

## ARK 745

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Geraldine Pardo	4	Law
Melanie Valdes	4	Law
David Esteban Hastamory	4	Entrepreneurship
Laura María Pérez	2	Communications

**Advisor(s):** Julieth Vanessa Prieto, Juan Pablo Stiefken

**Topic:** Shineless Childhood: Mica exploitation in India

**Audience:** Membership of the Indian Beauty & Hygiene Association

### Sustainable Development Goal

SDG #8: Decent work and economic growth.

SDG #12: Responsible consumption and production

### Executive Summary

Mica is a group of minerals that have many possible utilities such as glitter for cosmetic products. It can be found almost everywhere on the earth's surface, but we will be focusing on India's production due to the current situation regarding legal, social and environmental claims. Mica's extraction, apart from causing erosion, deforestation of forests and infertility of the soil, is illegal in most of the territory due to mining locations within government protected forests, yet is almost the only source of income for the population. Miners work up to 16 or 18 a day in very precarious conditions, and workers often to take their children to harvest mica as well. This is a dangerous and poor environment for workers, and working children do not receive proper education. Buyers usually don't notice these irregularities because they acquire mica from buyers who get it from illegal mines but sell it legally.

We propose a number of solutions to mitigate the negative impact of the issue. Regarding labor dignity, we propose industry regulation of this activity, which would give workers decent working conditions and protection (gloves, face masks, helmets and other garments to avoid health issues). We also suggest enterprises pay the miners for restoring the damaged areas; meaning that, for every certain amount of terrain restored, the mica producer would earn a certain amount of additional money for the product. This incentive would work well for both buyer and miner; for the first one, it gains the reassurance of its ethical production and consumption, and the second one earns a new source of income that serves the world. And finally, we contemplate the elimination of the intermediaries to regulate mining, protect miners and guarantee a fair and responsible commercialization of this mineral. Both legally and financially these suggestions are sustainable and rather advantageous for enterprises within the industry; profits may decrease slightly short term, but in medium and long term, it will attract more plus a better reputation, which is much worthy than any product.