

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

RESEARCH TOPIC:

**THE EFFECTS OF ARTISANAL MINING ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY OF SHURUGWI**

BY:

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
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DEVELOPMENT STUDIES DEGREE.**

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DECLARATION

I Daryl G. Simbanegavi, Registration Number R125357R declare that, this research project is a result of my work and all other sources are duly acknowledged. It has not been submitted anywhere before for any degree purposes or examinations in any other university. It is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Honours Degree in Development Studies, in the faculty of Arts at Midlands State University.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Simbanegavi family, that is Mr and Mrs Simbanegavi and my sister Michelle Simbanegavi who gave me strength and inspiration to pull this through. I thank the Almighty Lord for their teachings on how hard work pays off in the end, and likewise it brought me to this point. Most importantly I thank the good Lord for the favour and guidance throughout my academic years.

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APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have supervised the student Daryl Godwin Simbanegavi's Dissertation entitled. "The impact of artisanal mining on the livelihoods of the local community in Shurugwi District: Ward 5", and is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of Bachelor of Arts in Development studies.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research, was to make a depiction of how the emergence and engagement into artisanal mining impacted on the livelihoods of the local community of Shurugwi. The areas under study in this particular study included Zireva, Mliswa, Chiriya, Dhlodhlo, Nhatare and also Mateka among others. Effort was made to look at some of the livelihood indicators that underwent improvement, judging from their previously marginalized position. Such a situation was brought about by various factors, ranging from the brink of the economic meltdown which saw foreclosure of major mines that had been operating in the small town such as Zimasco Steel. With prior engagement into artisanal mining, major improvements were witnessed on things such as asset accumulation, significant increase on household income levels, employment creation, and more so, better social service provision for the family i.e. on health, payment of school fees, shelter, and a general reduction to vulnerabilities socio-economic related. Using interviews and questionnaires as data gathering techniques, data was gathered at a grassroots level, that is the actual miners that were engaging directly into artisanal mining and some of the families that were being supported indirectly, taking note of the changes made ever since the emergence. Thrust was also placed on some of the challenges that these so called illegal faced on a daily basis, firstly with the state and its legislation that criminalizes their activities, not excluding the various stringent statutory instrument and licencing processes that hinder smooth operations. This sector is fairly important to the revival of the Zimbabwean economy and thus recommendations were given, that can assist in enhancement for both the state and more importantly the local people of Shurugwi.

ACRONYMS

NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
MMMD	Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development
ASM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
ZASMC	Zimbabwe Artisanal and Small Scale for Sustainable Mining Council
RDC	Rural District Council
RBZ	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
FPR	Fidelity Printers and Refinery
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
UNIDO	United Nation Industrial Development Organisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
SMC	Shamva Milling Centre
AFSM	Austrian Foundation for Small Miners
SI	Statutory Instrument

2.1. IMPACT OF ARTISANAL MINING ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF SHURUGWI COMMUNITY: WARD 5	34
2.2. LIVELIHOODS OF THE COMMUNITY BEFORE EMBARKING ON ARTISANAL MINING.....	35
2.3. CHALLENGES FACED BY ARTISANAL MINERS	39
2.4. CONCLUSION	42
CHAPTER 3.....	43
3.1. ENHANCING THE EFFECT OF ARTISANAL MINING ON LIVELIHOODS.....	43
3.2. ENHANCING ARTISANAL MINING IN SHURUGWI: WARD 5.....	43
3.3. ENHANCING ARTISANAL MINING IN ZIMBABWE	47
3.4. CONCLUSION	52
CONCLUSION	53
REFERENCE LIST	56
APPENDICES	59
Interview guide for community embarking on artisanal mining.....	59
Questionnaire guide for community embarking in artisanal mining.....	59

INTRODUCTION

The research topic sought to make a detailed study of the activities of artisanal mining in Zimbabwe, the Shurugwi areas in particular. This community had long been marginalized due to economic reasons, that basically led to the severe downturn of economic activities within the town. Low levels of income and lack of employment caused by the closure of major companies operating in town, including Zimasco Steel were some of the reasons that forced the local community into artisanal mining. Hence the focus of this study was to unearth how artisanal mining as a sector managed to factor in at the appropriate time, and assist in improving of the livelihoods of the community. These livelihoods at full sustainable capacity could be observed through varied indicators, that guaranteed a change from the previous impoverished lives of the people. As such the indicators ranged from asset accumulation, increased levels of household income aiding to economic activities like opening up of flea markets, an increase on social service provision, in regards to payment of fees, access to health facilities, improve food security and shelter.

Such indicators in the development realm were better proof that the people were now at resilient stage, provided they owned power and access to basic needs provision, might any shock or stress hit them. Artisanal mining became a necessity to these people in that provided for a quick way to acquiring income and more and more people turned to it making the rates exponential. Such numbers were triggered by the fact that, as described by Hentschel et.al, (2002), “artisanal mining refers to informal mining activities carried out using low technology or with minimal machinery: it is estimated that more than a 100 million people rely on this sector for income, mainly in developing nations”. As further asserted by Taylor (1998), “gold panning is perceived by many Zimbabweans as one of the few coping strategies employed by people to master, tolerate or minimize the adverse effects of economic hardships”. Hence artisanal mining was crucial to this research as it was the baseline factor

underpinning chances of improvement on the lives of the local community of Shurugwi: Ward 5.

BACKGROUND

The mining sector in Zimbabwe was there for as long as even before the advent of colonialism. The country like most states possessed its fair share of mineral resources with the existence of the great dyke cutting across the country. By global standards, Zimbabwe was not a mineral rich economy but rather had resources that included gold, platinum, diamonds, methane gas, asbestos, nickel, coal and also chromite. These generated sufficient export earnings in the country over a medium term which safely ensured that mining remained the country's largest exporter. All this was done under the regulation of the Mines and Minerals Act, and this piece of legislation gave the state rights over all mineral resources wherever they were found. The country like all others, had and still has a body that also governs mining, i.e. the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development now under leadership of Honourable Walter K Chidhakwa. This body governed the mining laws of the country and saw to the provision of acquisition of mining rights, granting of prospecting licences, claims and tributes and also rights to pegging land for mining. The ministry also saw to the provision of giving mining rights to major mining companies to operate in the country and in turn pay certain percentages for mineral extraction, and some of these include Anglo-American Mining giant, Unki Mine and also others like Zimplats.

The emergence of artisanal mining only became rife due to rising levels of poverty and unemployment in the 2000 to 2009 era, and most Zimbabweans started engaging in the informal sector to earn a living, or attain some level of livelihood. With the numbers rising, the artisanal mining sector felt the bump too. Gold was the main mineral, and at this time, black market gold buyers were offering more money than the Reserve Bank and this drew

even larger numbers across the country with the hope of evading poverty. According to Hentschel et.al, (2002), “an estimated 350000 miners were present in Zimbabwe”. This became an avenue for livelihoods and most people could now support their families, as at this point in time, formal employment was rather scarce. This also applied to the people of Shurugwi Ward 5, which is a centre for gold and chrome mining, it being located on the Archaean Greenstone belt, known in this area as the Selukwe Schist Belt. Therefore, a relatively identifiable part of its population managed to survive off artisanal mining and guaranteed sustainable livelihoods, one reasonably above the poverty datum line.

With the rampant growth in this sector, the Zimbabwean government, had previously supported small scale mining as a livelihood option, in the hope of formalizing the sector. This would in turn prove a more viable and long term avenue of employment and sustainable livelihood. Control over mining regulation and revenue collection was even decentralized to Rural District Councils (RDC’s) in order to identify and support local entrepreneurs. However, this did not last long, as in the mid 2000’s, at the hot of the economic crisis, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) recentralized control over mining due to the need for revenue and tax collection. More so, enactment of the Mines and Minerals Act, giving the state rights over mineral resources wherever they are found has made mining controversial. This only saw the awarding of mining concessions to much bigger companies, and even more difficult at an individual or group level. Any informal activities were deemed illegal by the ruling government leading to imprisonment. Operation “Chikorokoza Chapera” (no more illegal) was put in place at the end of 2006, with a crack-down involving the full might of the state military security. Estimates of around some 25000 illegal miners were arrested between 2006 and 2009, and others were beaten, people’s property destroyed and confiscated.

Despite having all these mishaps with the state, artisanal mining continued to provide for livelihoods of the people, though it was deemed illegal. As a panacea to the rife

unemployment rates within the country, this informal avenue was providing the people more than their actual state of impoverishment, with factors like quick access to income being at play. The effects or impacts on livelihoods, as directed by artisanal mining could only be observed through the use of livelihood indicators to show how the people had progressed from their previous state. The main purpose of these indicators was to vividly show an elevation from a previously disadvantaged situation, i.e. poverty to a level where they could sustain themselves and be resilient to various shocks and stresses. Now being in possession of the means of survival, there was increased household incomes, asset accumulation, improvement on social service delivery i.e. payment of school fees, food security, shelter and health, also reduced vulnerability and increased well-being.

All this was no less the same with artisanal mining in Shurugwi. This phenomenon reached the territory of Shurugwi like any other part of the country and people rose in their numbers to undertake artisanal mining in order to avert the burdens of poverty in the households. The effects of the economic downturn that hit Zimbabwe in the 21st century were also felt in the small town and most households did not take it lightly. Artisanal mining rose in Shurugwi: Ward 5 following varied factors that hindered a sustainable outcome of livelihoods the local community. One major reason that led to a rampant rise of artisanal mining on the town of Shurugwi was the closure of Zimasco Steel mines operating in the area. This company employed a greater part of the local people and its closure was rather detrimental on a socio-economic perspective. Another reason was just the underlying fact that the town was relatively small and reliance on subsistence agriculture was no longer beneficial leading to a need for avenues of income accumulation. Having some knowledge of the mining, the people did not hesitate to turn to illegal panning in order to continue supporting their families through adequate basic needs provision.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

For decades, experts worked to devise universal definitions of artisanal mining but were unable to reach consensus. And as explained by Hollaway (1997:35),

“In the 1980s, a string of conferences largely sponsored by the United Nations spent a disproportionate amount of time trying to define what it was they were talking about. At what point does ‘artisanal mining’ become ‘small-scale mining’? When does a small-scale mine become a ‘medium scale mine’? The problem persisted across languages: In French the difficulty was defining between ‘les operations artisanale, semi-industrielle et industrielle”

On a conceptual perspective a common distinction for this particular sector had not yet been drawn due to reasons like its legal status, defining criteria and local definitions within countries. One major underlying observation on artisanal mining, is its huge diversity i.e. between and/or within countries, the types of minerals sought, modes of extraction and processing involved, marketing methods, the political economy and also the socio-economic organisation. According to D’Souza & Quiroga (2002), “certain countries have made a distinction between small-scale and artisanal mining in legislation; in such cases, the former is associated with illegal activities and minimal mechanisation, and the latter, with semi-mechanisation and organisation”. Hence for their own purpose and benefit, countries made up their own definitions based on the following criteria:

- The level of mechanisation, i.e. use of minimal machinery and technology.
- Capital investment.
- Operations held without legal mining requirements, i.e. concessions and claims.
- Low productivity, small marginal area mostly limited to surface mining.

- Lack of safety measures, health care and environmental protection.
- The level of employment.

Of note, were the push and pull factors that drove individuals to participate in artisanal mining, where for Africa was mainly due to the decline in the variability of agriculture, and others varying between poverty, conflict and more so economic crisis. According to Hentschel et.al, (2002), “in 1999 there were a reported 13 million people working directly in ASM, with the livelihoods of a further 80 – 100 million people affected indirectly”. And as noted by UDESA (1972), “the developmental potential of small-scale mining was recognised for the first time in the UNDESA publication, Small-Scale Mining in Developing Countries, 1972”. This marked the era for global attention and research on this particular sector leading to a rise on literature specific to it. Since then, Bayah et.at, (2003) asserts that, “many have lobbied for ASM to be used as a tool for rural and community development”.

Livelihoods on the other hand, were prominent among development practitioners and researchers since the late 1990s and proved to be still crucial. And a definition by Chambers and Conway (1992:7), states that:

“A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long-term”

This definition of livelihoods alone did not fully substantiate the purpose of sustainability, as the issue of claim and access was raised. Assets could not be necessarily owned by artisanal miners, rather what was needed was continued access for the process to work. Hence to fully acknowledge livelihoods the concept of sustainability was added to it, to become sustainable

livelihoods, which were able to recover from stress and shocks and at the same time maintain and enhance capabilities and assets into the future. In this case, according to Carney (1998), when merged with sustainability, “a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base”.

There are therefore a number of livelihood indicators that were used to depict the improvement on livelihoods of the Shurugwi: Ward 5 people and these included, employment creation, improved household income levels, asset accumulation, social service provision i.e. improved food security, payment of school fees for children, access to health facilities and shelter, and also reduced general vulnerability.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The research sought to make a deeper investigation of artisanal mining in Zimbabwe’ Shurugwi: Ward 5 area and the impact it made on the livelihoods of the local community. Artisanal mining was seen as a panacea to development in that on improving livelihoods, it touched on the issue of basic needs provision, described under the basic needs approach, a theory that supports development. This form of mining managed to award the ward 5 community the power to wield the means of personal level development making them susceptible to shocks, that were brought about especially by the declined economy. It was therefore important to acknowledge that a larger part of these miners achieved the power to acquire basic needs to support an average family size’s needs. Development wise, these artisanal miners and their families came from a level of poverty and suffering to a level where they could actually support themselves socio-economic wise.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) was used to make a depiction of how artisanal mining impacts on the livelihoods and existence of the people in Shurugwi: Ward 5. The conceptual understanding of poverty and its causes that underpinned sustainable livelihood approaches influenced the thinking and practice throughout the development realm. According to Chambers and Conway (1992), “a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long-term”. Hence this theory ascertained, how with artisanal mining as a form of employment, people were now resilient and stood a chance against the shocks and stresses, which in this case were a strained economy.

The theory further made use of a multiple capital approach, where sustainability was measured on the availability of that same capital. These afore mentioned capitals were classified into five broad categories, adopted after Scoones (1998):

- Natural capital, i.e. natural resource stocks that include soil, water, air, genetic resources.
- Social capital i.e. networks, social relations, affiliations and associations.
- Physical capital i.e. infrastructure, production equipment and technologies.
- Human capital i.e. skills, knowledge, labour (good health and physical capability).
- Economic or financial capital i.e. capital base.

The capitals mentioned above therefore show the belief of the SLA, that people required assets/capitals in order to achieve positive livelihood outcomes, and people relatively

possessed these different kinds of assets, which combined proved to be beneficial. Human capital was labelled as one of the most crucial, as it was required to commence use of the other capitals. Thus in this case, the theory proves how, with the human capital, the artisanal miners of Shurugwi: Ward 5 could work with the natural capital available, to guarantee sustainable livelihoods evidenced through different indicators ranging from increased household income to basic social service provision.

Some of the principles that guided this SLA as according to Ashley and Carney (1999:7), underpinned by a commitment to poverty eradication included:

- People-centred: sustainable poverty elimination will be achieved only if external support focuses on what matters to people, understands the differences between groups of people and works with them in a way that is congruent with their current livelihood strategies, social environment and ability to adapt.
- Responsive and participatory: poor people themselves must be key actors in identifying and addressing livelihood priorities. Outsiders need processes that enable them to listen and respond to the poor.
- Multi-level: poverty elimination is an enormous challenge that will be overcome only by working at several levels, ensuring that micro-level activity informs the development of policy and an effective enabling environment, and that macro-level structures and processes support people to build upon their own strengths.
- Conducted in partnership: with both the public and the private sector.
- Sustainable: there are four key dimensions to sustainability – economic, institutional, social and environmental sustainability. All are important – a balance must be found between them

- Dynamic: external support must recognise the dynamic nature of livelihood strategies, respond flexibly to changes in people's situation, and develop longer-term commitments.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine factors contributing to the rise of artisanal mining in Zimbabwe.
- To examine the effect of artisanal mining on the livelihoods of the people in Shurugwi: Ward 5.
- To offer suggestions on how artisanal mining could be improved, leading to sustainable development.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Discuss the factors leading to the rise of artisanal mining in Zimbabwe.
- Examine how the effects of artisanal mining have impacted on the livelihoods of the people in Shurugwi: Ward 5.
- Suggest ways in which artisanal mining can be enhanced in Zimbabwe in order to lead towards sustainable livelihoods.

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The study was motivated by the fact that, artisanal mining, being as illegal as it is, has been and is still contributing on improving the livelihoods of the local community of Shurugwi: Ward 5. These people had suffered some level of poverty in this community following issues like the closure mining giants like Zimasco Steel, which gave rise to high levels of unemployment. Therefore, this sector gained prominence at the opportune moment where it quickly became a livelihood option for much of the local ward 5 population. Noticeable change on livelihoods could be seen through employment, improved household income levels, asset accumulation, social service provision i.e. improved food security, payment of

school fees for children, access to health facilities and shelter, and also reduced general vulnerability. The gist was that both the government and the artisanal miners themselves stood a chance to fully benefit from this sector provided that assistive measures and review of policy are taken. For the government, strategic policy review would also guarantee increased inflow of mineral wealth to its central bank which would increase its revenue and later economic stability.

LIMITATIONS

Artisanal mining in Zimbabwe, having no standing legal position was and still is an issue that faced various limitations to undertake. The researcher faced a number of these as they came in their varied criteria. The most prominent of these limitations was possession of adequate financing for transportation to the area of study and back, and other expenses encountered along the way. Furthermore, the respondents of the ward 5 community saw this as an opportunity to earn some money on the side, and most of them sought financial remuneration in exchange for information given to the researcher. Some of the pioneers of the trade in these areas, possessing the most useful information pertaining artisanal mining in Shurugwi: Ward 5 were actually difficult to get a hold of as they had either passed on or were serving prison time for operating illegally. A general ignorance towards strangers was another issue with some of the respondents as they feared being jailed after conversing with the wrong people i.e. state agents casually dressed.

NB. Despite all this however, the study the study will be undertaken.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher's work was based on a Qualitative research methodology foundation. According to Bogdan & Taylor (1987), "A qualitative researcher holds that understanding comes from exploring the totality of the situation (e.g. phenomenology, symbolic interactionism), often has access to large reams of "hard data", and begins with propositions proceeding in a scientific and empirical way throughout the research process". This was the chosen method of research because it vividly revealed the target population's range of behaviour and the perceptions that drive it in regard to a specific issue, in this case, that of artisanal mining and the link on livelihoods with the people of Shurugwi: Ward 5. This method made use of an in-depth study or observation of a marginal population of audience that helped guide and support the construction of a detailed hypotheses and thus the end result of the qualitative research was rather descriptive other than predictive. This in turn left the researcher with a narrow but effective channel of communication with the focus group of audience, which (Morgan, 1998), described to, "involve a moderator facilitating a small group discussion between selected individuals on a particular topic, with video and hand scribed data recorded, and is useful in a coordinated research approach studying phenomenon in diverse ways in different environments with distinct stakeholders often excluded from traditional processes". Some of the major advantages of using this methodology included synergies among respondents as they built on each other's comments and ideas, and also, the dynamic nature of the interview or group discussion process which engaged respondents more actively than it is possible when doing a more structured survey.

DATA GATHERING INSTRUMENTS

As part of the process of gathering data for the research, interviews and questionnaires were used. Directed to the specific respondents they guaranteed first-hand information on the issue of artisanal mining in Shurugwi: Ward 5.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

This was the first method used to obtain information from the target population. Key informant interviews were employed as they are qualitative in nature and provided for an in-depth collection of data from the people who knew what was going on in the community of Shurugwi: Ward 5. The advantage or purpose of using this type of interview process was that they made it easy to target the crucial respondents i.e. the community leaders (chief), the artisanal miners, benefitting residents and other professionals in the trade that had first-hand information about the artisanal mining sector. These important respondents, with their understanding of events provided clear insights on the nature of artisanal mining in Shurugwi: Ward 5 and also gave some of their varied recommendations. These face to face interviews aided in acquiring information about this artisanal mining issue, having conversed to a limited number of well linked and informed Ward 5 community respondents. Information acquired at the outcome was jotted down for inspection on accuracy. This relatively gave the interviewer an opportunity to actually converse with the informal miners and learn of their experiences on a personal level.

However, this had its own defects when it came to information gathering, especially when it was conducted on respondents that did not trust your purpose. These limitations varied from, biased information, uncooperativeness on certain issues, inaccurate oral information which among others hindered the flow of communication.

QUESTIONNAIRES

The researcher also employed use of questionnaires as a second tool of data collection and recording on the issue of artisanal mining in Shurugwi: Ward 5. According to Babbie (1990:377), “a questionnaire is defined as a document containing questions and other types of items designed to solicit information appropriate to analysis”. The questionnaire was made up of a list of questions which relatively clear instructions and clear outlined space for giving answers. The questions employed were both open ended and close ended of the simplest form judging on the educational background of Shurugwi. These were important for saving time other than with interviews. And more so some of the questions were just of a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ criteria and thus simple to answer. The questionnaires assisted greatly in that they had a definite purpose related to the research objectives and it was clear from the onset how the findings were going to be used. Another advantage was that the researcher could reach a large number of the respondents easily and efficiently as some of the questions were sent by post to the targeted groups.

As is a common thing, this method also has its limitations, when it comes to acquiring adequate information. For status, most of the respondents reside in the small less developed town, and thus education levels will relatively be on a low and thus answering the questions will prove to be relatively difficult. Also, fear of disclosing personal information will result in some of the respondents daunting to cooperate, especially fear of government agents.

SAMPLING

According to Fridah (2002), “Sampling can be generally defined as an act of selecting a part from a whole for the purpose of providing insight on the characteristics of a whole”. The researcher employed sampling in the study in order to gather information in a timely manner, and it was also used to make a distinction between the population of interest and the actual

population defined by the sampling frame. The importance was that, due to the fact that artisanal mining in Shurugwi: Ward 5 was fast employing more and more individuals, sampling came in, at choosing a selected number of individuals to communicate with and not having to engage with the whole community. It was not a viable notion to actually interview each and every one of the informal miners or the other respondents involved in the sector and thus a sample size was chosen. More so, sampling was used because it proved economical than the census method, and also data collection and analysis was carried out more accurately and efficiently. The researcher was also able to make precise estimates of the standard error which helps in obtaining information concerning some characteristics of the population. Hence involving sampling as an information gathering technique proved to be worthwhile in this particular case.

TARGET POPULATION

For the purpose of acquiring adequate information on artisanal mining in Shurugwi: Ward 5 a list of the desired crucial respondents was drawn up and it constituted of the following personnel:

- 1 Ministry of Mines official
- 5 Direct informal miners
- 10 Family members affected indirectly
- 2 Police officials

The above respondents were believed to hold or possess the most viable information vital for this research as they were all involved in the issue of artisanal on a more direct, personal and legal level and thus the researcher sought to converse with these respondents on a professional level pertaining the case of Shurugwi: Ward 5.

SAMPLING METHOD

Purposive Sampling, a branch under non-probability sampling was used for the research. According to Babbie (1990), purposive sampling is selecting a sample “on the basis of your own knowledge of the population, its elements, and the nature of your research aims”. This is sometimes known as judgemental, selective or subjective sampling and is a type of non-probability sampling techniques. As asserted by MacNealy (1999), “it is referred to as purposeful”. The sample size was quite small and focused as compared to other probability sampling techniques. The main aim or thrust of purposive sampling thus was not to gather information based on generalizations but rather a focused, descriptive insight of particular characteristics. This method became relatively important in that, use of the qualitative research design involved multiple phases, with each one building on the previous one, and thus different types of sampling techniques were required at each phase. Purposive sampling became useful in this instance as it provided a wide range of non-probability sampling techniques for the researcher to draw on and these included critical case sampling, used to observe a particular issue’s worth for further investigation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The research will be touched on an issue that has grown and is still growing among most of the developing countries, and thus justice can only be done by showing how it is happening across the world. Major focus areas will be Africa and also Latin America, both areas known to be still developing, rich in minerals and have large populations of people suffering dire poverty and thus a turn to informal avenues in order to obtain sustainable livelihoods turned out to be a necessity rather than a need.

ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINING IN TANZANIA

In the African case, artisanal mining was basically centred upon the marginalization of the majority population to state policy that guaranteed better livelihoods. Tanzania like most of the African states is rich in minerals and at the same time suffers an unbearable amount of poverty at the lowest levels. As such, a relative number of the population, turned to artisanal mining or informal mining as a means to curb vulnerability to economic shocks and stresses. The country is rich in gold and diamonds and these have attracted attention to artisanal miners, gold especially, because of its easy extraction process.

Tanzania's artisanal mining sector rose in the 1980's following a downturn in the performance of other productive industries, poor markets for agriculture, droughts among other factors. It came as a significantly direct source of employment in the mining communities and also generating additional jobs and revenues in the rural economy. Other reports note that, closure of privately owned mines in the 1960's and also closure of state owned mines in the 1980's pushed the semi-skilled people to opt for artisanal mining in order to cater for their job losses. Of importance was the point that, the government had promised to help in this sector by reviewing mining policy and legislation in order to promote acquisition of mineral rights, and also to simplify the mineral trading licence procedure. This however did not happen due to minimized capacity and opportunity of the government to fully implement the commitments popularised in the Mineral Policy. This complicated process for granting mineral rights to applicants promoted a rise in numbers of informal miners.

This informal type of mining in Tanzania was based on high value minerals, gold especially and to this date, it has been the source for wealth creation, asset accumulation and also investment. And for many it has assisted in livelihood security and vulnerability reduction.

Most of these activities take place in the major declared gold fields in the country namely, Lake Victoria Goldfield, Lupa Goldfield and Mpanda Mineral Field. Relatively, the mining sector is one of the few contributors to the growth of the Tanzanian economy. GDP of the country grew from 0.8% in 1987 to 2.3% in 2000, with legitimate artisanal mining operators paying close to 3% of their revenues. According to Dreschler (2002), “apart from its contribution to the national economy through the sale of minerals, ASM is also recognised as providing rural employment”. And as such political platforms have put the numbers at an estimated 550000 informal miners though data sources are limited.

The prerogative for artisanal mining issues in Tanzania was held by the central government. The Tanzanian Mining Act was passed in 1998, and the government recognised and emphasised that small scale mining was a poverty driven activity. The ministry of Energy and Minerals had the mandate to manage the development and regulation of this sector and its responsibilities increased in the years. In another attempt to be inclusionary, the ministry took crucial steps in initiating the development of a small-scale mining development division under the Commissioner of Minerals. This body worked as a national centre for artisanal mining management and included the mandate of coordinating an expanded outreach program for informal miners. Thus within the last five years, projects supported by the World Bank and the Nordic Development Fund generally sought to boost the Ministry with Technical, Managerial and Material support for implementing national policy objectives. Partly as an outcome of this project, a registered increase in issuance of licences was observed. The number of issuance of prospecting licences rose from 218 in 1999 to 704 in 2009, and on primary mining licences it rose from 35 in 1999 to 3932 in 2009.

As such, this renewed focus of strengthening government capacity for licencing, monitoring, conducting education, training program and technological upgrading services was an antidote to poverty reduction in the areas that had artisanal miners.

ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINING IN BRAZIL

Brazil, found in the Latin American continent, was and still is part of the list of developing countries, and as such held its own percentage of people operating in this informal sector. Artisanal mining was found to be rife within the country, reason being that it provided for sustainable livelihoods. This phenomenon became a major issue in the late 1970's and the 1980's, in the context of economic downturn, informal miners rose in numbers targeting extensive and easy to exploit minerals such as gold and gems. According to IBRAM (2011), "of all the settlements in Latin America, Brazil had the largest population of illegal miners, locally known as "garimpeiros", and, 12% of all the gold mined in Brazil is produced by garimpeiros, or small-scale miners". This percentage was even believed to be much higher. As it stands, the state was not even able to successfully control, regulate or even ban artisanal mining, though in Brazil, small-scale mining was addressed in the constitution as a form of mineral exploitation. It was formalised as an economic activity for which people were to obtain a licence. Nevertheless, a lot of miners continued to work illegally, without licenses, paying tax and even played ignorant to the regulations for nature conservation.

With mining one of the sectors that contributed to national growth, Brazil, of all the Amazonian countries had the most defined set of regulations in regards to artisanal mining. According to Freire et.al, (2008), "the Mining Code of 1967 creates the criteria for interested parties to claim mineral rights, and defines concepts related to mining such as rights of land owners and areas available for mining". More so, there was the 1989 law that was aimed at creating the mining permit for artisanal miners issued by the National Department of Mineral Production. As such, operating without a proper license was considered a crime subjected to a

maximum of three years' imprisonment. Hence operating under any informal methods was termed illegal making most of the miners "garimpeiros" due to lack of legal rights and therefore they had to work and live in conditions of legal insecurity.

However, rise in this sector can be credited to the state itself. Going through all state procedure of mining regulations meant that, the holder of a mining licence was held responsible for the environmental damage caused by mining activity, thus as a precondition it was mandatory for one to also acquire an environmental licence. This was generally not an easy task and required a lot of paperwork, and not only was it expensive but most of the low level informal miners were not familiar with the process and requirements. This made involvement in the legal processes complicated and it was furthered by a slow bureaucratic handling of the applications. According to Sousa et.al, (2011), "29888 small-scale miner's permits had been requested all over Brazil and only 106 had been approved by the DNPM in 2008". This created a gap in trust between the government and the artisanal miners adding to the rampant rise of this informal sector.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

The research will be digging deep into one of the most controversial issues in Zimbabwe and thus, in at a professional level, caution has to be taken. In order for the study to be fruitful, certain levels of information will be gathered from different respondents and thus confidentiality and privacy will be the number one motive, in the event of avoiding a case of tarnishing anyone's image or reputation. More so, the researcher will engage with government officials at various stages of the study thus all protocol will be observed.

Also, because this is a highly political issue, it is in the hope of the researcher not to offend any personal of political stature at any level, and hereby maintains neutrality. Furthermore, as the study will be conducted in an area that has its own culture, tradition, religious and

political views it will be the duty of the researcher to respect this and not in any way show contempt towards these views, which might in any case spark misunderstanding and thereby disintegrate the channel of communication created.

CHAPTER 1

1.1. EMERGENCE OF ARTISANAL MINING IN ZIMBABWE AND EFFECTS ON LIVELIHOODS

The emergence of artisanal mining in Zimbabwe is one that can be traced back to earlier times before even the country's independence, where it played a major role in the country's economics. In such times artisanal mining was carried out to acquire minerals used to symbolise wealth, power and respect. It being a centuries old practise in Zimbabwe, people working in this sector only did so to avert the brunt of droughts continuously occurring in the country. Prior to droughts witnessed in the 1980's and the 1990's artisanal mining was only known to be a dry season activity, meaning people in the rural areas only turned to it when the agricultural season was over. According to Hollaway (2000),” the upsurge of gold panning during the 1982, 1992 and 1994 agricultural seasons is directly attributed to the drought”. During these periods of drought, artisanal mining became a diverse alternative source of livelihood. That being said, in recent years the sector has grown into an all year round activity, it being the primary source of better livelihoods in many rural communities. According to Maponga (1995),” the complementary relationship between panning and subsistence agriculture also accounts for increased popularity of the activity among rural communities and its exponential growth from the 1990's”. in various ways, artisanal mining has become an integral part the rural economy and has aided in lubricating economic development at household level through employment creation and multiplying income. The fact that artisanal mining has shifted from river banks and beds to more sophisticated reefs and mineral belts shows advancement in the sector and its potential towards sustainable development.

It is in the late 20th Century that this sector actually caught the spotlight in Zimbabwe, i.e. in the wake of the country's independence. Artisanal mining gained prominence following the utter disappointing failure of state backed projects implemented after colonial rule with the hope of providing a smooth flow of the lives of the majority. Among these, was the Fast Trek: Land reform program, and others that included payment of war veterans and more over assisting in the Democratic Republic of Congo war financially. This left the struggling economy bankrupt. A massive retrenchment of public sector workers was carried out during these times. And with an unpayable debt borrowed from the Bretton Woods Institutions, under the Economic Structural Adjustment Program (ESAP), the country was projecting a major economic downturn. In this wake of events, more and more people turned to different ways surviving and artisanal mining was at the top of this.

With unemployment numbers rising, prices of basic commodities shooting sky high and a steep decline in agricultural activities due to droughts, there was an alarming growth of artisanal miners in Zimbabwe. As asserted by Mawowa (2013), “there is a marked correlation between this growth and the general economic situation in a country: when economic conditions deteriorate, artisanal mining increases”. More so, this sector acts as a panacea on the compromised livelihoods of rural Zimbabweans. Artisanal mining therefore proves to be a path to basic needs provision, given that agricultural activities are seasonal. According to UNIDO (2007), “in the 2000's the number of artisanal miners and small-scale rose sharply and some estimates put the number of those directly involved as high as two million people”.

Same in-line, worsening economic conditions occasioned the 2008 global economic meltdown, accelerated the entry of many ordinary Zimbabweans into artisanal mining. As if not to worsen the situation, additional nationalisation policies pursued by the government

dampened formal investment in much of the economy, which fostered high unemployment rates, hyper-inflation and a decline in standards of living. An example is the Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act of 2007, which was introduced with the aim of promoting economic empowerment of the majority Zimbabweans, in order to enhance involvement and participation in the national economy. As denoted by Business Day (2014), “however the goal of indigenization is facing serious headwinds as the government is apparently reconsidering some of its empowerment legislation, including that relating to small-scale mining”. Apart from shunning investor confidence, this policy saw fore-closure of a lot of foreign owned firms and industry, leaving a vast number of Zimbabweans without any means of elevating their impoverished lives to a sustainable level. Among these companies, were major mines that also shut down following un-cooperating economic policies and this is one sector most locals had been employed. According to Kamete (2007),” the number of artisanal small scale miners has also increased taking up areas where formal mining has ceased due to viability problems facing large mining companies”. In this context, artisanal mining emerged as one of the few means of poverty alleviation for those people residing in mineral rich communities.

As such, the government of Zimbabwe like any other country with the mining sector, a base contributing to its GDP has laws, legislation and statutes that govern mining activities. The mining sector in the country is governed by the Mines and Minerals Act: Chapter 21:05, and it stipulates that, mineral resources wherever they are found in Zimbabwe belong to the state. The act was enacted in 1961 and though a number of amendments have been made, all minerals are still vested in the President and one requires rights to work mineral deposits through an application to the Mining Commissioners. Found in this document again is the evidence that mining activity is open to both local and foreign individuals and companies.

Apart from the Mines and Minerals Act, there are other pieces of legislation that guide mining operations in Zimbabwe which draw the line between its legality and on the other side it being illegal. Anyone looking to engage in the mining sector should be familiar with these and hold the necessary documentation for operation. These include:

- Explosives Regulations
- Mining (General) Regulations
- Mining (Management and Safety) Regulations
- Mining (Health and Sanitation) Regulations
- Mines and Minerals (Custom Milling Plants) Regulations
- Gold Trade Act
- Precious Stones Trade Act
- Environmental Management Act
- Environmental Regulations
- Forestry Act
- Water Act
- Zimbabwe National Water Authority Act

The reason behind this informality rises from the fact that a greater part of the artisanal miners operates in non-accordance with the above legislation and this has led the government to classify them as illegal or informal and there have challenges between the two entities.

The Government of Zimbabwe has interacted with the artisanal mining in a whole lot of different ways ever since the turn of independence. In the early years of expansion in growth of operations in this sector, the state seemed to ignore it completely, that is during the 1980's. It was in the 1990's that Zimbabwe became a global leader in engaging the sector through pro-poverty interventions that included mainly formalizing the sector i.e. legalizing gold

panning and also stabilizing gold prices. The idea behind this was that formalizing and upgrading the sector would provide more viable and long-term sources of employment and livelihood sources. Following this, in the 2000's, against the spike of deteriorating economic conditions, the government sought to increase the continuous movement of gold to its official buyer, Fidelity Printers and Refiners (FPR) and it started to offer low interest equipment loans, liberalized gold buying and also provided technical support through the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development. Various projects were put in place by organisations like ITDG, Practical Action and SNV, which aimed to support the development of small scale operations and investment into appropriate technology and business skills resulted in some critical success. More so, around this same time, the government decided to decentralize control over mining regulation and revenue collection to Rural District Councils. And although this faced some problems, it stipulated that councils could now be able to target and identify local small scale entrepreneurs and support them fully.

This relatively succeeded for a while, in boosting the production of gold but however in time most of it ended up on the informal market which had more favourable prices than those being offered by the government. This was much to the dismay of the government and in the mid 2000's the situation took a turn for the worst. At the crux of the economic upheaval the Reserve Bank under Gideon Gono, decided to recentralize control over mining. The rationale behind this being rampant environment destruction caused by the rising numbers of those taking up artisanal mining to earn a decent living. The real reason behind this however was that the bank was in dire need of revenues, tax collection and other fees that were not being collected leading to a massive leakage of potential government revenue. To fully ensure this, martial law was used to guarantee results.

Such actions, brought up in the name of the government, compromised the steady successes of artisanal mining in the country. The result was the implementation of "Operation

Chikorokoza Chapera” meaning no more illegal mining, and this was at the end of the year 2006. In the blink of an eye, the artisanal mining sector had become more illegal than ever and the reason behind this was need to capture revenue streams at the centre and more redirecting patronage around mining. The results were adverse and disastrous for artisanal mining and peoples’ livelihoods. The crack-down on the sector was serious, as it involved the full might of the state military security detail and thousands were arrested. Estimates range at some 25000 miners between 2006 and 2009, with some 6000 still in prison by 2013. Some are said to have been brutally beaten and peoples’ properties were destroyed and confiscated. In this era, it became well known that artisanal mining was full on illegal, criminal act and it affected many legitimate small scale miners and custom millers, thus any external assistance in this sector was shunned although a few amount of miners still operated in stealth conditions with the fear of being caught any time.

What followed after this devastating crackdown on artisanal mining, was the so called formal, regulated mining operations. These however favoured the major firms aimed at operating at large scale, and this eve of events was guided by a combination of elite business people always with good political connections. Active again at this time were some outside investors with good political links, including a range of Chinese companies. It became literally impossible for artisanal miners to operate at this scale, because at this level, operational capital and investment are required, and to get past the environmental regulations is pricey in itself as most environmental impact assessments (EIAs) tagged over \$4000 before mining operations commence. This was relatively exclusionary for most artisanal miners, except for a small group that had ‘sponsors’ usually well connected mining barons.

Zimbabwe’s Mines and Minerals Act stipulates that mineral concessions supersede any other land use, and while most of the large concessions are held by large mining conglomerates in established fields like the Anglo-American Group represented by Unki Mine, or the Implats

Group represented by Zimplats in the country, the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development under Obert Mpofu has been handing out concessions in large numbers to new local operators. According to Svotwa and Mtetwa (1997), “it is estimated that there are well over 20000 registered small-scale mining claims in Zimbabwe”. Of these 20000 registered claims it is also estimated that only about 10% are active in production, leaving the rest to be characterized as artisanal or operating illegally. And to note, as asserted by Mugegeza (1995), “more than 1200 have been registered directly by women”. Only a small percentage has been recognized to be operating in the confines of the Mines and Minerals Act of 1996, due the fact that the operator must often comply with a whole lot of legal conditions before actually engaging in mining, and most often the situation leads them to operating illegally due to lack of knowledge about legal requirements, little incentives to operate legally, high tax burdens and more so limited danger off sanctions in combination with possibilities to evade the imposition of the law by corruption are the most common reasons.

The government’s evolving stance on artisanal mining greatly affected the engagement and interaction of NGO’s and donors with this sector as depicted by its lack of involvement in the 1980’s, to its irrational decisions in the 21st century which led to NGO and donor reluctance to directly engage the sector in the years that it was deemed illegal. Surprising enough, the government in recent years, has been reconsidering formalizing artisanal mining again. One major success that has been hailed in literature and emulated in other countries by the Zimbabwean government is the Shamva Milling Centre (SMC) with the assistance of Practical Action, and soft loans and grants coming from the Austrian Foundation for Small Mines (AFSM), although the financing project suffered with high administrative costs, low reimbursements and complex artisanal mining borrowing requirements.

To overview the response, Zimbabwe’s legal and policy framework for the mining sector is generally burdensome. The country has close to 40 acts of parliament, if not more, that

regulate mining operations and artisanal mining is directly affected by about 24 of these acts, and the statutory instruments that fall under them. The principal regulatory Mines and Minerals Act: Chapter 21:05 neither recognizes artisanal mining nor does it differentiate from large scale mining. This negligence on the artisanal mining sector leaves those engaging in it at disadvantage, not only do these individuals lack financial and technical resources, they are also ill-informed on the mining laws and their various requirements. The statutory instruments (SI), for instance the Explosives Regulations in Chapter 10:08 of 1989, Mining (Management and Safety) Regulations SI 109 of 1990 or the Mining (Health and Sanitation) Regulations SI 182 of 1995, exemplify legislation where artisanal operation, on the ground falls far short of what is needed. The Mines and Minerals Act has aged, and is now proving difficult to in-cooperate it with policies that are meant to stimulate growth within the mining industry and advance the nation socio-economically.

1.2. EFFECTS ON LIVELIHOODS

In Zimbabwe it is estimated that artisanal mining provides a direct livelihood for more than a million people, a critical avenue for a country grappling with unemployment. This sector has come in as a development initiative on the lives many people in the country and likewise should be honoured with the adequate respect.

The sector has strong forward and backward linkages into both the agricultural and manufacturing sectors where it acts as a provider of raw materials to these sectors and as a consumer of end products from these same sectors. Therefore, being diverse as it is, its successful development or lack of it has significant ripple effects on the livelihoods of those people that rely on it. According to statistics by Jennings (1999), “worldwide more than 13 million men, women and children are making a living as artisanal and small-scale miners”. In most of the cases, artisanal miners live in poor rural set ups of developing countries. Most of

them are not in any way formerly trained in mining and have acquired very little education in general. However, although they use rudimentary exploration and extraction techniques, this sector has allowed them to earn cash income for their households and at the same time supplement meagre farming revenues.

On affecting livelihoods, artisanal mining touches on both the lives of those engaging in it directly and more on those being affected indirectly. For reasons leading to its rise, artisanal mining has continued to provide better livelihoods as compared to what would have been. There are various indicators that prove testimonial that indeed this sector has guaranteed improvements on livelihoods. For status, through artisanal mining, employment creation is one major factor in the positive. Due the fact that these miners operate in groups, trust amongst them often leads to the group growing exponentially allowing for task distribution. Employment is guaranteed for as long as the day they reach their target goal and usually after a score, they decide to explore once more making the cycle endless. As estimated by Maponga (1995), “the number of people employed in the small-scale formal mines to be 35000”. Relatively, more recent studies according to Svotwa (1999), “show that on average, a small-scale miner now employs between 20-30 workers”, and this would put the number of people involved in this sector at between 40000 and 60000. At such values, it certainly proves that livelihood wise, artisanal mining has offered job security to the rural poor.

Another leap on the effects on livelihoods can be witnessed on the level of household income, of the families of these miners. With artisanal mining, household income levels, meaning the purchasing power, of those engaging in this sector greatly improve and have aided for engagement into other sectors having the money to invest. The major resource mined is gold, and with it always having a ready market, these people have or possess enough or adequate money which can aid the acquiring of assets and products for the sore benefit of the

household and can be consumed. Having the power of income, asset accumulation is one noticeable move surrounding improved livelihoods.

Improved social service delivery is another indicator that can be witnessed with the engagement into artisanal mining. This sector has greatly improved on the social life of the Shurugwi people in that, they now wield the power to cater for their families on things like taking sick family members to hospitals and provide better healthcare. Also an increase on payment of school fees for the children has been witnessed due to increased household incomes. Enrolment levels have risen significantly at schools such as Old and New Gato Primary, and also Gato Secondary school, contributing to human capital development. Of importance is the fact that food security also got this boost, as on a daily basis, information showed that most of the households afforded three meals proving how lives had been changed significantly.

For those that had the luck in them, asset accumulation is another indicator that showed that artisanal mining lives up to its name. From the data collected, information shows that others managed to afford/buy some of the assets they could not previously own but could now do so because of their increased income. For status, many of the respondents agreed to owning houses and residential stands within Shurugwi and also in close by Gweru Urban town. Some also bought transportation vehicles, which was not to be argued against as it is evident in Shurugwi town of the high rise of cars roaming around with some in the transportation business. Some of the well-known miners in the town own fancy cars like Hummers and Bentleys makes and word goes around that they own various properties in Gweru. This ability to purchase assets can only be accrued to artisanal mining which shows how greatly it has improved on the livelihoods of the local Shurugwi community.

1.3. CONCLUSION

With the lives of the people greatly marginalized by the prevailing situations within the country a great many of the local people took to artisanal mining as a panacea to the hardships they had been facing. Such hardships had been caused, at a higher level by the global north economic decline trends that reached even the global south, especially the rural areas. This economic decline saw the abrupt downturn of business activities caused by high inflation rates that negatively impacted on industry and company profits leading to their closure. This left a large part of the population unemployed and in poverty, which led to the high rise in the emergence of the artisanal mining sector as it provided a quick, though risky, access to household level income reducing the levels of vulnerability for these people. The effects of engaging in the sector can be measured using various livelihood indicators which weigh a difference from the previous lives, and some of these include the increase in household income levels, better social service delivery, asset accumulation and an increase on food security, which have aided in increasing the resilience of the local people.

CHAPTER 2

2.1. IMPACT OF ARTISANAL MINING ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF SHURUGWI COMMUNITY: WARD 5

Artisanal mining in the town of Shurugwi is a pandemic that grew with the turn of economic events of the greater economy. Formerly being a mining town, this sector is one that is not new to the local community and is rather prominent at a large scale. Shurugwi, formerly known as Selukwe in the colonial era is a town and administrative centre in the Midlands Province, southern of Zimbabwe and is located some 350km south of Harare.

Hence in this chapter, thrust is going to be placed on the lives of the people of Shurugwi and how they went on with their impoverished, marginalized lives before engaging into artisanal mining. It is crucial to show how the dire situation, due to declining economic events greatly made life miserable for the local community leaving them without any power to own the means of better livelihood opportunities and also because of the fact that the global south is generally marginalized from the onset. Issues that include lack of employment, high levels of poverty, a general lack of education and also reliance on subsistence farming will be discussed in link to the lives of the people before taking up their low level mining tools and embarking on artisanal mining, and more so to show how their livelihoods improved after engaging in the sector using various livelihood indicators that range from increased household income, asset accumulation, improved social service delivery for the family members which leads to relative reduction in vulnerability to shocks and stresses directed towards them.

2.2. LIVELIHOODS OF THE COMMUNITY BEFORE EMBARKING ON ARTISANAL MINING

Zimbabwe is known to harbour the Great Dyke, and for communities located within its path or in proximity to, mining has always been the source of survival. This occurs within a number of local communities in the country and Shurugwi is non the less not new to this. Relating to the target area of study, Ward 5 of Shurugwi, encompasses resettlement areas that include Zireva, Mliswa, Chiriya, Nhatare and also Meateka falling under Chief Banga and they are directly located close to the mineral rich Great Dyke. There has been a fair amount of mining activity in this area be it major mining companies or the artisanal miners themselves. The area is fairly rich in minerals like gold, chromite, platinum and also nickel. And because of such rich deposits, several major mines operated in Shurugwi in the early years before economy began to witness noticeable downturns. Shurugwi like most communities along the Great Dyke was largely dependent on the operations of the mining companies. This dependency was inclined on sourcing local incomes, employment and also a ready market for trade in various goods including selling of agricultural products and second hand clothes among other wares. Following existence of such diverse activities, sustainable livelihoods were guaranteed for that time.

The dependency of mining communities on the mines operating within their areas was very high, to such an extent that their lives were built around, and were shaped by the mine operations. This also came in projects done by mines towards these communities through avenues of corporate social responsibility, which saw development of these areas. Important to note is the fact that the livelihoods of this mining community were income based and less on the agrarian side, and it is no surprise that these people represented some of the hardest hit at the time of Zimbabwe's socio-economic crisis that later stretched from the early 2000's up until 2009. This was mainly a result of the fact that mines operating within Shurugwi reduced

their production levels or actually closed down and therefore had to retrench workers, and in turn this resulted in a massive loss of disposable incomes and earnings capacity by the mine workers. This was the situation for the people of Shurugwi when time came for Zimasco (Pvt) Ltd closed up, and also suspended operations at Railway Block due to diminishing chrome deposits. This was the same when Peak Mine followed suit and halted operations after being functional for close to more than four decades, leaving communities vulnerable.

For the benefit of being employed at these mines, mine workers and their families knew that their lives were actually secure. In the light of offering full worker perks, these mining companies supported the local community with social service provision, that included assistance in the health and education sectors, mainly for the family members. Also formal employment, incomes, housing, transportation and social life through various sporting activities in the local community were offered by the mining companies. Not only were the local people dependent on the activities of the mines, even the local authorities also relied on the levies they paid and corporate social responsibility projects they implemented. At this point, the lives of the local community of Shurugwi became intricately tied to the existence of the mines, which was a challenge due to the issue that mining operations would have to stop at some point in time, either when targets are met or resources diminish, like what happened with Railway Block, apart from a country's economic instability. These people became overly dependent on the mines for the progression of their lives to the extent that engagement in other sectors of the economy was very low, a disastrous move if one is to assess the situation.

Employment at the mines proved to be a blessing for those that reminisce of the days they used to work for Zimasco Steel. As told by Mr. Mavuto Mwale in The Sunday News,

“working at the chrome-mining company, which then was not only the biggest employer in the mineral rich town, but the employer of choice in Shurugwi and beyond”, actually shows that people had their lives well planned out and relaxed during their days of employment. Mr. Mwale who came to Shurugwi in 1965 to work for Zimasco appeared overwhelmed with emotion as he talks about how he witnessed the town slowly move from being a vibrant metropolis in the Midlands Province to the ghost town it resembles now. Now unemployed, he spends most of his time at a local bar and does not have any other means of acquiring income. He states how things started turning bad when Zimasco scaled down operations leaving most people jobless and considering informal means of surviving. According to Mr Mwale, “long back we knew that our children would be guaranteed of employment at Zimasco once they completed school, but now it’s a different story”. Such information shows how the mine had had a promising future for the local community, and the people had relatively no worries if it was not for the economic turnout.

2.2 IMPACT OF ARTISANAL MINING ON LIVELIHOODS

Having left the small town in desperation, following closure the major Zimasco mines, Shurugwi’s glory was diminishing literally and people had to find other sources of survival fast. Fears after the closure of the largest employer in the mining town, of becoming a ghost town were becoming true. Some of the employees actually acknowledged that this closure led to the upsurge of illegal panners, i.e. artisanal miners having some level of knowledge to pan for gold. Talking to the The Zimbabwean newspaper in an interview, Samuel Muguti says, “Peak mine employed a lot of people and if they close as they told us then we have to look for alternatives to feed and clothe our families, in a country with a high unemployment rate: the only alternative I see at the moment is gold panning”. The newly unemployed locals were

ready to risk it all just to cater for their families leaving artisanal mining at the forefront as a strategy for survival.

Artisanal gold mining has the potential to deliver great benefits to the local communities engaging in it. Through it, many of the previously marginalized labourers can contribute the well-being of their families and folk as it serves as a poverty alleviation avenue. It has assisted in keeping a greater part of the local Shurugwi community economically afloat, and as a mechanism for the creation of rural employment, artisanal mining has assisted in reducing instances of urban migration. Without having to rely on the assistance of the mining companies, artisanal mining has helped create a local flow of money around the town and it has registered various changes on the lives of people both directly and indirectly. Ever since closure of major mines in the town, economic activities are on the rise again, with artisanal mining, with its linkages to other sectors, injecting capital into other ventures, contributing to a cycle of economic activities that are beneficial to the locals. Moreover, this sector has been a consistent conveyer belt of employment of youths in this district, having been one group that has felt the brunt the economy before reaching the opportunity to actually spread their wings.

This sector has gathered a lot of bad publicity in different writings, and artisanal miners are perceived to be the scum of the earth with reputations of excessive alcoholism, unruly behaviour and extravagant lifestyles. This is not always the case however, as some have actually gone from rags to riches and now are able to fully support their families. After fully incorporating their might into this sector, some artisanal miners have evidently changed their livelihoods on a greater scale. Change can be observed with a number of indicators, especially those things one previously did not own. Improvement in livelihoods is seen through asset accumulation, and it is evident in the town of Shurugwi that most of the artisanal miners own fancy cars, have residential properties in their names and are also able to

buy operating machinery like compressors to actually further their trade. Also with the power of income, some have even started other businesses that are resourced by money from artisanal mining. These include more mechanised farming projects with irrigation schemes and also retail business being carried out by other family members. Children can go to school, and basic provisions like food, shelter and health care are readily available especially for the families of the miners.

2.3. CHALLENGES FACED BY ARTISANAL MINERS

Although this sector has proven to be a true poverty alleviation avenue, for the people Shurugwi community Ward 5, it comes with its varied challenges that have in many cases hindered flow of operations at some point in time. The never ending woes in this sector are mainly attributed to not following the appropriate rules and regulations stipulated in the different pieces of legislation among others that come along the way during operations.

2.3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

In most if not all of the literature about artisanal mining, this is one major challenge that is at the forefront of all others. It is evident that artisanal mining has contributed significantly to land degradation, deforestation and air and water pollution. Having extracted and exhausted the high value ores, miners often shift from one place to another without rehabilitating the mined out areas. This basically possess a great ecological threat having led to adverse problems like soil erosion, vegetation destruction and mercury contamination of water bodies. Shurugwi is known to be a scenic district but however panning activities are taking a toll on the flora and fauna.

This make shift type of mining has raised concern with the Environmental Management Agency (EMA). Anger has been expressed towards the way artisanal miners have been digging up deep open shafts and pits in a particular area they work in and also the rate at which they are cutting down a lot of indigenous trees. The terrain has been hit pretty badly and it is relatively impossible now to feed livestock adequately. This level of degradation is very high in this case due to the fact artisanal miners do not actually follow the provisions of environmental laws. In Zimbabwe, the provisions of the EMA Act, require that one do an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before commencing mining operations and be awarded an EIA certificate. However, this is costly to undertake and artisanal miners evade or skip this part. Although it actually works for some time, whenever EMA does its field assessments the miner have to run from their working post in fear of getting caught and thus operations are bumpy and regularly interrupted.

2.3.2 HEALTH

Working in an environment that has poor sanitation and also getting in contact with dangerous chemicals has greatly affected the health levels of artisanal miners. Cleanliness wise, the miners do not even consider the area in which they operate in, as the craft itself involves dirt. However, the process through which the gold is separated from mud and water is what is dangerous. According to Phimister (1975), “small mining and milling operations in Zimbabwe that use both mercury and cyanide have existed since the 1870’s”. This is the fastest way to acquire the gold but it is detrimental to health and dangerous when mercury is used in the process. Although the data is limited, recent work shows that over 70% of artisanal miners have some level of mercury poisoning.

2.3.3 DANGEROUS WORKING CONDITIONS

In order to maximise profits, artisanal miners in recent times have shifted from working alluvial reefs to actually digging vertical shafts that actually go as deep as thirty meters in depth. And because of lack of appropriate machinery and inputs these shafts are mainly makeshift and are not in any instance safe to work in. The shaft interior is usually held together by tree trunks intertwined together to act as ladders for getting in and out the shaft. Due to this type of mining there have been cases of mine collapses with people inside. Lack of knowledge and awareness in things like occupational safety and health (OSH) coupled with lack of education and training is the cause. More than twenty people are killed in this sector in Zimbabwe annually. However, because these operations are deemed illegal, neither the Mines Department nor the Chamber of Mines recognize these deaths as mine accidents or mine fatalities, and no data is collected or maintained. Most of the accidents occur when unsupported side walls and hanging walls collapse after undercutting. This has been a major challenge for artisanal miners, again because of the fact that they do not follow the stipulations of the Mines and Minerals Act.

2.3.4 CAPITAL INVESTMENT

This is another major arching challenge in the existence of artisanal miners. Some of these miners have remained at this stage because of lack of capital investment to actually formalize their operations. Artisanal miners have continued to incorporate rudimentary ways of mining because they do not have the start-up capital to acquire the required pieces of legislation and in turn operate in a peaceful manner. This is not the case for most of them however. Some workers will have sponsors that are also their bosses who put up the required capital which buys the required tools and food to start operations. These sponsors in turn get to hold a certain amount of percentage of the profits, firstly to get back his or her money back, for the

food and also for being the one in charge or the owner of the claim. This is usually disadvantageous to the artisanal miners and they end up getting a very small percentage of the spoils yet they are the ones that work effortlessly in the dangerous conditions. For the most part, these miners have to work for peanuts and their livelihoods end up being compromised.

2.4. CONCLUSION

In this section, it is evident that indeed artisanal mining is one of the most important avenues of promoting better livelihoods for the people of Shurugwi District: Ward 5 and it is that the people were greatly marginalized before the advent of artisanal mining. A number of factors serve to prove that indeed these lived a worse off life before participating in artisanal mining. The situation proved to be dire due to contributing factors like the high levels of unemployment caused by closure of Zimasco Steel and more so high levels of poverty and low education because of the fact that the global south is marginalized from the get go, and thus rural areas in tend to suffer even more. This dire situation was further made in escapable by the many challenges they faced, included the more important that made it impossible to fully engage in the sector, firstly being the current mining policy that is in play which does not recognize the activities of artisanal miners and their contribution to the state in the first place and also others that include a general lack of capital investment and also operating in dangerous working conditions.

CHAPTER 3

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. ENHANCING THE EFFECT OF ARTISANAL MINING ON LIVELIHOODS

Artisanal mining is a long standing phenomenon in Zimbabwe and with that it should be given relative recognition. Ever since the downturn of the economy in the country, it has managed to sustain thousands of people, and thousands more indirectly. Artisanal miners are known to contribute a reasonable amounts of gold that are not being accounted for, or collected formally due to the controversial nature of this sector. Estimated statistics from organisations that work closely with these artisanal miners, for example the Zimbabwe Artisanal and Small Scale for Sustainable Mining Council (ZASMC), show that in the year 2013, they produced 959 kilograms of gold which has since increased to 1300 kilograms in recent trends. These illegal miners on average produce 500 grams of gold per day, and if handled in the adequate manner, this can be increased following full involvement of the government, something that can satisfy both sides in the case of development. Therefore, this sections looks to provide recommendations for the artisanal mining sector that will guarantee an elevation of the previously marginalised livelihoods of the people that are undertaking it. Making it a stepping stone with the potential to deliver massive livelihood benefits to both the local economy and the local communities engaging in it.

3.2. ENHANCING ARTISANAL MINING IN SHURUGWI: WARD 5

3.2.1. Decentralization of Administration

Ever since the decline of economic standards in Zimbabwe, the Reserve Bank has been firm on the movement of mineral wealth. During the 1980s and the 1990s, at a time the government had been trying to support artisanal mining as a livelihood strategy, administration of mining had been passed down to Rural District Councils (RDCs) in the advent of increasing communication between the miners and the state. This changed when the central bank started running low on revenue as gold inflow was directed towards it. From then till now, power over mining has been vested with the bank and this disadvantageous to the local level people of Shurugwi: Ward 5. Channels of communication are relatively impossible with the reserve bank as was with the RDCs. These are a major benefit because, being located locally they have the power to gather actual statistics of the artisanal miners and engage with them on issues affecting them. With the ability to target local level miners, the government, through RDCs can actually come to understanding the phenomenon of artisanal mining and actually be able to offer support and also even see to the review of its harsh policy.

3.2.2. Provision of Capital

The area in which these people operate is one that is typically in the rural category and the flow of money in the community economy is relatively low. Thus moving to artisanal mining is a way to get that first income into their pockets meaning at the start they do not possess any sort of financing capital. The local community of Ward 5 are a characteristic of this, and they are engaging in artisanal mining as a path better livelihoods. Effectiveness of this move can only be enhanced if the miners can guarantee a well renowned sponsor who or that is not entirely profiteering in capital return. This is a duty that should be awarded to major companies recently operating in Shurugwi. For instance, Anglo-American giant Unki Mine,

works in the same line of industry should acknowledge the presence of artisanal miners in most parts of Shurugwi including Ward 5. With that they should implement programs or a social responsibility of a sort, that tries to incorporate the miners into forming their own community groups which receive capital to commence their operation, with later monitoring of how the funding was used, i.e. is purchase of modern mining equipment and more importantly acquiring licences. This link between legit structures and the artisanal miners will definitely provide for an elevation on the livelihoods of the local community, with work being done at maximum capacity and monitoring on the side, improvement is bound to be witnessed.

3.2.3. Diversification

Shurugwi, once a scenic mining town, is no less becoming a ghost town following closure of Zimasco owned mining companies. These were the stepping stone for the development of the people as they catered for much of the social service delivery and basic provisions. However, this over reliance on mining by the community of Shurugwi: Ward 5 has been more disastrous than good. The people in a way neglected the candid truth that at one point the mine would have to shut down after its stipulated forecasting, only in this case it was due to economic hardship. It is thus fair to say that a great part of the local community neglected other ways of earning a living and put most of their dependency on the existence of Zimasco chrome mining companies. A small part did practise subsistence farming and traded or sold some of the produce to the mine workers. What is important for them is not to repeat the same mistake again, and with this they should actually seek to diversify their operations. Artisanal mining is still an issue of debate within the state at large and it is really difficult to know where it will end up, though efforts are being made. What is suggested is that with the

income that the artisanal miners get, investment into other sectors is a wise move. Sectors like mechanised agriculture, retail of basic goods and investment into assets i.e. properties and transport systems seem probable in this day and age. This is so that at the time the sector finds itself without much favour of the state, the people of Shurugwi: Ward 5 can be assured continued livelihoods.

3.2.4. Acknowledging the Participation of Women

This is another effective way of enhancing the livelihoods of people, through artisanal mining in Shurugwi: Ward 5. As provocative as it might sound for women to be working in such conditions, they are actually participating in the sector on a relatively recognisable scale. This has been a way of earning fast money for them other than having to wait for subsistence farming. Although mining has traditionally been regarded as a male activity, artisanal mining is none the less providing women with new employment opportunities yielding higher income, as long as these women are prepared to ‘play the game’ like their male counterparts. In embracing this activity, a large number of women could fulfil their social and economic expectations better than by carrying out traditional land-resources related activities which had brought little economic autonomy because of the many economic, cultural and legal obstacles. The advantage of having women participate in this sector however is that there a number of women organisations that are willing to stand up for women. With this therefore, women get effective empowerment other than being the docile partners in the household, through groups that provide for training, funding in order to effectively incorporate them into a men infested environment.

3.3. ENHANCING ARTISANAL MINING IN ZIMBABWE

3.3.1. Policy Review and Reform

This is relatively the first real step in promoting the operations of artisanal miners in Zimbabwe. Policy guiding this sector has been hard on these type of miners to the extent that there has been unrest between the government and the artisanal miners. The state has to loosen its grip on this sector a little in order to inflow of mineral wealth to their reserve. Artisanal miners cannot sell their gold through proper state channels because of this close-end policy in play and thus significant transitions are required. A recent move by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) best serves as evidence off the review of policy towards informal mining. Being the state arm that foresees the buying of the country's mineral wealth, i.e. gold, through Fidelity Printers and Refinery (FPR), the central bank under Dr. John Mangudya has sought to buy gold from artisanal miners on a "no questions asked" basis. This is meant to bring to an end the cat and mouse chase between government agencies associated with mineral trade, and the informal miners. This means that there will be mobile buying centres deployed throughout the country and this will in turn promote the influx of gold to the central bank, making way to the commencement of other economic activities.

3.3.2. Regulation of the Artisanal Mining Sector

The Mines and Mineral Act of Zimbabwe is a choker for the operations of artisanal miners due the fact that some of the statutory instruments found in line with it are oppressive on the ordinary miners. Regulation of the sector should be done through implementation of affordable and reasonable licencing structures rather than those that seem prohibitive or preventative. The actual fees on the ground currently are definitely unbearable for the

ordinary artisanal miner who is seeking a livelihood in the process. Annually one would require, a pegging fee of USD 4000, mine registration fee of USD 1000 and a milling fee of USD 8000, not forgetting the environmental impact assessment reports. Such amounts just scare away potential miners and the state does not have to actually remove this billing system but instead make it a bit reasonable, without neglecting a check on issues like the negativity it has on the environment.

Completely opening up on the sector will only be a double tragedy, the state might actually start getting an increased inflow of gold through FPR at the expense of steep environment degradation as numbers in this sector will multiply exponentially. An even larger number of people who have always wanted to deal in gold, but could not do so because of its illegality, will have the chance to exploit the mineral. Thus the sector needs to be regularized into to function to its maximum extent, although some level of loosening the grip is required, controlling measures are still a gist.

3.3.3. Formalizing and Monitoring Mechanisms

This sector still needs to be formalized and to be adequately recognized in state policy formulation and budget schemes. Rules and regulations applying to local level personnel need to be put in place to guide its operations. More so, there need to be monitoring mechanisms to govern on the reduction of corrupt activities, especially on cases that involve state police being bribed. Pricing structures also require a review if the state is to actually engage with this sector. Buying prices of the FPR need to compete with those of the international market in order to improve the livelihoods of those supplying the gold after their hard work. An assertion by one Mr. Davison Svunure, talking to NewsDay, depicts that, “the policy would have real positive impact if Fidelity Printers and Refinery (FPR) interacts more

with the miners”. The buying price of FPR should be able to attract the miners away from the black market, thus aiding in a marginal increase of gold inflow to them. Lower pricing will definitely promote smuggling being a law of demand and supply at work.

3.3.4. Decriminalization of the Sector

As it stands, possession of gold without any sort of licencing is a crime leading to an arguably long jail term. In this case, artisanal miners do not have the capacity to acquire the costly documentation it thus becomes a problem. Being the major gold buyer in the country, the Reserve needs to put in place some certification that can be acquired at low charge or freely, allowing for artisanal to reach the selling point without any inconvenience. More so, there needs to be close monitoring to ensure that it does not end up in the wrong hands i.e. corrupt officials. Therefore, what is actually needed are ready markets, that are mobile if possible, for better convenience and avoid the case where the artisanal miners have to travel long distances to sell the stones. This creates a sense of legality in the whole process in turn enhancing the artisanal mining sector in Zimbabwe.

3.3.5. Representative Boards, Associations and Co-operatives

This is another important aspect in enhancing artisanal mining in Zimbabwe. State regulation does not offer much for much for artisanal miners to work with in terms of airing out their varied views, that is a proper channel of communication between the two. Such a channel provides for communication, joint efforts on major issues of concern and also various ways of assistance. This is where third party bodies come in as supposedly the middle men between the state and artisanal miners. These should be more like civil society, in terms of

complementing the state where it is not fully supporting the sector. One group that has been operational in within the country is the Zimbabwe Artisanal and Small Scale for Sustainable Mining Council (ZASMC), with president Wellington Takavarasha who has been forwarding the combined views of artisanal miners directly to parliament. The trust main aims are to represent artisanal and small scale miners and also bring artisanal mining into the mainstream economy through lobbying, support, development and growth of artisanal mining as a sector. This group has been working tirelessly to promote the smooth flow of operations for artisanal miners. In 2014, the trust received a donation of 490 000pounds from a non-governmental organisation in order to enhance the operations of artisanal miners in the country, through a supply of equipment and licencing facilities. More off such smart partnerships through associations would greatly improve this sector.

3.3.6. Financial Assistance

A major challenge faced by artisanal miners is the lack of adequate start-up capital to attain the requirements needed to operate at a legal level. In most the times, the miners enter into an agreement with a sponsor who provides them with the resources required i.e. explosives, tools and other basic equipment. She/he also provides them with food and this is on the condition that they will sell the gold acquired to her/him, after the sponsor has already deducted the first off input. The gold later bought at low price leaving the artisanal miners with very little to stand on. This union is rather oppressive on the part of the miners that work day and night. Hence more promising avenues of acquiring finance are required in order to boost work flow. If there could be avenues of micro finance that target artisanal miners on a specific level, with enough paperwork to guarantee pay back. Artisanal miners will remain in their state or position of being disadvantaged unless they can ensure proper avenues of

acquiring credit facilities, only then can they actually shift from illegal operations to following the required procedures that at the end benefit the state as a whole.

3.3.7. Training and Capacity Building

A great part of the people undertaking artisanal mining in most developing countries are located in the rural areas and small towns, and this is no different for the situation in Zimbabwe. This has been the main reason behind the so called ignorance in the way the miners operate, as they employ backward methods in a modern environment that has new regulations. A way to incorporate these artisanal miners into enhancing their sector to a higher level is to first educate and train them on the requirements of the mining sector in relation to other sectors of the country. Management, technical skills and also safety and health training are the gist. Also, geological education is a must, in order for them to practise environmental conservative mining and not totally degrade it. According to Wellington Takavarasha, president of ZASMC, about 70% to 85% of the rural population are into artisanal mining, and of these, 70% are into gold mining and about 30% are into chromite, tantalite and other semi-precious minerals. With these statistics, having a lack of geological knowledge of the ore bodies causes these miners to just dig up anywhere and everywhere which is detrimental for the environment. Education and training touching on the nature of these problems would be a major achievement in the road to effectively enhance the sector.

3.3.8. Linkages between Artisanal miners and Large-Scale Miners

This is more important than usual and requires relative attention to enhance artisanal mining as a recognised sector. Artisanal miners face a lot of challenges in their operations, the major

one being that acquiring claims or tributes, and also capital to actually peg the working location, under the Ministry of Mines. This is both expensive, timely and more so requires a lot of documentation which most of these people do not have. However, on the other hand, the country has been giving concessions to major mining companies, allowing them to operate on a large scale. What needs to be done henceforth is for these big mining companies to come up with a department of initiative that partially employs these artisanal miners under their name and allowing for them to operate in a particular area of their land. This will be done with thought that at every stipulated time period the miners will have to give in some either all or some percentage of their workings to the mine. The process becomes somewhat legal, and when state agents come for inspection, the artisanal miners can be recognized under the name of the mining company, operating on some sort of contract.

3.4. CONCLUSION

In order to promote the enhancement of artisanal mining in Zimbabwe at large and more so in Shurugwi: Ward 5, a notable account of recommendations is required. These will in turn improve on the livelihoods of the local community people that reside and engage directly and in directly in artisanal mining. A couple have been discussed above, that if fully practised are meant to promote the sector into the mainstream economy and hoping that the government with the assistance of civil society will combine efforts in tackling the challenges and responding to the voices of the artisanal miners themselves. More importantly, major mining law and policy review is required in order to eliminate the hostility that lies between the government and informal miners creating a more suitable environment, that is free of decriminalization of the local people undertaking the trade.

CONCLUSION

The engagement into artisanal mining by the people of Shurugwi District: Ward 5, has actually proven to be a panacea for a great many households' livelihoods. As proven by the study, a number of families got relatively affected by the various shocks and stresses that prevailed before their participation in the artisanal mining sector. Such shocks and stresses include the global economic decline trends in the early 21st century that affected the global south steeply, which saw closure of industry and other companies following failure on profit returns. Likewise, in the case of Shurugwi, the abrupt closure of major mining firm Zimasco Steel left the people vulnerable to the extent that they could no longer afford a decent lifestyle, as without employment they could not own assets of their own like houses, residential stands, transportation vehicles and also household furniture, social service delivery had been compromised on healthcare, payment of school fees for the children, shelter and food security and more so, household income became relatively low making life miserable.

Engagement in artisanal mining, despite its various limitations has definitely proven to be the only guaranteed avenue of owning the means of better livelihoods for this local community given that it is located in the rural part of Zimbabwe. Families that once lacked employment, can now actually support those that depend on them. Using various livelihoods indicators, a change could actually be seen on various aspects of these people's lives. Basing on information of their previous situation, artisanal mining indeed came in at the appropriate time, as now, household income levels increased reasonably, to allow diversification into other activities like mechanised agriculture, asset accumulation is also witnessed looking at the increase on cars owned in the areas under study, owning houses and residential stands and also household furniture. More importantly, social services for the family members got taken care of basing on the rise of school attending children who have their guardians paying

school fees for them, health care and food security, that is affording at least two meals a day, creating a scene of generally reduced vulnerability for these local communities.

However, despite this success for the marginalized locals of Shurugwi and also around the country, artisanal mining as an informal sector, has indeed acted as a channel of poverty alleviation a great many challenges still arise for these miners and their families. Operating in the informal sector, within Zimbabwe is a rather controversial issue and it is no less the same for artisanal mining. The major challenge that these locals face is the cat and mouse chase with the government as this sector is deemed to be illegal and anyone found to operating in it is a criminal. Although efforts have been made in the years to incorporate it into state affairs, the superseding Mines and Minerals Act still does not recognize the efforts of the group and how they can contribute to the revenue of the state. The fact that people are still being criminalised for being artisanal miners is a barrier towards better livelihoods for the people. Some of the other challenges faced by the local miners of Shurugwi, range from lack of capital investment, in order for them to operate at maximum potential, a relative lack of education and training in the mining sector, affected health levels due to contact with mercury in gold panning, and some of these challenges have had a negative push back in acquiring better livelihoods for the people.

There are however, recommendations and suggestions that can lead to the enhancement of this sector which will assist it in contributing to the well-being of both the state and the artisanal miners at the same time. For instance, policy review and reform of the Mines and Minerals Act should be the first move, in recognising the efforts of artisanal miners and how they can contribute to the country's GDP. Also, decentralization and administration will see the dealing of artisanal mining issues at local level where different views can be aired out freely and target assistance can be offered on an individual or group basis thereby enhancing the potential of the miners. Avenues of capital provision are more crucially required and also

acknowledgment that women participate in this sector too will open up more opportunities for both the state and civil society organisations to join forces and support this sector fully to unleash its full potential, crediting this crux of this research, that is to improve on the livelihoods of the local communities that are engaging in artisanal mining.

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APPENDICES

Interview guide for community embarking on artisanal mining

1. What are the push and pull factors that made you realize that you wanted to participate in artisanal mining?
2. How was life before engaging /embarking into artisanal mining?
3. To what extent has artisanal mining impacted in your lives, and how has it brought about change?
4. What are some of the major challenges you are facing, operating in this dangerous and illegal environment?
5. Are there any forms of assistance that you think the government can/local authorities can help you with?

Questionnaire guide for community embarking in artisanal mining

I am a student at Midlands State University doing a Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies Honours Degree. And as part of the requirements of the programme, I am doing a research on how engagement into artisanal mining has impacted on the livelihoods of the local community of Shurugwi District: Ward 5

Instructions:

Give your answer in a tick on the boxes provided, and an explanation where necessary.

NB: Please answer all the questions

1. Age Range(s): 15 – 40 41 – 60

2. Marital Status: Married Single

3. If married, are you the breadwinner? YES NO

4. How many family members or children are providing for?

5. How much do you earn periodically?

6. What is the interval of payment/earning?

Daily Weekly Monthly Varies

7. Through artisanal mining, what assets/properties have you managed to acquire?

.....
.....

8. What are some of the social responsibilities you can afford to take care of now?

Healthcare Shelter School Fees Food Security

9. On food security, how many meals, on a daily basis can you afford to take now?

1 2 3 4