

RESEARCH ARTICLE



STRATEGIES APPLIED TO MANAGE CONFLICTS RELATED TO ARTISANAL GOLD MINING IKOLOMANI SUB COUNTY

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Abstract

Gold mining is a significant sector in the world economy and in at least 34 African Countries. Ikolomani gold mines are found in Kakamega County. Many countries worldwide have had conflicts resulting from artisanal gold mining. Most artisanal gold miners are from socially and economically marginalized communities and turn to mining in order to escape extreme poverty, unemployment and landlessness. Sometimes the gold is present, but in low and unexpected quantities especially considering the depth of the mines. The low quantity of gold is used for sustaining their lives. As a result of this, there are many conflicts from artisanal gold mining. The objective of the study was to evaluate the strategies applied in resolving conflicts resulting from artisanal gold mining in Ikolomani-Sub County, Kakamega County, Kenya. The existing methods of resolving conflicts are local leaders (34%), the police (23%), miners' bylaws (32%), and department of mines and geology (5%), and traditional specialists (6%). The conflicts can be effectively resolved if the government implements policies, enhances income, improves trade regulations and empowers the youth. The study recommends that there is need to improve on the economic amenities in Ikolomani by the government and investor by forging economic partnerships.

1 | INTRODUCTION

Shilaro (2000) indicates that, the population in Ikolomani Sub-county is big, and poverty levels are high. Gold deposits are there, thus people are prone to turning to mining for survival. Miners mine in other people's land. There are conflicts over land boundaries and ownership. Members of the community and the miners have had several conflicts generating from gold mining. In some cases, the government has been involved in conflict between the mining companies and the local communities in Ikolomani sub-county (Shilaro, 2000).

According to Mwaura (2005), there have been conflicts amongst the miners after they get low quantities of gold that is indivisible. On the same case, ownership disputes are evident as the land believed to have gold interests all miners. These disputes reoccur despite the fact that there are measures in place

to curb them. It is therefore of prime interest in this study to understand the contribution of artisanal gold mining to conflicts, their impacts on the community on the socio-economic lives of the people, and the procedures for dealing with such cases. Thus, there was need to study the contribution of artisanal gold mining to conflicts in Ikolomani Sub-County, and come up with appropriate methods of resolving them.

2 | METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the theory of cumulative and cyclical interdependence as its framework. The theory looks at individuals and their community as caught in a spiral web of opportunity and problems, hence, individuals and community resources are mutually dependent. The study employed descriptive and evaluation research designs. This

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study adopted stratified random sampling for sub-locations, proportionate random sampling, and simple random sampling for miners, purposive sampling for village elders and assistant-chiefs and purposive and convenience sampling for officials from NEMA and department of geology and mines. There are 1050 miners in the selected sub-locations where 10% were selected for the study. The study population constituted the 105 miners, 6 village elders, 3 assistant chiefs, 2 officials from the department of geology and mines and 2 from NEMA. Data collection methods included primary sources which were, Focus Group Discussions, Observations Checklists, Interviews Schedules and Questionnaires. Secondary Sources which were relevant documents and reports were used. Qualitative data from focus group discussions and interview guides was analysed using thematic narratives. Quantitative data was analysed using SPSS and MS Excel to give measures of central tendency, frequencies and percentages. Inferential statistics were used specifically the Chi Square to give the association among the variables.

3 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 | Introduction

The study sought to evaluate the strategies used in resolving conflicts related to artisanal gold mining in Ikolomani Sub-County. The study investigated the existing strategies for conflict management, their effectiveness, and recommended resolution plans to the on-going conflicts resulting from artisanal gold mining. The respondents in this objective included the miners, assistant chiefs, village elders and officials from the geology department.

3.2 | Existing Strategies for Conflict Management

The study sought to establish ways that were commonly used by the local community in resolving conflicts related to artisanal gold mining in Ikolomani.

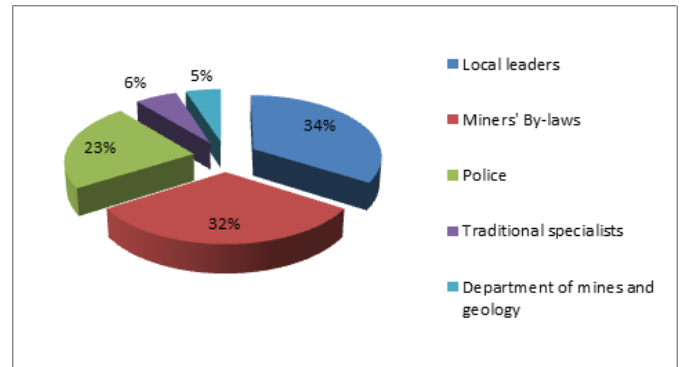


Fig. 1: Existing Methods Used to Resolve Disputes

(Source: Field Data, 2016)

3.2.1 | Miner's By-laws

Results from questionnaires indicated that, 28(32%) pointed out that the miners have groups that have by laws. They report to the group officials whenever there are conflicts, and resolve the disputes. Findings from focus group discussions and interviews revealed that conflicts are resolved within the groups by miners' by-laws. These are laws formed within the local community by miners. Miners formulate these laws to suit their needs and act as a mechanism for conflict resolution. The miners have formed groups to work along with, and each group consists of a chairperson, treasurer and secretary among others who regulate the group's activities. They also receive members' complaints and find solutions to them, and if it is beyond their powers they refer the cases to appropriate actors such as the police, elders, assistant chiefs and chiefs. During FGDS, one miner who is a chairman of a mining group said:

We agreed that the members have to respect us. They complain to us in case one of the group members is not working, but want to get the money others have worked for. We summon the member, talk to him and warn him against such actions. In case he does not obey what we say, we remove him from the group. We call a meeting and if the members are uncomfortable with his behaviour, he has to leave us and look for another group. (Informant; Musoli Sub-Location, 2016).

During FGDs, the miners pointed out that the groups have also set laws that regulate the behaviour of the group members. These by laws include: being a member of only one group so as to avoid fuelling

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disputes among the different groups, working time should be between 8am to 6pm, working beyond that time calls for action and penalties to be taken for the law breakers, equitably sharing of the revenues and any disagreements arising should be forwarded to the concerned committee as well as asking for a permission for being absent and with a reason.

The group leaders of the mining groups agreed during FGDs that they resolve many conflicts between the miners. For instance, some miners do not want to report to work early, but they want to have an equal share with those who toil the earth the whole day looking for the treasure. The miners who come to the mines early feel that the late comers are benefiting from their work. However, the late comers argue that if what the “early birds” had done since morning had not borne fruits, and they only get the precious metal when they (the late comers) are present, then they should share it equally. The miners pointed during the FGDs that such disputes make them to write laws and regulations to control the group. The group members have to report at the specified time. The group leaders have the role of ensuring that those who report late are penalized.

According to one of the village elders interviewed, the cases that they handle between miners have reduced since the miners started using the by-laws. In fact, the village elders pointed out that they are happy that the miners have means of resolving their disputes. The assistant chiefs agreed that the by-laws used by the miners have helped reduce the cases reported to their offices as well. They only report cases disputed at the mines if they cannot handle it.

3.2.2 | Local Leaders

Majority of the respondents 30(34%) argued that conflicts resulting from gold mining are resolved through local leaders, including chiefs, assistant chiefs and village elders. From the FGDs and interviews, one of the common mechanism employed are use of chiefs, assistant chiefs and village elders to resolve conflicts among mining groups, between the miners, and between miners and the locals. In the gold mining sites, the local leaders are used to resolve conflicts among the local community and the groups involved in the mining activities. Since the chiefs are familiar with the local community culture

and values, they can easily resolve any dispute arising. The chiefs, assistant chiefs and village elders act as mediators between the locals and the mining companies if any dispute arises. During an interview, an assistant chief pointed out that:

There are cases related to artisanal gold mining every week. Some comes to me because they cannot agree when sharing, others because they fought at the mines, and others suspect that they will be attacked because of some gold mining issues (Informant; Shivagala Sub-Location, 2016).

The local leaders command authority derived from their position in the society that makes them effective in maintaining peaceful relationships among communities. The District Commissioners, chiefs, assistant chiefs and village elders are employees of the government administration (Cramer, 2006). They have the mandate of maintaining law and order in the community. The chiefs and their assistants originate from communities they serve, which provide them with background knowledge of the conflicts experienced. They receive various forms of peace keeping trainings facilitated by the government, which enhances their efficiency and such skills transferred to their communities through peace barazas and field days with logistical support to this effect from the government.

Interviews with assistant chiefs and village elders agreed that the participation of local leaders as mediators and law enforcers, the increasing number of conflict resolution workshops as well as the various number of cases successfully handled by leaders as established by this study is an indicator of availability of institutions of law in place and successful implementation of the laws by the leaders which builds on public confidence in the public institutions. This further contributes to adherence to democratic principles at all levels of governance.

3.2.3 | Police Officers

Results from the questionnaires indicated that 20(23%) report to the police whenever there are disputes concerning gold mining. Some of the miners said that the police are the ones who help them resolve conflicts. Where the cases involve conflicts among groups due to interest to a certain mining site, land issue or boundaries for Ikolomani gold min-

ing, they are handled by the police who do investigations as well as prosecute those that are found guilty and the Ministry of Lands who make its clear on the boundary issues (Davis, 2006). Additionally the police receive statements of the offenders which help them to refer the cases for legal process. The police are also involved in holding custody people who are found selling fake gold to others and members perceived to be a threat to the community.

During FGDs, the miners pointed out that they involve the police if the dispute is not resolved by the group leaders using the by-laws, the local leaders, or when there are injuries and threats. The conflicts are sometimes violent especially if some miners decide to use weapons to fight. They harm each other and police are called to intervene. During the FGDs, one of miner who is a group leader said that:

We are there to help the members settle their disputes and forgive each other. But sometimes the parties are so annoyed. They plan to harm each other, and meet after the day's work. They attack each other and sometimes cause severe injuries and even death. We have to call the police to arrest them as it is not our responsibility to handle criminal activities. (Informant; Musoli Sub-location, 2016).

According to the assistant chiefs interviewed, the police are usually involved in conflict issues because conflicts involve different parties, some who cannot respect the words of the elders and the local administration. Therefore, there is need to call them to arrest the law breakers and prosecute them. During the interviews, the assistant chiefs pointed out that some of the things that miners do in the name of searching for the gold are illegal. For example, an assistant chief cited a case where a group of miners dug a tunnel under the house of a local, who was not even a miner. Such activities risk the lives of the family. In such cases, the owner has to report to the police. The miners are arrested and prosecuted.

According to the officials from the department of geology and mines, they always involve the police if there is a conflict concerning mining that they cannot handle. Some dealers come and take away gold and refuse to pay the miners. The officials report the dealers to the police for legal action to be taken. The officials also agreed that some of the conflicts related to mining require the police. The miners kill

and injure each other, necessitating the intervention of security officers.

NEMA officials interviewed in this study pointed out that they call upon the police to arrest those who do not follow the set environmental guidelines. The officials said that they come with the police to the site and arrest the groups that mine and leave the holes uncovered. It is an environmental hazard to leave mining sites with holes that can injure the community members and their animals. The holes become breeding sites for mosquitoes and snakes among other dangerous pests. Thus, they have to call the police because it is against the law. On the same note, the NEMA officials during interviews said that they call the police to investigate cases of mining companies that do not follow the set environmental guidelines. The companies are prosecuted accordingly.

3.2.4 | Department of Mines and Geology

According to Figure 6.1, on the methods used to resolve conflicts that arise from artisanal gold mining in Ikolomani, 4(5%) of the miners pointed out that they report to the department of mines and geology officials to help them resolve their conflicts. Interviews with officials from the geology department showed that The Commissioner of Mines and Geology heads the Department of Mines and Geology and is responsible for overseeing mining research and policy as well as formulating the Mining Act. This ensures that all conflicts related to gold mining or the gaps left in the mining sector that may cause conflicts are filled. The officials agreed during interviews that the miners report to them occasionally if there are conflicts involving dealers or the mining companies. Since all companies mining or intending to explore must report to the department, then they discuss the issue at hand and decide the way forward.

During FGDs with the miners, the study found out that miners usually report to the department of mines whenever they are uncomfortable with the mining companies in their area. For instance, if the mining company is mining beyond where the miners believe is the land they have hired or bought. Sometimes the mining companies mine at a land that belongs to a particular group of miners. They report to the department of mines for intervention. During FGDs, one of

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the miners said that:

The mining companies do not consider that this land belongs to us. They think that they have money to buy our ancestral land which is rich with gold. Because these companies have money, they can do bad things to anyone who tries to provoke them. Thus, we prefer reporting to the department of mines and geology if we do not like what they are doing. The department advises us on the way forward. (Informant; Shivagala Sub-Location, 2016).

According to the assistant chiefs and village elders interviewed, the conflicts involving mining sometimes require the intervention of the department of geology and mines. They agreed that this department is the government's hand as far as mining is concerned. Thus, the community usually consult them when there are issues that they do not understand. According to one of the village elders, some of the dealers take the gold and then claim that it is not gold. They tell the miners that what they have is not gold. In such cases, the miners report to the department of geology to get the truth.

3.2.5 | Traditional Specialists

According to the results from questionnaires, 5(6%) of the miners said that they consult traditional specialists to resolve their disputes. Village elders interviewed pointed out that if the conflicts persist, some people consult traditional specialists to help them punish their offenders. They argued that this is mostly done when a member is killed because of mining conflicts. Some people decide to look for witchdoctors to tell them who killed their beloved and curse him. During an interview, one elder said:

In our community, it is wrong to kill. If a person is killed, the family and friends might visit a sorcerer to reveal the murderer. They will conduct traditional rituals and curse the murderer. He might die or become mad.... (Informant; Musoli Sub-Location, 2016).

The elders explained that the local community fears the traditional specialists than the police and chiefs. Thus, if anyone thinks that the tradition will be involved, he or she prefers doing the right thing rather than face the wrath of the Luhya traditions.

The village elders interviewed agreed that the tra-

ditions also dictate that a person who is nuisance to the people should be ejected from the village. Those who are found stealing gold from other people's mines at night are sometimes ejected from the village if they do not change after warnings from elders. The process of returning them to the village is costly and most victims are never allowed to come back. There are many fines and rituals to be performed. Thus, members fear such acts and prefer maintaining the peace.

During FGDs, the miners agreed that the local community has been consulting traditional specialists for a long time. When conflicts occur because of gold, some people prefer using traditions. The miners consult the traditional sorcerers who help them identify those who steal their gold. The miners during FGDs pointed out that the community consults traditional specialists if someone mines in their land at night. One of the miners pointed out that:

People visit the mganga whenever they want to know something that is hidden. The mganga has means of knowing the answers. He also punishes the offender e.g by making him mad. (Informant; Lirhembe Sub-Location, 2016).

According to the miners, the community consults the sorcerers if they want to know the cause of the death of a relative. In this case, if they suspect that the relative was killed because of gold related conflicts, they go to the sorcerer for assistance. They pay some money and other gifts to the specialist as he performs his duty. The miners during FGDs said that in most cases, the people who a person because of gold related disputes complain that they are being haunted by the spirits of the deceased. Thus, the killers must consult a witchdoctor who will perform a ritual to block the spirits of the dead man. They are supposed to sacrifice to the spirits and share with the members of the family of the deceased person. The elders interviewed agreed that the rituals are necessary as they also allow the family and descendants of the deceased lives in peace. In case a person kills another person because of disputes related to gold, the spirit of the deceased does not rest in peace. It keeps coming back to revenge and remind the killer that his actions were wrong and unjustified. Thus, the murderer must look for a solution. He visits the family of the deceased and they consult a witchdoctor. One of the village elders said that:

The murderer gives a sheep that is to be used in the sacrifice. The family members make a circle and the sheep is beaten going round the circle. The sheep is then slaughtered and the intestine fluids are smeared on the perpetrators and their family. The remaining meat is given to the witch doctor and the elderly members of the family of the deceased. (Informant; Shivagala Sub-Location).

According to the village elders interviewed, the killer is likely to live peacefully after the ritual. However, if he did not do everything that was expected to do by the traditional specialists, the spirits of the deceased continue to come. The miners said that they would not like to reach to that situation as the spirits of the dead are sometime so strong to an extent that they haunt the killer until he dies.

According to the village elders interviewed, most of the people are leaving this method because they have turned to religion. Most of the people in the community are Christians and a few are Muslims. Thus, they prefer using other method as consulting traditional specialists is against their faith. However, there are those who still consult them even if they are Christians. They do this because traditional specialists are believed to have solutions to many mysteries especially if a family member has been killed in a gold mining related conflict.

3.3 | Effectiveness of the Existing Conflict Management Strategies

The study sought to examine the effectiveness of the available strategies of resolving disputes resulting from artisanal gold mining.

Table 1. Effectiveness of the Existing Methods of Conflict Management

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	18	21%
Good	26	30%
Neutral	13	15%
Poor	23	26%
No response	7	8%
Total	87	100%

(Source: Field Data, 2016)

on the effectiveness of the existing methods of resolving conflicts resulting from artisanal gold min-

ing in Ikolomani indicate that, 26(30%) of the miners claimed that the mechanisms in place were good enough. Similarly, 18(21%) of the miners felt that the mechanisms put in place were excellent. However, 23(26%) of the miners were of the opinion that the mechanisms were poor. In addition, 13(15%) of the miners were neutral.

FGDs indicated that the ways commonly used in resolving disputes resulting from gold mining in the area are not effective. The respondents argued that the increased prevalence of conflicts in the area because of gold mining is evidence that something else is required. Information from interviews indicated that the traditional methods such as fines by elders and curses have been abolished. Thus, people feel comfortable to fight and insult each other over God given resources. One of the village elders argued that the traditional methods could not work properly with the current generation. He pointed out during interviews that:

Our community was safe from these daily conflicts when every resource was communally owned. No one had the right to fight or shed blood because of something he or cannot add to what is existing, something that is God given. However, the current generation does not realize that. The disputes destroy the cohesion in the society, and are hard to resolve using the available mechanism. (Informant; Lirhembe Sub-County, 2016).

According to the assistant chiefs interviewed, Ikolomani has had conflicts resulting from gold mining for a long time. The people continue to fight for the little quantity of deposits available. Even if there are measures applied in resolving these conflicts, the situation requires more because what is present is not enough. The assistant chiefs pointed out that they are tired of resolving these conflicts. The cases are too many and they continue to increase. After resolving a case of theft, for example, the same parties report to them within two or three days with another case, still related to gold.

Officials from the department of geology said that the conflicts in Ikolomani keep recurring because the present resolution methods are not effective. Therefore, there should be something else to improve the lives of the local people so that they do not keep disagreeing because of gold mining activities. During interviews, one of the officials said that:

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If these mechanisms were good for the people, then we could not be reporting more cases every year. The way the conflicts are increasing daily is alarming. We might find the clans and sub-communities in this region fighting badly if appropriate measures are not taken. (Informant; Department of Geology, 2016).

Even if the locals have been trying to resolve conflicts resulting from gold mining in Ikolomani, the conflicts keep on recurring. According to police records, conflicts resulting from gold mining activities have been increasing for the last four years. The police have been arresting many people because of these conflicts. The elders and assistant chiefs agreed that they have also been resolving more cases in the recent years. There have been reported several killings which are linked to the gold mining conflicts. Therefore, there is a need to look for more reliable plans to ensure the conflicts are reduced.

3.4 | Elements towards Management of Conflicts Resulting from Gold Mining in Ikolomani

The study sought to determine the most appropriate means of resolving disputes that result from artisanal gold mining in Ikolomani Sub-County. Focus group discussions, questionnaires and interviews were used to determine the appropriate conflict plans that should be in place. The respondents suggested several methods of resolving conflicts that result from gold mining in the area. In the questionnaires, this question was open ended. The miners were asked to suggest reliable means of resolving the disputes arising from gold mining activities. This parameter examines income of the miners, youth empowerment, policies and sustainability as prime elements towards the management of conflicts resulting from artisanal gold mining in Ikolomani Sub-County. Empowerment is seen here in terms of income, policies and youth empowerment.

3.4.1 | Income of the Miners

From the questionnaires, (Figure 4.5) 46(53%) of the miners indicated that they come to the gold mines on daily basis. They do not have another job to rely on, and thus have to come there to survive. An FGD conducted at Musoli gold mines affirms that lack of

other stable economic activities forces the people to engage in illegal mining. They are involved in conflicts because the quantity of gold deposits is too little compared to the number of people depending on them for survival. During the FGDs, one of the miners said:

Even if we disagree with my friends at the mines and fight, we are arrested by NEMA and the police, and insulted by neighbours when we mine in their land, I cannot stop going to the mines unless I have another good job that will give me money to survive. Those who do not go to the mines are the ones who steal from the people because they are always broke. It is better us who fight and risk our lives in the tunnels because we eat our sweat. (Informant; Musoli Sub-Location, 2016).

According to the chiefs and assistant chiefs interviewed, if the income menace is addressed, and activities such as farming and trade enhanced, likewise poor income and conflicts resulting from artisanal gold mining will be managed.

While high income may not necessarily equate with human development, it remains an important medium through which countries, communities and individuals can expand their capabilities and opportunities. Income is driven by employment and the productive capacity of people, moderated by prices of goods that people demand (employment is understood here to mean both formal and informal). With good income, sustainable employment will be enhanced. Reporting on the state of peace in Ikolomani Sub County confirms these in asserting that people's empowerment is affected by the kind of income they get from the gold mines.

Trade can spur competition, entrepreneurship and development of new sectors, hence creation of jobs. On the other hand, investment may occur primarily in capital intensive sector linked to natural resource extraction, leading to the phenomenon of jobless growth. Alternatively, and again on dependent sector, labor may be displaced by the introduction of new technologies and new avenues of trade (UNDP, 2011).

The economic crisis and its aftermath put industrial policy back to the spotlight. The enlarged size of regional blocs offers the potential for a different and more successful form of regional industrial policy

which spurs growth in terms of trade and expanded job opportunities. This situation empowers the people and enables them to meet their daily needs other than through gold mining.

3.4.2 | Artisanal Mining Policies

Through the open ended questionnaire question that asked the miners to suggest plans to resolve conflicts in the area, most the answers included formulation of policies. The miners have an idea that policies can be used to resolve conflicts.

Village elders and assistant chiefs interviewed agreed with the miners that the government should put policies in place to ensure that the mining companies, the miners and the government are always in goods terms. This, they said, would reduce the conflicts that have been increasing in the recent years.

During FGDs, the miners pointed out that the government should use policies to prevent the dealers and the mining companies from taking advantage of the miners. Most of the miners believed that the government should put clear rules and regulations concerning the prices of the gold. One of the miners in the FGDs said:

Some of the dealers buy one gram at Ksh 2000(20USD), another one at Ksh 3000(30USD) while others are cheap. I remember a day one dealer bought my gold at Ksh 1500(15USD). Within 20 minutes, another dealer came and promised to buy at Ksh 3000(30USD). I immediately asked the first dealer to return my gold and take his money. He refused and we started fighting. He had to give me back the gold so that I can sell it at a good price. (Informant; Shivagala Sub-Location, 2016).

From the FGDs, some miners pointed out that in order to resolve conflicts related to gold mining, there ought to be frequent geological mapping so as to regulate the increased boundaries and land conflicts among others in the gold mining region. In the same way, there is need for an overarching clear legislative framework, policies and institutional framework which will lead to successful management of the mining sector. Sound environmental management policies to achieve sustainable development in the mining sector was also highled as a reliable way to reduce the disputes.

According to the village elders and chiefs interviewed, it will be necessary to develop infrastructure to ease access to these areas during conflicts. These local leaders argued that the roads in Ikolomani are poor. Therefore, it can be heard for security officers and peace keepers to help the community in case the conflicts escalate. One village elder pointed out during interviews that:

Most of the gold mines are in the shambas and remote areas. If the Idakho and the Isukha start fighting because of the historical injustices associated with gold exaploroartion, many people can die. The government should ensure vulnerable conflict areas such as Ikolomani have good roads. (Informant; Shivagala Sub-Location, 2016).

During FGDs, the miners argued that there should be frequent evaluation of the mining industries to check exploitation towards artisanal gold miners. Some of the conflicts occur because the miners are exaploited.

Policy is a course of action that will create a desired objective in the interest of the masses or the people in a given country or location (Kisembo, 2011). Two categories of policies can be identified: One, Substantive and Administrative Policies which are concerned with the legislation, programs and practices that govern the substantive aspects of the community work. This dimension of policy includes, for example, income security, employment initiatives, child care services and social exclusion. Administrative policy focuses largely upon administrative procedures. These involve, for example, the collection of statistical information on neighbourhoods and the evaluation of complex programs (DFID, 2010).

Secondly, there are Reactive and Proactive Policies. Reactive policy emerges in response to a certain concern or crisis that must be addressed. For instance, health emergencies and environmental disasters are two cases where reactive policies can be applied. Proactive policies, by contrast, are introduced and pursued through deliberate choice. Increasingly proactive policies have been recognized as vital keys that unlock the doors to both economic wealth and social well-being (GoK, 2012).

Policy formulation is the development of effective and acceptable courses of action for addressing what has been placed on the policy agenda. There are two parts of policy formulation: one, effective for-

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mulation which means that the policy proposed is regarded as valid, efficient and implementable solution to the issues at hand. If the policy is seen as ineffective or unworkable in practice, there is no legitimate reason to propose it. Secondly, acceptable formulation which means that the proposed course of action is likely to be authorized by the legitimate decision makers, usually through capacity building in a bargaining process. That is, it must be politically feasible. If the policy is likely to be rejected by the decision making body, it may be impractical to suggest it (United Nations Policy Report, 2009).

Policies that aim to incentive growth in particular areas, including those that are cross border and brings benefits to multiple countries may be successful if supported by regional investments in peace building, infrastructure, labor mobility and common policies and regulation (Kamoet, 2011). These can also constitute effective drivers of competitiveness within the region. For community development, the quality of employment is as important as the quantity of employment which leads to capacity building, improved purchasing power and creation of employment which leads to capacity building (Hall, 2009).

Ikolomani Sub-County requires such a move. There is need for an expanded integrated policies formulation in trade promotions and development of new methods of mining. Thus, the community will not have to depend on the crude equipment to explore presence of gold deposits. Land use policy need to be addressed with reference to the (Ndungu Land Report, 2005) which gives specific land use policies. Policies are inherently associated with imperfect competitions (Anant, 1995) which require new policy formulation techniques that are in line with the needs of the community. Policies need to be put in place regarding boundaries over gold mining in the case of Ikolomani division. These policies should be well explained and the artisanal miners should be informed and be aware of the mining act to avoid conflicting with the law and the law enforcers.

3.4.3 | Youth Empowerment

When asked whether they can quit mining for another job, (75)86% of the miners said no. This indicates that the miners prefer mining because they earn a living from it. Only (12)14% of the miners

were instantly ready to do another job. Most of the ones who were ready to do another job had been in the mines in less than one year. They have not enjoyed the fruits of gold mining.

During FGDs, the miners pointed out that they will continue mining because this is the only way that gives them money to survive. They argued that the government promises to give tem jobs, starts Kazi kwa Vijana and then ends it. One of the miners said:

This Kazi kwa vijana that the government started only gave us jobs for 3 months. The payments took long and then it ended. The national Youth Service jobs did not reach here. Therefore, we have to explore gold from these mines. The government gives a few of us work when roads are being renovated. But after that we have nothing but the mines. (Ikolomani Sub-County, 2016).

According to the assistant chiefs and village elders interviewed, youth empowerment is also a pressing community concern in Ikolomani Sub County that has reduced youth capacity, hence contributing to community conflict as a result of Artisanal Gold Mining in the area. FGDs and interviews reported that the recent economic and financial crisis in the country has made most youths to remain jobless. Responses provided by the Assistant Chiefs and Village elders through interviews pointed out that the role of youths was to provide physical labor like repair of roads did not adequately meet the desires of the youth.

The empowerment of youth through employment is likely to contribute to decline in negative social behaviours such as gang formation, violence and crime (UNDP, 2011). It can reduce the number of people depending on gold mining and the conflicts that result from these activities in Ikolomani. Empowerment can be decreased if jobs are not fulfilling or if workers' rights are eroded because of asymmetric power relation in integration process. This is confirmed by unfulfilling road maintenance jobs which are offered to youths as was reported in FGD meetings.

3.4.4 | Sustainability

The conflicts resulting from artisanal gold mining in Ikolomani as was indicated through FGDs and interviews disempowered the community at large in their

capacity to do trade, farming, schooling their children, and security at large. The questionnaires indicate that the conflicts manifest themselves through insults, vengeance, physical fights (including deaths) and quarrels as indicated in Figure 4.9. During the FGDs, the miners were concerned on whether their grandchildren will find any traces of gold in the region. They argued that the mineral belonged to the community, and the future generation has the right to find the gold there and benefit from it. One miner said:

My grandfather was a miner. He left the precious gold that my father mined and brought us up. I am using the same gold to bring my children up. But I am worried my grandchildren might only come to hear stories that there was gold in Ikolomani. Something should be done to ensure that the gold remains forever so that our area will carry the good name of the precious metal to the generations to come. (Ikolomani Sub-County, 2016).

Sustainability as defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development (CED, 1978) is being able to meet the present needs without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their needs. The existing disparities among and within communities and nations pose a considerable challenge to sustainability, particularly because extreme poverty can reduce sustainable resource-use options available to the poor people. This condition is bound to create conflicts in the society, hence destruction of marketing systems of the area.

Trade and marketing can create opportunities for utilization of potentials and exploitation of natural resources, and can also contribute to improved stewardship and standards of living for the people. Economic growth, driven by a balanced market system can be undermined by the erosion of other capital-natural or societal (negative conflicts) leading to reduced human development. This can happen in the near and long term. It is, however, in the long term that human development opportunities for future generation may be undermined, raising the question of intergenerational equity (UNDP, 2011).

4 | SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The study sought to evaluate the strategies applied to manage conflicts related to artisanal gold mining in Ikolomani-Sub County. There are frequent mining research and policy formulation that assist in filling the gaps that would lead into conflict. The groups formed by artisanal miners have their own by-laws that regulate the way members should carry out themselves so as to prevent conflict. The police are involved in arresting the culprits and doing investigations in cases where the groups have mined sites that do not belong to them. Chiefs and village elders are used to resolve conflict among the miners since they are familiar with their culture. Traditional specialists are consulted to resolve conflicts related to artisanal gold mining. Some members report to the department of geology and mines to get intervention during conflicts related to artisanal gold mining. Some of the most effective methods that can help resolve the conflict are youth empowerment, policies, trade enhancement and income generation.

There is use of the miners' by-laws, the police, village elders and chiefs, and mining act, imposition of tax to the mining companies. Some of these methods have not been effective, thus the conflicts keep recurring. Thus, the study found out that the conflicts can be effectively resolved if policies are implemented, income enhanced, trade regulations improved and the youth are empowered.

4.1 | Recommendations

It is recommended that proper mining procedures and practice be adopted. There is need to train the small scale miners on the best practices and market for their produce.

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