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Land Conflict and Community Development Around North Mara Mine in Tarime District - Tanzania.

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ABSTRACT: This study intended to assess the effects of land conflict on community development around North Mara Mine in Tarime District. The study used a descriptive survey design which followed the quantitative research approach. 351 households of Kemambo and Matongo wards constituted a sample size of this study. Cluster sampling technique was employed to select respondents of the study. Questionnaires were used as the main instrument of data collection. However, observation and documentary review were also used. Data analysis constituted mean and standard deviation counts. The findings of this study revealed that land conflicts affect community development negatively. This was reflected by high mean score of 4.052245 and standard deviation of 0.878964 respectively. The study concludes that land conflict has been and still is affecting communities and their development around North Mara Mine in Tarime District through several ways such as violation of lands rights to local communities, poor education and health services provision, poor infrastructures such as transportation, land eviction and land relocation. The study recommends that government should be strict on the implementation of laws related to compensation whereby mining companies such as that of North Mara Mine can be accountable to their actions. It is from doing this, unfair compensation can be avoided.

Keywords: LandConflict; community development; Mining.

I. INTRODUCTION

Globally, mining related conflicts are vividly known. Adario et al. (2014) pointed out that as global demand for resources rises, extractive companies are increasingly pushing their operations' frontiers into new, more remote areas. The expansion of mining activities in and around areas of indigenous, community-held or contested land has given rise to many grave conflicts. The environmental effects of mining are well-documented and violence against these opposing projects is increasing, for example in Mexico and Central America. At least 150 killings have taken place in the context of struggles with mining and extractive projects. Many of these have taken place during protests. In Peru, for example, between 2002 and 2013 there were 46 extrajudicial killings of demonstrators at mining sites around the country.

In Latin America, to some extent mining and land related conflicts have been reported in some countries. According to Sandt (2009) Guatemala provides such a case where by indigenous communities have been affected by mining projects. Such conflicts have been due to the demand of land titles and communal tenure, indigenous collective land rights and illegality of land acquisitions by the mining projects. Not only that, those conflicts have been happening due to mining projects but also due to land-agricultural factors.

In Africa, according to Moyo et al in Bongole (2013), the existing land conflicts are associated with global land tenure structure. For instance, in West Africa the colonialists concentrated on agricultural export economies while in Central to South Africa, people were alienated of their land and placed into native reserves as labor reserves to the established settlers' farms, plantations and mines. The other category of land conflicts arises out of the areas where concessionary companies used the alienated land for resource plunder as exemplified in the mining complexes in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Zaire. Not only the above-mentioned countries but also land has contributed to mistrust among many African countries such as in South Sudan.

In Tanzania, various land related conflicts have been reported in different regions. These conflicts involve communities and mining companies, small- and large-scale miners, mining companies and the government, the Government and communities, mining companies and the environment. For instance, conflicts in Tarime district according to Mahende (2012), arise in demand for the resources available. Majority of people around NMM are living poorly due to the fact that their major source of production has been taken by the mine

company and there is no hope of getting a better land for cultivation. Hence, this has prolonged the suffering of people and because they cannot endure such sufferings, they retaliate through other means such as intrusion in the mine site for gold. The mining intrusion activities have resulted to deaths and injuries of both the intruders and the police. For instance, in December 2008 one intruder was shot dead by the police (Cooksey & Kelsall, 2011) and in 2016 the official inquiry was set up by the Tanzanian Ministry of Energy and Minerals which confirmed receiving claims that 65 people have been killed and 270 people injured by police responsible for mine security (Mining Watch Canada (MWC) & Rights and Accountability in Development (Coumans & Feeney 2016). This constantly causes conflict between the Kuria and the mining company (Mulikuza, 2015). And as a result, the conflict affects local community development and social service delivery. Therefore, this study assessed the effects of land conflict on community development around North Mara Mine in Tarime District.

a. LITERATURE REVIEW

Mensah (2009) in her study in Obuasi on gold mining and community social responsibility (CSR) reveal that farmers in mining communities lose their crops and the fertility of their land to mining activities. The impact exerted on the farmers is not just a matter of crop destruction as a result of the spillage of cyanide, smoke from the mines. One can also extend the discussion to include a more crucial effect on the quality of the soil for farming. This is more important since it affects land fertility and the ability of the land for generating the capabilities for reproduction of crops. Gold mining affects food crop production and even the cultivation of very important cash crops as cocoa.

Verbrugge (2015), in his study of mining in the Philippines, finds that decentralized control over mineral resource wealth have resulted in a highly ambiguous institutional arena, this is because the communities are not gaining positive benefits to boost up their socio-economic development from mine activities. This being the situation at hand, mixed actor coalitions attempt to influence the associated distribution of mineral wealth hence resulting to conflict between the actors and locals.

Lugoe (2012) in Tanzania noted that conflicts between the communities and the mines have been largely surfacing more acutely with respect to land use. The conflicts have evolved at almost all mining sites since the re-emergence of the mining industry. The main reason for the state of affairs has been the displacement of people and the very low compensation level that have left many dissatisfied – affecting labour relations and security at the mines and hence affecting community development in the given communities.

Michaels (2010) studies the impact of oil abundance in Southern U.S. counties on their long-term development. It finds that oil abundance increases local employment, population growth, per capita income, and quality of infrastructure. In developing countries with inferior institutional capacity, however, the picture seems to reverse.

Ticci and Escobal (2015) found that direct investments of mining companies in producing districts affects socio-economic development outcomes of local communities. Mines, especially large ones, often invest in infrastructure improvements, such as the quality of the road network, that benefit both their own activities and the population at large. It is also the case that large mines contribute directly to local development projects.

Maconachie and Hilson (2011) noted that mining extractive projects can provide direct and indirect economic opportunities, including jobs, for local community members. This means the mining companies can reduce the effects of high levels of poverty by providing employment opportunities to local residents.

II. METHODOLOGY

Study area and Target Population

The North Mara Gold Mine (NMGM) is found in the northwestern part of Tanzania in Tarime district of Mara region. The NMGM is located at Matongo and Kemambo wards, Tarime district in Mara region. Furthermore, NMGM in particular is surrounded by the wards of Matongo, Kemabo, Nyamwaga, Kibasuka and Nyarukoba and all these wards are comprised of seven villages of Nyamwaga, Kewanja, Nyangoto, Matongo, Nyakunguru, Genkuru and Kerende. This study focused on host communities of Matongo and Kemambo wards which have 4,306 households. The choice of these wards was based on impact of the host communities to the mine as well as vicinity of the ward itself.

Sampling Procedure

This study employed a probability sampling technique namely cluster sampling which is a method where the researcher divides the target population into sections that represent a population. The target area contained a total of nine (9) clusters all of which were considered as a sampling frame. Each of the clusters were assigned a unique number from which only four (4) clusters were selected by choosing two clusters from each of the selected wards. The researcher employed this technique in selecting community members from among households of Kemambo and Matongo.

Sample Size

In this study, a sample of 351 was determined using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula for determining population and sample size.

Data Analysis

In this study quantitative analytical procedure was used to analyse data. The specific quantitative analytical procedures constituted statistical measures namely mean and standard deviation counts (Descriptive statistics). Means and standard deviation were employed because the data collected was on Likert scale.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Response rate

Out of all the instruments distributed, those that were equivalent to the target sample of 351 households from two selected wards (Kemambo and Matongo), 322 were collected and accepted yielding 92% response rate. On collecting the filled instruments from the respondents, the researcher and his assistants checked to ensure that all items in a returned questionnaire were responded to. Where omissions were noted a concerned respondent was requested to fill the missing responses. However, 29 (8%) questionnaires were either not returned or had errors that could not qualify for analysis. All 322 questionnaires that were returned and considered for analysis met 100% of the study's selected sample.

The data was analyzed according to the objective of the study which was; to assess the level of land conflict on community development around North Mara Mine in Tarime District. This objective had 11 items whereby the respondent was asked to rate him/herself on the given items using a scale ranging from a minimum of one (for strongly agree) to a maximum of four (for strongly disagree).

To interpret the mean scores the following values and interpretation were utilized.

Table 1: Interpretation of mean scores

Mean Range	Description	Interpretation
4.30 - 5.00	Strongly Agree	Very High
3.50 - 4.29	Agree	High
2.70 - 3.49	Neutral	Moderate
1.90 - 2.69	Disagree	Low
1.00 - 1.89	Strongly Disagree	Very Low

Source:(Primary data, 2019)

Findings on the effects of land conflict on community development around North Mara Mine in Tarime District are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on the effects of land conflict on community development (N=322).

Items particular of the questions	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Is there unfair compensation?	4.5994	.60455	Very high
Is contaminated water lead to diseases?	4.3913	.74611	Very high
Is environmental degradation and pollution have severe health implications?	4.3882	.75808	Very high
Are there new jobs opportunities created for those who have been displaced?	4.3696	.75095	Very high
Is there land relocation for people of Tarime?	4.2795	.86978	High
Are there poor infrastructures such as transportation?	4.1863	.75467	High
Is there land eviction for people of Tarime?	4.1087	.85598	High
Is there provision of poor health services?	4.0311	.95325	High
Is there violation of lands rights to local communities?	3.8199	1.06714	High
Is there provision of poor education service?	3.7547	1.13513	High
Is there compensation for those people who did not have title deeds?	2.6460	1.17296	Low
Total	4.052245	0.878964	High

Source:(Primary data, 2019).

The mean score on Table 2 above, show the effects of land conflict on community development. The respondents rated very high the question regarding "Is there unfair compensation?" the overall mean score was 4.5994 and standard deviation of .60455. Which implies that, majority of the respondents Strongly Agree on the payment of unfair compensation as one of the effects of land conflict on community development. Indicating that most of the big investors with the connection from the government don't pay well the local community the value of their land for mining, they underpay them. So, the researcher observed that people are not fairly compensated at NMM. The findings correspond with Mulikuza (2015) who established that there is unfair compensation to the local communities lack trust towards the local and central government on the handling of land compensation issues with the mining investors in Tarime district.

Regarding the question "Is contaminated water lead to diseases?", respondents rated very high with the overall mean score of 4.3913 and standard deviation of .74611. This imply that respondents strongly agreed on contaminated water which lead to diseases as one of the effects of land conflict on community development. It is from these findings that the researcher observed that people around NMM get diseases due to contaminated water resulting from the mining activities. The findings agree with Guimarães et al (2012) who found human activities such as salt production and mining extraction stand as a factor for environmental pollution and water inclusive. According to their study findings, water is also polluted through different sources such as urban sewage discharges and discharges from some industries as well as mining companies not connected to the municipal drainage system. Additionally, the study findings correspond with Northey et al. (2016) findings that reported the significant adverse impact of water quality due to mining operations. Moreover, findings agree with Ugya, Ajibade and Ajibade, (2018) who established that the impact of mining extractions on surface and groundwater is due to spill erosion, sedimentation, acid mine drainage, lowering of water Table, subsidence, disturbance on hydrological cycle and rainfall. Hence, from these studies, it is visible that when water is polluted through mining activities, diseases are unavoidable.

On the question "Is environmental degradation and pollution have severe health implications?" respondents rated very high with mean score of 4.3882 and standard deviation of .75808. This also imply that respondents strongly agree on environmental degradation and pollution which have severe health implications as one of the effects of land conflict on community development. Hence, the research findings indicate environmental degradation and pollution as the main causative of health implications to people of NMM. Findings are supportive to Yeboah (2008) who established that mining activities have resulted in land degradation leading to limited land available for local food production and other agricultural purposes in the Obuasi municipality. In addition, his study supported that pollution has affected mainly water resources. Moreover, air and noise pollution are also evident in the area. Additionally, these findings are in agreement with Mensah (2009) who revealed that farmers in mining communities lose their crops and the fertility of their land to mining activities. Her study findings further indicated that environmental degradation lead to a more crucial effect on the quality of the soil for farming and hence it affects land fertility and the ability of the land for generating the capabilities for reproduction of crops. As a result, communities live without future hope of getting enough food because gold mining affects food crop production and even the cultivation of very important cash crops as cocoa.

The respondents rated very high the question regarding "Are there new jobs opportunities created for those who have been displaced?" the overall mean score of 4.3696 and standard deviation of .75095. This imply that majority of the respondents Strongly Agreed on the question stated that "No new job opportunities created for those who have been displaced as one of the effects of land conflict on community development". Hence, the study findings show that people who have been displaced are jobless because of the absence of new job opportunities available for them within their area of jurisdiction. The study findings disagree with Maconachie and Hilson (2011) who his finding found out that mining extractive projects can provide direct and indirect economic opportunities, including jobs, for local community members. But in this case, it was opposite here in Tarime.

Regarding the question of "Is there land relocation for people of Tarime?" respondents rated high with the overall mean score of 4.2795 and standard deviation of .86978. This imply that respondents agree on land relocation as one of the effects of land conflict on community development. Hence, the researcher observed that local communities around NMM are relocated to other piece of lands something that cause disturbances and psychological torture and more endless conflicts. Findings agree with Mulikuza (2015) who noted that, the existing conflicts among the Kuria tribe has its own historical background whereby land was seen as their gift from God and family asset so taking it from them directly triggered conflicts among the Kurian tribe. Furthermore, the findings show that even after the coming of mining investor land relocation has continued to be the source of conflicts between the Kuria tribe and the Mining investor.

Regarding the question of "Are there poor infrastructures such as transportation?" respondents rated high with the overall mean score of 4.1863 and standard deviation of .75467. This imply that respondents agree on poor infrastructure such as transportation as one of the effects of land conflict on community development.

Hence, the researcher observed that the local communities around NMM are facing the challenge of having poor infrastructures such as transportation. The findings disagree with Mutagwaba et al. (2018) who noted that artisanal and small-scale mining in Tanzania (ASM) is characterized by infrastructure development and it is catalyzing the growth of infrastructure. Hence, the researcher observed that despite the fact that past research noted the ASM in Tanzania featured with infrastructure development, this current study provides a new development which note the existence of poor infrastructure such as transportation.

Regarding the question of “Is there land eviction for people of Tarime?” respondents rated high with the overall mean of 4.1087 and standard deviation of .85598. This imply that they agree on land eviction as one of the effects of land conflict on community development. The findings suggest that local communities are evicted from their land at NMM. The findings are supportive to Lawson and Bentil (2013) who identified forceful evictions as one of the effects posed by mining extraction.

On the question of “Is there provision of poor health services?” respondents rated high with the overall mean score of 4.0311 and standard deviation of .95325. This imply that respondents agree on poor health services provision as one of the effects of land conflict on community development. The findings suggest that the communities around NMM are in poor health service provision despite the presence of the NMM. The findings correspond with the statistics from the MEM (2017) which revealed that 125 mining-related accidents and 123 deaths were recorded in registered sites (PML) from 2008 to May 2017, with 56 accidents and 140 deaths in unregistered (illegal) sites due to poor health care provision from the miners. Additionally, it is important to note that mining activities are thought to have the worst health impacts as they involve exposure to mercury. Mercury use in gold processing is a threat to the environment and to human health. Mercury has toxic effects on the human nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on lungs, kidneys, skin, eyes and the brain. It also causes neurological damage to children (WHO, 2013). Findings of this study are also supportive to Gunson et al. (2006) who found that Geita District estimated that 27kg of mercury is released into the environment in the Rwamgasa area each year, while atmospheric emissions from other amalgam burning is about 14kg from the Blue Reef mine site and 7kg from other nearby mine sites, including Nyakagwe and Nyamtondo.

On the other hand, the question regarding “Is there violation of lands rights to local communities?” was rated high by respondents with overall mean score of 3.8199 and standard deviation of 1.06714 implying that they agreed that violation of lands rights to local communities is one of the effects of land conflict on community development. Hence, the researcher observed that the local communities are violated their rights to land due to mining activities at NMM. The study findings agree with Duffy (2008) who identified the problem of indigenous lands rights violation in Cameroon which has led to important conflictual relations between mining companies and those minorities living on lands where the mining titles are granted.

On the question of “Is there provision of poor education service?” respondents also rated high with overall mean score of 3.7547 and standard deviation of 1.13513 implying that respondents agree on poor education service provision is one of the effects of land conflict on community development. These findings suggest that the local communities are not getting quality education services at NMM. The study findings disagree with Wantaigwa (2016) who noted that North Mara Gold Mine has spent about 10 billion to support educational services in Tarime District for the past three years.

However, the question of “Is there compensation for those people who did not have title deeds?” was rated low by respondents with overall mean score of 2.6460 and standard deviation = 1.17296. This implies that respondents disagreed on “No compensation for those people, who did not have title deed, but have occupied and made improvements to the land as one of the effects of land conflict on community development. These findings suggest that some local community members especially those who did not have occupied and made improvements to the land were not given compensation. The findings disagree with Lugoe (2012) who found very low compensation level that have left many dissatisfied – affecting labor relations and security at the mines in Tanzania. Hence, the researcher observed that there some improvements done in terms of compensation as observed from findings of Lugoe compared to the current study.

Generally, the study revealed a high effect of land conflict on community development with a total mean score of 4.05. The findings agree Lugoe (2012) findings who revealed that in Tanzania conflicts between the communities and the mines have been largely surfacing more acutely with respect to land use. His findings further identified that the effects of land conflicts have evolved at almost all mining sites since the re-emergence of the mining industry whereby among other effects, the displacement of people and the very low compensation level have left many people dissatisfied which direct affect labor relations and security at the mines.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Conclusion

The study concludes that land conflict has been and still is affecting communities and their development around North Mara Mine in Tarime District through several ways such as violation of lands rights

to local communities, poor education and health services provision, poor infrastructures such as transportation, land eviction and land relocation. The effects of land conflict touch sensitive areas that darken the future of communities around North Mara Mine. These areas include new job opportunities, unfair compensation, environmental degradation and pollution which are the key to bright future with enough employed people living in a safe non polluted environment which ensures community development and sustainability.

Recommendations

The study recommends the following;

- i. The policy makers should make necessary adjustments to the current mining policy so that new jobs opportunities can be created for those who have been displaced due to conflicts related to land.
- ii. The government should be strict on the implementation of laws related to compensation whereby mining companies such as that of North Mara Mine can be accountable to their actions. It is from doing this, unfair compensation can be avoided.

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