

ARTVIN CITIZENS' REASONING ABOUT A LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE: CERATTEPE

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ABSTRACT

Mining is a current problem in Artvin. Officials decided to extract copper and gold mine in Artvin. However, there are different opinions about this. A group of people objects the decision of officials. On the other hand, there exists a group of people supporting mining. Taking into account of stakeholders' position is valuable in creating democratic societies. Therefore, citizens should have the right to participate in decision-making process because they are affected directly from it. For the purpose of deciding on their position, local citizens' views about copper and gold mining in Cerattepe were investigated. For this purpose, 534 local citizens were interviewed. Their reasoning was coded as econcentric, anthropocentric, mix, or none of them. The data analysis showed that most of the local citizens showed mix reasoning (including ecocentrism and anthropocentrism) against mining in Cerattepe but they could not provide sound and scientific reasoning supported with evidence.

Keywords: Environmental dilemma, reasoning, socioscientific issues.