, T.V., Radio,
Cinema and consumption of alcoholic beverages. Out of all these consumption of
alcoholic beverages is more predominant. The labouring class of this region
concieved psychology that the use of arreca or sari which is of low quality is
inevitable for body relaxation. This habit of the workers not only affected
adversely thir economic conditions and also created social disintegrity. The other
sources of recreation are not predominantly prevailing upon the minds of the
working class.
7. Nearly 84% of the workers employed in the mining activity are engaged in quarring of ores. It is observed by the study that in the mines even today physical energy is used for the mining activity instead of using modern technology and equipments.

8. In general the level of income of the mining worker in Kariganur and Jambunath halli is below national average. 41% of the labour force are having income between Rs. 400 to 6000, which indicates that the income per day is about Rs. 15-20 is inadequate to meet the barest necessities of an individual. The conditions of the small percentage of workers with little land holdings seems to be comparatively better.

9. With this low level of income one cannot expect high saving capacity from the respondents. 76.6% of the respondents are having nil savings. Further, the expenditure of the labourers towards alcoholic beverage not only reduced their saving capacity but also driven them into the debt trap.

10. It is quite interesting to observe that nearly 83% of the respondents are debt free. This does not mean that they are not in need of finance but the financing agencies particularly money lenders are not ready to finance as the labourers are
not having any assets in terms of security. Further, the high rate of interest
generally charged by the money lender will restrict the labours from borrowing.

11. In all cities it is an element of human nature which acts as an instinct to
create some assets either for the convenience of the present life or for the future
life. The study reveals that the respondents are inclined more towards the
purchase of radio’s, tape recorders, bicycles. The response because it is costly
and there is no time for them to sit leisurely before T.V.

12. The working conditions and the environmental factors of the mining workers
subjected them to various diseases like respiratory, dust allergy and physical
strain. 90% of the respondents prefer modern medicines to overcome their health
problems to get quick relief. The labourer is not ready to lose his labour day
which force him to maintain normal health.

13. The government has made provisions for the health facilities and
reimbursement of Medical expenditure by the employer. It is observed that
majority of the respondents are unaware of such facilities.
It is observed that though the nature of mining work is risky and hazardous, the number of accidents and injuries are quite insignificant. This may be attributed to the precautionary measures undertaken by the mining companies.

**Suggestions:**

1. The early entry of the population into the mining occupation will deprive of the opportunity of education and training to the labour force. Hence, the age limit for the mining labourer should be fixed at least by 18 years.

2. As the early marriages will bring adverse social and health effects it should be regulated strictly.

3. Many studies reveal that possession of some land or assets will increase the social status of the workers. Provisions should be made either by land reform measures or by the financial institutions so as to enable the landless workers to attain this social status. Such a condition will naturally create a desire to have a smaller size of the family.

4. Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes forms the major source of mining labour in the region. The existing social and religious conditions, with all
governmental efforts since independence, deprived them to enter in other occupations. The government should take relevant steps to provide better opportunities to this sections.

5. Since the education of alcoholic consumption is the predominant feature which besides reducing the efficiency of the working will also drive them into the debt trap it is essential to make the region as non-alcoholic either through the government measures or by voluntary organisations.

6. To improve the efficiency of the labour force faire wages should be given to the labourers. High wage rate, besides including the income will provide a social stability to the labour. The wage regulation acts should be rigorously implemented.

7. The finance institutions like co-operative societies, should be established to provide mutual benefits. Besides this the RRB's and nationalised banks should also provide easy and timely financial assistance to the mining workers so that, they can come out of the clutches of the money lenders.
The companies should modernise their operations by using latest technologies. Such measure will reduce the hazardous of the labour and also accidental rate.

9. The health facilities provided by the government and the mining companies seems to be inadequate. A well equipped hospital with qualified doctors and nursing staff is the pre-requisite. The mining companies should create necessary awareness among the workers about the medical assistance made available to them. Further a mobile hospital facility should be provided to the door steps of the workers.

10. Also, an effort should be made to create an awareness regarding the significance of education will help to increase the percentage of literacy.

**Conclusion:**

Mining is an important activity of the region which provides employment on the one hand and revenue to the government on the other. It is a labour oriented industry. The quantitative labour is required for better productivity. The quality labour in turn depends upon the socio-economic Geographical and cultural conditions under which the labour performs. Any effort to provide better socio-economic conditions will go along way in the upliftment of workers social status also assist in nation building.