

Mahendra Khatri, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

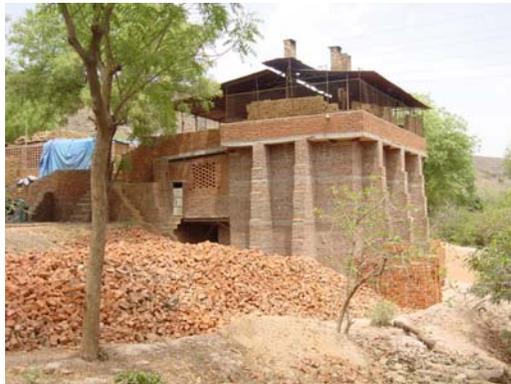
Plant at a glance

Construction for the plant started in January 2002 and was commissioned in March 2002. After initial troubleshooting it has been running successfully for 3 years. Coal consumption is 50%-60% less than clamp which he was operating for last four years. Mr. Khatri got interested in VSBK due to its potential of coal saving and consistent quality of fired bricks.

From the year 2001, Shri. Khatri was producing bricks from his own clamps. However they were inconsistent in quality between each and every firing. Rejection of fired bricks was very high. Often he lost more than 50,000 bricks due to poor coal quality (which could not be judged by the naked eye) or wrong setting patterns, since the total firing control was in the hands of the firemaster. Once the clamp was set and fired, the result was known only after 24 days. No corrective measures could be taken during the firing process.

For the first time, VSBK firing technology provided him relief from uncertainty. He now had an opportunity to monitor his quality and the process every minute. The quality is significantly improved than his clamp and is now consistent. Additionally he has flexibility in producing fired bricks throughout the year – 365 days.

Name:	Mahendra Kumar Khatri
Tel no.	0751-2420875
Plant:	Jai Vaishno Devi Bricks, Village-Girwai, Gwalior (M.P.)
Plant type:	1 VSBK (2 shafts)
Production capacity:	20,00,000 bricks per annum
Year of establishment:	March 2002
Coal consumption:	
External	6 ton/100,000 bricks
Internal	12 ton/100,000 bricks (Rice husk and boiler ash)
Other business:	Hotel & restaurant



Thus he opted for a two shaft VSBK to boost his fired brick production and capture a quality niche in the market. He has been operating his VSBK for 3 years and is highly satisfied with its flexibility and performance. He produces around 25 lakh fired bricks per annum from his two shaft VSBK.

Once he made up his mind, he availed financial assistance from bank under KVIB, REGP scheme. Construction started in February 2002 and trial production in March. After initial troubleshooting, full fledged production started in November 2002 and has not looked back since then. Construction cost was minimized since he had a major advantage of natural slope from hilly terrain for transportation of green bricks to the loading platform. Thus the cost of building a ramp was saved.

Background

Mr. Mahendra Khatri is in the brick industry for the last 5 years. He forayed into brick production with open clamps which was his secondary business. He also possesses a hotel and restaurant. He learnt about TARA VSBK in a workshop organized in August 2001.

During the initial phase of operation he faced a lot of problem due to availability of trained labour and appropriate soil quality. The labour he trained in VSBK firing left him for VSBK firing in other kilns. His soil contained a high amount of stone particles resulting in high breakage. After initial testing and trials the soil selection was appropriate.



"I have chosen VSBK for coal savings and more control on plant. With better planning I can fire bricks for 365 days. Now my breakage is reduced to 3-5% compared to 10% in clamp and my coal consumption has reduced to 6 tonnes as compared to 14 tons in clam. I am happy with the plant performance."