

DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF VILLAGES WITHIN 1.6KM  
(1 MILE) RADIUS OF URANIUM TAILINGS POND AT  
JADUGUDA.

**A REPORT**

**(2001 - 2002)**

**VOLUME I**

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## INTRODUCTION

The present report is the outcome of an independent survey conducted during November 2001 – January 2002. This exercise has been confined initially to the villages within 1.69 KM radius of Uranium mill tailings ponds at Jaduguda. Subsequently some villages beyond this area were also included. It will not be out of place to mention that the co-ordinator of this project has been studying plant diversity along the Singhbhum Thrust Belt with special reference to bioaccumulation of naturally occurring radioactive materials in uranium mineralized area. In fact last two decades have witnessed public outcry in the print as well as audiovisual media concerning increasing radiation and radioactivity level in the environment of Jaduguda. This has resulted in public perception that threat of health looms large on the human population of this area. In fact last two decades have witnessed public outcry in the print as well as audiovisual media concerning increasing radiation and radioactivity level in the environment of Jaduguda. This has resulted in public perception that threat of health looms large on the human population of this area. After going through the reports of fact finding teams which appeared in the press, it was felt that whatever is being spoken about Jaduguda's environment, do not have even distant relation with actual fact. It is well known that there is no place in this earth where there is no radiation. The entire mankind has evolved in a radiation environment. Had there been no radiation, the shapes of the living things would have something different from what they are today. Even our body is radioactive. Therefore, the prevalent rumours can be attributed to two facts. First, the ignorance about radiation dosimetry and International recommendation for prescribed limit of radiation dose. Secondly, lack of knowledge about the radiation related health problems in human beings. Sometimes, the diseases like malarial fever: tuberculosis, jaundice, diabetes and a number of conventional diseases are also attributed to radiation. The causes of such diseases are well known to everyone. So far no one has come forward to dispel such type of rumors from any quarter. With the passage of time such things have transformed into social problems. People of distant villages no more offer to established

relationship in Jaduguda through marriages of their sons and daughters. This gross irresponsibility must be fixed to those who have been talking about radiation problems over the years without having basic knowledge about radiation, its dosimetry and its effects. The co-ordinator who teaches and guides researches on radiation genetics has therefore thought to generate authentic database on the general health pattern of the public at large by undertaking a thorough survey of this area. Since the entire operation requires dedicated groups of workers, a survey team was constituted consisting graduates and postgraduates. It is pertinent to mention here that all members of the survey team including the co-coordinator are inhabitant of the local inhabitants and fully conversant with local language (Bengali/ Santhali). Obviously, this was an additional desirable aspect in conducting the survey in that we could directly communicate with the members of each family.

Although the database generated through this survey is not exhaustive but keeping in view of lack of bare minimum infrastructure facilities and meager time span, the information presented here is felt sufficient to draw an inference to radiation related health problem of people of Jaduguda. This. An additional volume, containing demographic and health survey of two villages (Chatikocha & Dungridih) has already come out earlier. It is hoped that the present endeavor will not prove to be a public report made to the government but it should be treated as a people's report made to the Indian citizen. Finally, the objective of this survey will be achieved if it goes even one step forward in dispelling the latest form of social stigma bestowed upon the people of Jaduguda.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION © NO. 188 OF 1999

B.L. Wadehra

.....Petitioner (s)

Versus

Union of India and Ors.

.....Respondent(s)

**O R D E R**

In view of the affidavit, filed on behalf of respondent No. 3 – Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, that adequate steps have been taken to check and control the radiation arising out of the Uranium waste, we do not find any merit in the petition. It is, accordingly, dismissed.

..... CJL.

.....J.  
(S.B. Sinha)

New Delhi

.....J  
(S.H. Kapadia)

April 15,2004