

You are a 34 year old woman. Your family has been in poverty for as long as you can remember. Sometimes you have to give up a meal just so that your children can eat. Even though your family does not have much, you have made sure to give your children a good education by sending them to the local school. You hope for them to have a better life than you did. When the mining company moved into town, your husband could finally get a job after 5 years of being unemployed. The pay wasn't great, but it was more than enough to put food on the table for everyone! Since there are now more jobs available, you and your husband are considering taking your oldest son (15) out of school to work in the mines as well. This would keep the family out of poverty for good, something you never imagined possible!

You are a 45 year old man in the village. You have farmed all of your life, bringing home a meager income for you, your wife, and your 3 children. Most years you make enough money to scrape by, but if the crops go bad, the family suffers badly. With the mining company now in town, your children are able to find work at the mines. This brings home extra money, which is great for the family. You were even able to afford to buy new shoes for the whole family. You worry that if the mine closes, your children won't be able to find work again, driving your family into poverty, starvation, and possible death. The overall economy in the village has improved, and the mining company even built a new school in the village. You're very grateful for the new hope your village has found because of the mines.

You are a 36 year old man in the village. You have farmed for as long as you can remember. You are lucky, in that you make a very decent living compared to other farmers in the village. You are able to support your family, and your wife has time to educate the children. In the past few years, however, you've noticed that the crops in your fields have not been as good as in previous years. The corn stalks are wilting, much of the corn is rotten, and some areas in the field won't produce anything. Being right next to the new mines, you suspect that the mines are polluting the surrounding soil. You worry that crops will continue to fail if the mines keep doing business this way. You know that if your fields no longer produce crops, you could be out of a job, which could drive your family into poverty.

*You are a 38 year old woman in the village. You are the village doctor. You are very grateful for your job, because it pays well so you can support yourself and your two children even though your husband left the family. Over the past couple of years you have noticed that more and more children are coming to you with illnesses related to dirty air and polluted water. Many of the villagers are saying that it is the fault of the new mines, but you do not want to point any fingers unless you are positive. You have begun to do some research and it **does** seem probable that the mine pollution is related to the increase in illness. However, you don't want to drive the mines out of the village unless you're completely sure that the mining pollution is what's causing disease.*

You are a 13 year old boy in the village. Your mother works on a nut farm, bringing home some money during the harvest to help the family survive. Times were getting very tough though, because your mother has gotten increasingly sick with cancer over the past few years, and it's hard for her to work when she is sick. After the mining company moved to your village, you and your father were both able to find work at the mines. This meant that the family made more money, and your mother is now able to take off from work when she is sick. Work at the mines is exhausting, but you are thankful to have a paying job. You believe that being able to work in the mines has saved your mother's life.

You are a 20 year old woman in the village. Your husband recently found work at the mines to help support the family. At first, you were glad that the mining company moved to your village so that more men could find work. However, you also had a baby just as the mining company was moving in. Your baby has had 4 cases of the whooping cough and 2 cases of internal infections in just the past 3 years. You can't help but think that the pollution caused by the mines is what's causing your baby's illnesses. You see the smog and gasses caused by the mines polluting the air, and you know that chemicals must be seeping into the local water supply. You certainly want your husband to have a job, but not at the cost of your baby's life. You hope to see the mine close.