

Sterlite Copper – Should the Plant Be Reopened?

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UK-based Vedanta Plc's Sterlite Copper's plant in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, was shut down after opposition from local residents, NGOs and environmental activists. The plant accounted for 36% of copper production in the country and the closure resulted in supply shortages. But activists complained of pollution the plant has caused in Thoothukudi and surrounding areas impacting the health of people. At the same time it provided employment to more than 3500 people directly and many more indirectly. The case helps readers understand the responsibility of a business toward its stakeholders and the roles and expectations of various stakeholders affected by business issues. It also examines the responsibilities of organizations toward environmental issues and the tensions caused by an interplay of commercial and ethical issues.

Keywords: Business and environment, Responsible business, Profits vs Purpose, Commercial vs Ethical Issues, Employment generation

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