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## Reduction of Environmental Pollution and Soil Conservation in Indian Brick Sector: A Guiding Step for Small Scale Production

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Abstract: Bricks are extensively used building material all over the world due to their low price, frequent availability and ease of handling. There are more than 150,000 brick kilns in India producing about 300 billon bricks annually, employing about 18 million workers and consuming about 40 million tons of coal annually. It is also estimated that the clay fired brick sector in India is estimated to consume as high as 800 million tons of clay annually [1]. The main focus is on the red brick because it is a low maintenance, permanent, durable building material that won't rot rust, burn, corrode, decay, or encourage mold growth. Also these bricks are fire resistant and easily reusable. However, as a matter of fact, they also consume huge quantity of clay. Thus, there is an urgency to conserve the top soil and to reduce the environmental pollution produced by it. Adding waste material to the clay can be an alternative because it reduces the consumption of clay and also proper utilization of waste can be achieved, thus, reducing the environmental pollution. This paper presents the comparative study of different samples of bricks produced by replacing some proportion of clay with the waste materials. Different types of wastes and additives are used as partial replacement of fresh clay. The bricks prepared by incorporating the waste materials are analyzed for their physical, chemical and mechanical properties and the results are compared with those obtained from the control samples. The brick specimen is evaluated for their compressive strength, water absorption, thermal conductivity, efflorescence, baking temperature, etc.

Keywords: Red clay brick, environmental pollution, top soil, brick industry, small scale production

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